

**LEONARD G. TOWNES**

Commissioner, Westchester County Department of Social Services

**THOM KLEINER**

Executive Director, Westchester-Putnam Workforce Development Board

# WPWDB Meeting Minutes

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Date: March 22, 2024

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Location: Virtual (WebEx)

## I. Call to Order

Paul Greci called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

## II. Roll Call

Members Present: James Bernardo, Jason Chapin, Jan Fisher, Larry Gottlieb, Paul Greci, Wiley Harrison, Thom Kleiner, Allison Madison, Dr. Belinda S. Miles, Matthew Pepe, Tracy Racicot, Robert O. Sanders, Dr. Melissa Thompson

Also Present: Liz Oliveto, OJ Yizar, Mary Skirchak, Sherry Bruck, Leslie Meggett, Bob Fois, Sonda Norris-Lowe, Fredric Bruck, Hector Torres, Kimberly Morella, Marie Daley, Johnny Nelson, Ashley Sansevere, Nahshon Halevi, Linda McKinzie-Daugherty

Absent/Excused: Bridget Gibbons, Dr. Marsha Gordon, Richard Greenwald, Michele Green, DaMia Harris-Madden, Anthony Marmo, Thomas Capurso, Marvin Krislov, David Singer, Regina Thomas, Leonard Townes, Karl Rohde, Richard St. Paul

## III. Presentation

Johnny Nelson, NYS DOL Labor Market Analyst, presented labor market trends including population and job growth in Westchester. Discussion included demand in healthcare, corporate back-office operations, and construction trends related to regional renovations. Employment/professional services data was also reviewed.

## IV. Voting Items

A. Approval of WPWDB Executive Committee Minutes – January 16, 2024

Motion by Allison Madison, seconded by Larry Gottlieb. Motion carried.

**B. Approval of WPWDB Minutes – January 17, 2024**

Motion by Jason Chapin, seconded by Robert Sanders. Motion carried.

**C. Approval of ITAs Over the Cap**

Several requests for auto course training at \$5200 were submitted. Supporting documentation reviewed.

Motion by Allison Madison, seconded by Wiley Harrison. Motion carried. Abstention: Tracy Racicot.

**D. Approval to Raise the Cap for ITAs to \$5500**

Discussion about rising training costs and national trends.

Motion by Wiley Harrison, seconded by Paul Greci. Motion carried. Abstention: Tracy Racicot.

**E. Approval to Submit Pathway Home 5 Grant**

Proposal to partner with the Westchester County Department of Correction to provide pre-release and wraparound services.

Motion by Allison Madison, seconded by Larry Gottlieb. Motion carried.

## **V. Discussion Items**

**A. Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)**

Liz Oliveto requested volunteers to review applications. Jan Fisher and Paul Greci volunteered to assist.

**B. Clean Energy Career Summit – April 3 at Pace Law School**

In partnership with County Economic Development and Sustainable Westchester. Event includes panels, tabling, and outreach. All board members encouraged to promote the event.

**C. Annual Meeting – June 20, 2024**

Planning underway. Volunteers from the board and executive committee will be requested.

**D. North of I-287 Job Fair Wrap-Up and Marketing Review**

Mt. Kisco event was oversubscribed with 230+ job seekers. Contact info gathered for marketing. Event content to be posted online.

**E. Other Discussion**

Jason Chapin asked about progress with the Indeed partnership. Staff reported a presentation occurred at Mt. Kisco. Events in Yorktown and Putnam County are in planning. Dr. Belinda Miles inquired about civil service outreach. Westchester Community College is supporting test-takers and raising awareness. Three new employment counselors have started.

## **VI. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Larry Gottlieb. Meeting adjourned at 9:34 a.m.