

Meeting Minutes, One Stop Partners Meeting

December 30, 2020

Bonnie Rice called the meeting to order via zoom.

Those in attendance were:

Don Jablonski, Employment & Training
Bonnie Rice, Niagara County Workforce Development Board
Colleen Casali, NACS
Sue Dimert, ONB
Chuck Dimert, ONB
Jen Jackson, NYSDOL
Luke Kantor, Iroquois Job Corps
Karen Quandrans, NCCC
Monica Lapoida, NCCC
Suzanne Shears, NICAP
Branden Bless, Children & Family Services
Patricia Stoval, Pathstone
Joanne Sullivan, Children & Family Services

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

The center has been open five days a week starting 7-5-2020. The hours of operation are 8:30 am to Noon, and 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Capacity is limited and staff is following all COVID-19 protocols.

In spite of the pandemic, Employment & Training staff set a record for the number of Classroom Training tuition payments.

Another record was set for On the Job (OJT) training salary reimbursements to employers.

Byron Dibble of ONB has been a valuable resource in providing resume writing services during the pandemic.

Employment & Training Business Services staff have placed 132 candidates in full time employment as of November 15, 2020.

Employment & Training held two outdoor job fairs, both outdoor events. The first was held as a walk up on the front lawn of the Trott building with 10 employers and over 50 prospective candidates in attendance. Eight people were placed in new jobs as a result of the event. The second was held as a drive up event at Oppenheim Park. Twenty seven employers and over one hundred fifty job seekers attended this very successful event.

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The staff at Employment & training was not immune to the effects of COVID-19 as a number of them were quarantined at various different times.

A business roundtable has been tentatively set for February 18, 2021 depending on the state of the pandemic and other mitigating factors.

Hoping to start testing with NCCC in the building after the first of January 2021.

Don Jablonski thanked everyone for attending, and turned the meeting over to Bonnie Rice.

Mary Bronigan from A4td joined the meeting late.

Bonnie began the discussion by addressing the MOU situation. The MOU signatories were then illustrated on a shared screen for everyone to view.

NYS DOL has not designated a signatory so Steve Ryan will be the representative until one is appointed.

Bonnie stated that the MOU is not a contract in the literal sense, but a document that describes how we all will interact within the one stop system.

The operating budget covers the "value" provided to the system by each member, not actual monetary contributions. It is monies leveraged in everyone's individual agency.

The MOU covers a three year period.

NYS DOL has a discrepancy with their numeric submission. It needs to be corrected.

Numbers still missing from NYS Department of Education and ACCES-VR.

Bonnie has already spoke with Pathstone, and they are in the process of getting info to Bonnie.

This year, we do not have a chance to contribute to the language of the MOU. NYS DOL has "locked" most of the text across the system so there will be much more uniformity across the state. We can edit how we refer from agency to agency, and our response is based on our past submittal. Please review and let Bonnie Rice know if there are any discrepancies and she will try to fit the information in the MOU.

Bonnie also indicated that we would be able to enter into separate MOU's with partners that are outside the scope of the Infrastructure and Service Delivery MOU's, but can't change the basic language of the required documents.

Showing the chart of services on a shared screen is a list of services that each organization provides within the one stop system, though not necessarily in the center.

The # symbol on the chart indicates not applicable, and the x indicates a provided service. The next page (page 12) follows what we do right now for services.

If anyone has questions about what was presented, or the dollar amounts for the MOU, please contact Bonnie Rice.

At this point, Bonnie opened the meeting up for questions.

Colleen Casali asked why all of the NACS services have hashtags in the document, and Bonnie indicated that it would be an easy fix to edit the document.

Jane Sullivan asked if there was anything like a referral form available to use. Bonnie replied that we do not use a form but refer via phone or email. Jane said less is more so let's leave out the referral form.

Luke Kantor asked who would be doing the MOU for Cassadaga Job Corps as he is back over at Iroquois Job Corps in Medina. He indicated that Vinny Tripi is the contact in Cassadaga, and he would also like to be included in the MOU for Iroquois. Bonnie said that she will request information from Cassadaga Job Corps via email and add them to the list.

Monetary contributions will be from Niagara County Employment & Training, New York State Department of Labor, and ACCES-VR. Everyone else will be considered an "in-kind" contributor. 1% will be the standard contribution. We are not qualifying the amounts or asking contributions from anyone aside from the three entities mentioned above.

For Infrastructure funding it will be leveraged funds of "in-kind" contributions. Bonnie did indicate that she will verify if Jane Sullivan will indeed have to contribute to the infrastructure.

Bonnie indicated that the due date for MOU signatures will be February 26, 2021.

With no more questions, Bonnie moved to adjourn the meeting, Monica Lapoida and Patricia Stovall seconded the motion. All were in favor so the meeting was adjourned.