

**Meeting Minutes, One Stop Partners Meeting  
June 29, 2021**

Bonnie Rice called the meeting to order via Zoom.

Those in attendance were:

Don Jablonski, Niagara County Employment & Training (NCET)

Jennifer Jackson, NYSDOL

Karen Kwandrans, Niagara County Community College (NCCC)

Monica LoPoyda, Niagara County Community College (NCCC)

Dennis Martinez, ACCES-VR

Bonnie Rice, Niagara County Workforce Development Board (WDB)

Suzanne Shears - Niagara Community Action Program (NiaCAP)

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 thank those in attendance for attending the meeting and gave an update on the One Stop Center. In May, the Center held a Career Fair on the front lawn of Trott. 14 providers and approximately 50 job seekers attended. In June, a Career Fair was held in Oppenheim Park and was a success and well attended. People have been hired as a result of that job fair. 37 employers attended and stayed past the event time due to the number of job seekers in attendance. On June 30<sup>th</sup>, the Center will hold a Career Fair in Ida Fritz Park in Lockport with 32 employers. There are plans for a North Tonawanda Career Fair in July, but a location has not yet been established. There may also be another Oppenheim Career Fair for September.

Don shared that they are hoping to schedule a Partners Fair, and all One Stop Partners would be invited to set up a table and be able to recruit for their programs.

July 6<sup>th</sup> the One Stop Center will be fully reopening. They will still have COVID protocols in place for two weeks and on July 19<sup>th</sup> the Center will be open at full capacity.

Don shared that he would like to have a Business Round Table possibly in September with local businesses and One Stop Partners.

The Summer Youth Program is in full swing. NCET received the same allotment as last year, and they've put about 100 youth to work at 37 worksites across the county.

The One Stop Center and parts of the building are being renovated to update the walls, flooring, and generally refresh the look of the facility.

Don Jablonski turned the floor over to Bonnie Rice for further announcements.

Bonnie shared that the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) is still under review by NYSDOL and is not yet ready for signature for the Partners.

A National Dislocated Worker grant through WIOA called CAREER (Comprehensive and Accessible Reemployment through Equitable and Employment Recovery) is available for up to \$3 million. Local Workforce Development Boards (WDB's), NYSDOL or Native American Community Services partners can apply. The goal of the grant is to serve individuals who are in need of returning to work. Bonnie shared that it would be beneficial if partners applied together and there are plans to possibly do so.

Monica LoPoyda with NCCC shared that the college has a PTECH camp coming up. NCCC has partnered with Niagara Falls City School District to offer a six-year program. Students will be identified in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and they can receive their High School and Associates Diploma at the same time at no cost. The program had a goal of 25 youth, they currently have 45 interested. Monica also shared that she is looking for another mentor for the kids in the program and asked for any recommendations of local mature youth.

Don Jablonski shared that one of the Probation Grants has been renewed for next year.

Karen Kwandrans of NCCC shared that she attended a Men's Standing Stronger Together (group of minority community members in the City of Niagara Falls) meeting and shared information regarding services for job seekers available at Trott in the One Stop Center.

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.