

**Meeting Minutes, One Stop Partners Meeting  
March 31, 2021**

Bonnie Rice called the meeting to order via zoom.

Those in attendance were:

Katie Bongiovanni - Orleans Niagara BOCES (ONBOCES)  
Colleen Casali - Native American Community Services (NACS)  
Chuck Diemert - Orleans Niagara BOCES (ONBOCES)  
Sue Diemert - Orleans Niagara BOCES (ONBOCES)  
Ryan for Luke Kantor - Iroquois Job Corps (IJC)  
Don Jablonski - Niagara County Employment & Training (NCET)  
Monica LaPoyda - Niagara County Community College (NCCC)  
Dennis Martinez, ACCES-VR  
Bonnie Rice - Niagara County Workforce Development Board (WDB)  
Suzanne Shears - Niagara Community Action Program (NiaCAP)  
Jane Sullivan - Commission for the Blind  
Chandra Wingrove - Niagara County Employment & Training (NCET)

Bonnie Rice then turned the meeting over to Don Jablonski to give a One Stop Center update.

Don Jablonski thanked those in attendance for attending the meeting and gave an update on the One Stop Center. The center is following the COVID-19 protocols: abbreviated hours in order to clean and sanitize the center (open from 8:30 am – 12 pm and 1pm - 3pm), limited access to seven (7) customers at a time in the center and social distancing, and limited traffic directions into and out of the center (one door into the center, exit a different door).

The ADA compliant wheel chair lift has been installed. This lift and the ramp at the front of the building brings the building to be 100% ADA compliant. Additionally, Don plans to have Jessica from OCFS present and demonstrate assistive technology training to center staff as new technology has become available.

[Niagara's WorksourceOne has a YouTube Channel](#) with several how-to videos such as how to tie a tie, interview etiquette and plans for more.

The center has started to host in-center recruitments for businesses. Slowly, businesses are coming in and taking advantage as employers are doing all the hiring they possibly can due to the prospective employees currently available. Don noted that there are a combination of things figuring into the employee lag but by summer he anticipates things will pick up. Currently there are 300,000 jobs across WNY, that we know of, that need to be filled and employers are unable to find employees for. Don plans to continue in-center recruitment events and possibly virtual recruitments and more outreach. Plans for career fairs are being made. They will be most likely held outdoors once the weather is warmer but with all COVID things to consider, virtual recruitments and other ideas may be implemented as well.

The Employment Focused Services Program, EFS Probation Program continues to perform at the top of the State and we are getting praised for hitting or exceeding all goals. Niagara is one of the few across

the State that has done so. Kudos to Chandra and her staff for working with the Probation Department and excelling.

Summer Youth Employment Program planning has started. Funding will remain flat and unsure when funding will be available. Beginning to recruit youth from high schools, recruiting businesses for worksites, and hoping to have a virtual worksite component as well like we did last year for youth 14-16 years old. If anyone knows low income youth who would like to join program, get in touch with Don.

Classroom Training is ramping up. Tuition money is available for qualified applicants. Encouraged ONBOCES and NCCC reps to contact to accomplish.

Don Jablonski opened the floor for further questions. None brought forward. Don turned the floor over to Bonnie Rice.

Bonnie Rice gave an update on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU has been reviewed for the third time by the State, hopefully the last time. For the partner agencies, once NYS approves Bonnie will send an email with MOU information and then an email will come from DocuSign requesting the partner's electronic signature. After all agencies have signed, Bonnie will share the fully executed contract with everyone. Bonnie opened the floor for questions regarding the electronic signature process or MOU. Don Jablonski noted that most of the dollar amounts in the MOU are for in-kind services; DOL is the only partner that contributes on a monetary basis. Bonnie added that NYS DOL, NYS ACCES-VR, and Niagara County Employment and Training are the only ones putting actual dollars into the system. The partners should consider the dollar amounts listed for their agencies as the value of their services provided to Niagara County.

Bonnie Rice opened the floor to the partners so they could share what is going on in their agency.

Monica Lapoyda of NCCC shared that there are two new microcredentials (short-term training programs, shorter than certificate programs) being offered for Early Childhood and Disability Awareness. They are being offered as a summer program and they hope to attract High School Students and the community in general. Bonnie Rice also shared that if partners know of an individual who lives in Niagara County and who like to attend, Monica's trainings are on the Eligible Training Provider List. This means the individual could come to the One Stop Center, apply for WIOA Classroom Training funding, and potentially receive up to \$4,000 in scholarship money.

Dennis Martinez shared that ACCES-VR has a strong connection with Niagara County and is continuing to work with those who need their services.

Ryan of Iroquois Job Corps shared that IJC is getting close to being able to start new students, some of whom have been waiting since last January. Hoping for about 25 new students to start in April. Current students are back on premises now. Admissions process is still virtual and weekly orientation sessions.

Katie Bongiovanni with ONBOCES shared that there will be summer programs for the skilled trades department in Building Trades, HVAC, Welding and possibly Electricity. There should be a flyer available soon, which will also list funding sources for students to contact. Sue Diemert shared that ONBOCES is in the process of 100% face-to-face classes, which is the goal for July 1<sup>st</sup>. They are working on the COVID diploma waiver for students for the Regents exams, TASC or GED scores which a lot of students have taken advantage of.

Jane Sullivan for NYS Commission for the Blind shared that all counselors are required to be in the office or in the field two days each week. They are trying to do face-to-face intakes. In April, Brandon and Jessica will be coming to the Career center to do an orientation, training, and overview of the assistive technology setup. Bonnie Rice shared that any Partners are welcome to attend the meeting as well.

Colleen Casali of Native American Community Services shared that they are still working remotely. She recently had someone retire and has an opening for their position, as well as a position open in Rochester. NACS now covers 17 counties in NY through a WIOA contract and now has more funds available. They are working with students and reorganizing how they are doing things with educational resources, as well as doing outreach to the local colleges regarding available funding.

Chandra Wingrove of Niagara County Employment and Training shared that if any partners needed to use the center to meet with clients or for recruitment purposes, NCET is happy to share their space. The center is open Monday – Friday 8:30 am to 12 pm and 1 pm to 3 pm. If anyone has job postings, NCET can post them in the center and in the NYS database. NCET can send them to specific candidates based on zip code or job expectations and requirements through a direct email. The center has computers, faxing, resume services, mock interviews, professional clothes closets, and transportation assistance. The center offers virtual services as well.

Bonnie Rice shared that the Workforce Development Board approved contractor Purplegator to do advertising for the three WIOA youth programs, the advertising is about to begin. Ads will target ages 16-18, 19-24, and their parents and guardians on social media, radio, streaming TV, YouTube, and more. The Board will also soon be releasing the requests for proposals for the WIOA Youth Programs.

Bonnie Rice asked the group if there are any other announcements. There being none, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Don Jablonski, Director Employment & Training.