



MINUTES for Partner Meeting One Stop September 14, 2023

Attendees: Dennis Martinez; Patricia Stovall; Vincent Trippi; Benjamin Bunker; Bonnie Rice; Brian Michel

JBM reviewed PY22 Q4 Data highlighting performance in all areas which has been stellar.

Niagara County is outperforming other counties that have the NYSGVP grant and has been awarded an additional \$30,000 through March 2024.

Bonnie Rice reported virtual technology training.

- WNY Region has 15 VR headsets that contain training by TransfrVr. Headsets were purchased by NYS Department of Labor. Career exploration all the way to full trades training is available. Access of this training is through the career center. Youth can explore various careers through this. Implications for classroom training is also part of this. Disability accessible training.
- When you put the headset on you are actually “in the room/experience”.
- They can be brought to indoor job fairs where there is wifi available.
- If any of you want to demo this, contact Bonnie.

Job Fair Oppenheim – September 27, 2023

- Last one at Day Road Park in Lockport had a good attendance of 208 attendees.
- Weather dependent.
- If interested, you can contact them to get involved.
- Contact person: kevin.minnick@niagaracounty.com

Virtual Workshop – through the Niagara County Center for Economic Development September 20, 2023

- Mark Laurrie, Superintendent of NF Schools will be on to talk about pre-apprenticeship programs to connect juniors and seniors to the workforce
- Sign on for this videoconferencing by going to the website: niagaracountybusiness.com; click on “find featured events”. Sign up free of charge!

Bonnie added:

- Niagara just completed both a fiscal and a program audit and things went very well.
- Fiscal audit – low risk group; no findings
- EO audit – is scheduled for 9/25-9/27. It may have implications for all partners; this will be an In person audit for three days; unsure sure if partners may be included. If you are contacted by EO auditors from NYS Department of Labor for the visit, Bonnie will help you through it and bring you up to date.
- NEW grant monies: Bonnie indicated that they received an additional \$539,000 through a NYS Youth Employment Grant – starting January 2024, youth can be on the payroll all year round now. If you want to serve as a worksite, let Bonnie know.
- Also Visit worksource1.com for applications if you have anyone you can refer to the program.
- Western NY Regional Economic Development Meeting- Bonnie is serving on the Workforce Development Work Group for the strategic planning sessions as the only rep from our county.





Pat Stovall from Pathstone reported:

- Access virtual training is exciting; they have done a lot of staff training on this.
- Job Readiness Service, incorporated the VR headset for this; individuals do come in and express interest in certain types of jobs so they are set up to experience what they are interested in.
- They do a customer service training as well so they see what it feels like to be in a retail environment.
- Bonnie and Pat can meet together to learn from Pathstone's experiences with this innovative method of training.

Brian Michel reported:

- A lot going on at NCCC
- Partial opening of Industrial Arts building; Welding and Metallurgy facility that is being opened.
- Hydraulic lab open now.
- Electrical Engineering also will be available; this is an electronics training; great for manufacturing.
- Nearing the point of contract with CDL vendor; national vendor that can bring a tremendous amount of resources for instruction this instruction. This fills a huge void in our area.

Vincent Trippi reported:

- Cassadaga Job Corps has a new admissions counselor that covers Niagara County – Courtney Coseglia
- A lot of new jobs are coming up.

Our next meeting is November 16, 9:30 am on ZOOM!

I hope to see you there! It's so great to use this time to share all that you all are doing and supporting and collaborating through this type of meeting!

