

LEONARD G. TOWNES

Commissioner, Westchester County Department of Social Services

THOM KLEINER

Executive Director, Westchester-Putnam Workforce Development Board

WPWDB Board Meeting Minutes

Date: March 25, 2025

Time: 8:30 AM

Location: Virtual (WebEx)

1. Call to Order

Chair: Paul Greci

Meeting called to order at 8:37 AM.

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Kelli Baron-Cadiz, Jason Chapin, Jan Fisher, Larry Gottlieb, Michele Green, Wiley Harrison, Allison Madison, Ernest McFadden, Nicole McGuire, Tracy Racicot, Rosa Ramirez, Robert O. Sanders, Richard St. Paul, Atul Sheffey, David Singer.

Staff Present: Tracey Anderson, Emily Bender, Fred Bruck, Sherry Bruck, Marie Daley, Joseph Diaferia, Robert Fois, Thom Kleiner, Jerry McKinstry, Linda McKinzie-Daugherty, Leslie Meggett, Kimberly Morella, Sonda Norris-Lowe, Ashley Sansevere, Mary Skirchak, Elizabeth Wilde, OJ Yizar.

Also Present: Rachel Adler, Kuljeet Johal

Absent/Excused: James Bernardo, Thomas Capurso, Bridget Gibbons, Dr. Marsha Gordon, Richard Greenwald, Paul Greci, Marvin Krislov, Anthony Marmo, Dr. Belinda S. Miles, Matthew Pepe, Regina Thomas, Leonard Townes, Karl Rohde.

3. Voting Items

- a. Approval of WPWDB Minutes – January 16, 2025
Motion by Jason Chapin; Seconded by Larry Gottlieb. Motion carried.
- b. Approval of ITA Over the Cap : Rodriguez NY ID #: 027742110
Motion by Allison Madison; Seconded by Robert Sanders. Abstention: Tracy Racicot. Motion carried.

The Westchester-Putnam Workforce Development Board (WPWDB) is comprised of leaders and staff of state and county government agencies, non-profits, public education, and the private sector who work together to strengthen the partnerships between business, education, and service providers within the "Career Center Network" to meet the needs for a skilled workforce. The WPWDB provides policy directions and program oversight to the Career Centers and workforce development programs in Westchester and Putnam counties.

4. Discussion

- a. WPWDB Revised Committee Structure and Goals
 - Thom Kleiner presented reorganized committee structure and proposed goals.
 - Committee membership open to non-board members including community experts.
 - Suggestion to align goals with performance measures, increase committee meetings, plan site visits, and use field trips to build awareness.
- b. Annual Meeting – Scheduled for June 17, tentatively at Crotonville Conference Center in Ossining.
 - Proposed focus on sectors (clean energy, healthcare, HVAC).
 - Will highlight impact of workforce investments on job creation.
 - Opportunity to launch new committees and sector-specific focus.
- c. Bloomboard Training Opportunity
 - Collaboration with SWBOCES and Mercy University for paraprofessional career pathway.
 - ITAs may be used for qualifying participants; policy for ITA over the cap proposed.

5. Updates

- a. Recognition of New Members
 - Nicole McGuire (Putnam DSS)
 - Kelli Baron-Cadiz (WMCHealth)
 - Ernest McFadden (Westchester Youth Bureau)
 - Rosa Ramirez (Honey Baked Ham)
 - Mike Keon (Sheet Metal Workers Local 38)
- b. Ellis Island Initiative Coalition – lobbying continues for inclusion in NYS Budget.
- c. OJET/NYPA & GCEW Grants – collaborative proposal for training individuals leaving DOC.
- d. Upcoming Meetings:
 - May 20 (Executive Committee)
 - May 22 (Full Board)
 - June 17 (Annual Meeting)
- e. Job Fair Announcements:
 - ACCESS-VR Diverse Abilities Fair: 4/17 at County Center
 - Additional fairs: 4/9 and 4/23
- f. Westchester Magazine Feature – Recognition of staff (Tracey Anderson, Leslie Meggett, Joe Diaferia) for contributions to the article 'What Recruiters Are Looking For'.

6. Adjournment

Chair David Singer adjourned the meeting at 9:32 AM.