

LEONARD G. TOWNES

Commissioner, Westchester County Department of Social Services

THOM KLEINER

Executive Director, Westchester-Putnam Workforce Development Board

WPWDB Annual Meeting Minutes

Date: June 22, 2023

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: Hybrid (WebEx and In-Person)

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order during the Board Meeting segment between 8:30 – 8:50 a.m.
Members signed in at 8:25 a.m.

II. Welcome and Introductions

Thom Kleiner, WPWDB Executive Director, provided opening remarks and welcomed attendees.

George Latimer, Westchester County Executive, and Mike Piazza, Commissioner of Putnam County DSS, offered greetings and highlighted the counties' continued support for workforce development.

Remarks were also shared by John Befus, First Deputy Commissioner, Westchester County DSS.

III. Keynote Presentations

A. Dana Politis, Associate Commissioner, Workforce Development, NYS Department of Labor

Demonstrated how Virtual Reality (VR) technology can support career exploration and workforce training. The presentation emphasized how VR enables young adults to 'test drive' careers before pursuing credentials. Audience participated in Q&A.

B. Matt Berndt, Director, Job Search Academy, Indeed

Spoke about the value of public-private partnerships, specifically how Indeed's tools and training can enhance workforce programming. Questions and discussion followed.

IV. Board Chair Remarks

David Singer, WPWDB Chair, offered remarks recognizing progress and encouraging continued innovation and collaboration.

V. Career Center Update

Staff provided a brief update on new initiatives and ongoing services delivered through the Career Center Network.

VI. Adjournment

Thom Kleiner closed the meeting with final remarks and a short Q&A. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.