

NIAGARA COUNTY WDB

Inclusion Committee

Meeting Minutes March 18 2021, 2pm via, WebEx



Item	Result /Next steps
Members introduce themselves and their organizations	<p>Dennis Martinez- Regional coordinator for Business Engagement, ACCES-VR</p> <p>Bonnie Rice, Executive Director of Niagara County Workforce Development Board</p> <p>Jane Sullivan- District Office Manager for NYS Commission for the Blind</p> <p>Marilyn Patterson, Disability Resource Coordinator, with Niagara County Employment and Training at the Trott Access Center in Niagara Falls. My primary focus is working with people on SSI/SSDI and looking to get back to work. I am a certified benefits advisor.</p>
<p>Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update on Wheelchair lift installation for Niagara Falls Career Center• Update on ADA-compliant self-check-in kiosks for NF Career Center• WIOA Youth advertising: any suggestions to increase participation in WIOA Youth programs for	<p>Bonnie -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The wheelchair lift installation has been completed which affords main entry to the Career Center at Trott. This along with the outdoor ramp at the main entrance to the building assures more complete accessibility for individuals using wheelchairs.• The status of the self- check in kiosks at the career center is that they have been ordered. These kiosks would allow job seekers to check into the career center services without the need to interact with staff and paper. The kiosks themselves are accessible.

<p>individuals with disabilities?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WIOA Youth advertising- There were ten responses to the RFP that went out for youth services advertising. The target audience being unemployed and out of school youth ages 16-24. The winning bidder proposes to address three separate age groups and parents. • See attached brochure outlining the Youth WIOA programs in Niagara County • Disability Awareness Micro-credential. A new course now being offered at NCCC enables a student to obtain a credential that may assist in human services employment but also includes stackable college credits that can be used toward a related degree. The program runs from May to August and includes an internship work experience as well as something like 18 credit hours. • Marilyn-Noting that auxiliary services are available, plus sign language interpreters, wheelchair ramp/lift, and adaptive software are available in this office. • Jane- commented that she will connect the transition counselor from her office with Bonnie.
<p>Why are we here? Review: from last meeting. Are these things still relevant?</p>	<p>General Goals: Training/Supports Staff training, Disability Awareness and Etiquette The NYS Commission for the Blind can train career center staff on the use of adaptive equipment for the visually impaired such as how a screen reader works. Can also increase staff comfort level in using items like Jaws.</p>

	<p>ACCES-VR can also train staff on disability awareness and disability etiquette topics.</p> <p>Accessibility: Referral Barrier removal AV Accessibility</p> <p>Employment Increasing opportunities- Dennis suggests working together with VR for OJT development. Perhaps a reissue of our interagency OJT guide Recognizing employers- Dennis suggests that the Career Center/NCE&T create a category of recognition for businesses that recruit/ hire PWD at their annual business awards event</p>
<p>Ideas for Group Projects</p>	<p>How many ways can we get in trouble? Job Fair with Businesses actively seeking special populations. Marilyn Patterson to everyone: 2. Workshops for businesses regarding supports and services to employees with disabilities. from Marilyn Patterson to everyone: 2:35 PM 3. Promoting services available, i.e. Center for Assistive Technology to businesses. Federal Contractors tend to have more of a push for PWD. Perhaps we could do a survey of Niagara County businesses to see you might to interested or actively seeking PWD.- The survey could identify training/workshop areas of need as well as potential employers. It could also identify employers who will eventually have employees who become disabled however they keep them on staff. These</p>

	employers are probably doing something we would love to know about.
Future meetings	How often, what day of the week, time? Every other month- same time same station was agreed.
Anything Else?	Suggestions for Additional Members: WNY ILC- Mia McDonald. Mental Health Rep. and DD
Next Meeting	Our next meeting is: May 20, 2pm WEBEX
Next Steps	Develop a survey of Niagara County businesses to see who might be interested in, or actively seeking, PWD. Identify training/workshop areas of need as well as potential employers. It could also identify employers who will eventually have employees who become disabled however they keep them on staff. These employers are probably doing something we would love to know about.