

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING
POCONO COUNTIES WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREA
DECEMBER 2, 2020**

Members Participating in the Zoom Meeting

Frank Revitt	WDB Member
Garry Wentz	Pocono Counties WIA
Craig Zurn	WDB Member
Susan Rhoads-Procina	Pocono Counties WIA
Samuel Hellen	Carbon WIOA/CareerLink
Cynthia DeFebo	Pike County Workforce Development Agency
Chuck Leonard	WDB Member
Fred Mutzek	WDB Member
Marybeth Ferguson	WDB Member
Debra Raneri	WDB Member
Anthony Manzione	WDB Member
William Cockerill	WDB Member
Richard Parry	WDB Member
Lisa Price	BWPO
Pamela Joseph	BWPO
Barbara Green	WDB Member
Brian Smith	Wayne County Commissioner
Andrew Sedor	Wayne County Chief Clerk
Ladora Phillips	WDB Member
Terrence Purcell	WDB Member
Joseph Ruvane	WDB Member
Chris Lukasevich	Carbon County Commissioner
Lucyann Vierling	Wayne/Pike Alliance
Jocelyn Cramer	Wayne County Commissioner
Steve Guccini	Pike County Commissioner
Joseph Adams	Wayne County Commissioner
Deborah Harrison	Monroe WIOA/CareerLink
Helene Mancuso	Wayne Workforce Alliance
Cindy Matthews	WDB Member
Anthony Herzog	WDB Member
Marybeth Wood	WDB Member
Robert Pisko	BWPA
Barbara Diliberti	WDB Member
Tessa Wright	Wayne Workforce Alliance

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING

POCONO COUNTIES WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREA

December 2, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Pocono Counties Workforce Development Board was held on Wednesday, December 2, 2020. The Meeting was conducted by a Zoom Conference Call. The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Frank Revitt at 10.00 A.M.

The Chair asked if there are any proxy forms from the membership to be entered into the minutes. A proxy form was submitted by William Blake, as a voting member authorizing Frank Revitt to vote on his behalf on topic numbers 1-12 on the Agenda for the December 2nd meeting.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the September 2, 2020, Workforce Development Board Meeting had been emailed to the membership. A motion was made by Craig Zurn to approve the Minutes of the September 2, 2020, Workforce Development Board Meeting, seconded by Joseph Ruvane - Board polled – motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Susan Rhoads-Procina addressed the Board with a Financial Report. She asked if there were any questions from the Board members. She also noted that training on the new accounting system is underway, and that she will be operating dual systems for a period of time to confirm the new system is tracking expenditures as expected and match the reports generated by our old system. She said the new reporting section of the system seems easy to utilize and should allow her to provide any customized reports if they are

needed. The financial report submitted to the Board may be changed once the new system is in place.

Susan and Garry noted that program spending at the CareerLink® and affiliate sites is down due to the limitations and lower customer traffic levels resulting from the COVID-19 Virus situation, but that was happening throughout the state. Garry is sure our spending will not meet the Obligation/Expenditure rate that the State/Federal Government expects, but since it is happening across the board, he is hopeful it will not result in a loss of funding for the next fiscal year.

PROGRAM/PANDEMIC OPERATIONS STATUS UPDATE

Mr. Wentz provided an update regarding the status of CareerLink and affiliate sites and the impact on service delivery due to the COVID-19 virus situation. He noted that all of the CareerLink® and affiliate sites are still working with reduced staffing or remotely. Both the Monroe and Carbon CareerLinks® have Title I staff working full-time and BWPO partner staff working remotely and on staggered schedules in those locations. Pike County has all Title I staff working in their office, while the Title I Staff in Wayne County are still working remotely, and only meeting with customers at their site if necessary. The anticipated rush of UC customers has not been as great as anticipated, although that is still an ongoing problem for many of our customers. The staff have been doing their best to assist customers with UC issues and other services, and are continuing to provide workshops and provide other services to customers remotely. Garry mentioned that the situation is the same across the state in other CareerLinks, and although the staff have done a great job doing things remotely and providing services through Zoom, etc. there is no doubt a limit to how successful we can be using those tools, and it makes it difficult for us to serve those customers who aren't

comfortable with on line job search and other services, or who do not have access to our services on line.

APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS

Mr. Wentz noted that the Monroe County Commissioners had approved the nomination of Deborah (Dee) Raneri to fill the Board vacancy created by the retirement of Matthew Connell. Ms. Raneri works at the Northampton Community College Monroe Campus. Garry said he welcomed Ms. Raneri, and thanked Northampton Community College for their support and engagement with our Board and our service delivery network. He said they provide a wide variety of services to our customers and he hoped our long-standing relationship with the college would continue with Ms. Raneri. Ms. Raneri said she looked forward to continuing the college's relationship with the Board and she was familiar with our mission because of her prior work history before coming to Northampton Community College.

REGIONAL/LOCAL PLANNING

Garry Wentz explained to the Board, that although we had recently approved both a Regional and Local Plan with the Department of Labor, due to the requirements of the WIOA legislation we would need to update both those plans. He and the Directors for the other WDA's that are part of our region have started the process of updating these plans. The time frame for review and approval unfortunately is very short. He expected there would not be major changes under the current conditions and that he would provide the Board with drafts as they were developed. The public comment period and the approval by the Board of our final plans must take place in time for the Board meeting scheduled for March, 2021.

INDEPENDENT MONITOR STATUS UPDATE

Garry Wentz reported that unfortunately, our newly approved Independent Monitor Don Langlois had resigned shortly after starting to conduct some monitoring. Garry informed the Board that he would be able to conduct the monitoring reviews for the time being. He noted that other WDA's use Board staff to handle this responsibility as well. Our practice of contracting with outside part-time individuals to provide this service worked well until recently, but in light of the fact that we've gone through 2 new Independent Monitors in short order since Wil Coombs retired a few years ago, he had some ideas about restructuring the WDA staffing and their duties which he wanted to discuss with the Commissioners and the Board early next year. Commissioner Brian Smith, Wayne County, supported Garry's idea and asked that this be part of the discussions when we set up a meeting of the Carbon, Monroe, Pike, and Wayne County Commissioners. Garry said due to additional oversight responsibilities under WIOA there might be a better approach to handle our monitoring and other responsibilities. Garry mentioned that he had already conducted some monitoring of the 4 county CareerLink®, Affiliate sites, and a review of Title I Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth Participant participants.

RFP DISCUSSION

Garry Wentz discussed the process of issuing RFP's for Service Providers. He said some of the RFP's are required under WIOA, and others are for specific services requested by the individual County Title I Operators to assist them with their local service delivery needs. He said that there were quite a few Service Provider Agreements that were due to expire by the beginning of the new fiscal year on July 1, 2021 and in order to allow for sufficient time to review and approve the RFP's he was asking for Board approval to

advertise and review the proposals earlier than we normally start the process. He anticipated advertising for the CareerLink® Operator and Title I Career Service Providers first, and then issuing RFP's for the EARN Program provider and other service providers such as Youth Program services, GED Program services and other local requests in the second round. That would allow sufficient time to review and bring our recommendations to the Board during both the March and June scheduled meetings. A motion was made by Trip Ruvane to approve the request to advertise the RFP's as requested by Garry, seconded by Ladora Phillips - Board polled – motion carried.

CAREERLINK REPORTS

Garry commended the staff for their work under the current conditions, and also commended Samuel Hellen, the Administrator for the Carbon County CareerLink® for his work in planning for a move to their new location. Although they've enjoyed the current location for the past 10 years, and he was hoping they could find another location in Jim Thorpe because it's centrally located in the county, the new location isn't too far away, and it is a very nice layout. It also will provide our customers with sufficient free parking, which has been a problem in Jim Thorpe. Frank Revitt made a point that the staff in our centers should be commended for their efforts to provide services under these conditions. Garry also advised the Board that the CareerLinks® and Affiliate sites needed to be certified and approved by the Board before the end of December. He reported that he had been out to the Carbon, Monroe, and Pike locations to conduct the Certification review, and that due to the fact that the Wayne County affiliate site is not yet open to the public due to COVID-19, he had conducted a desk audit of their operations. He said all offices meet the Board's requirements for certification and he was recommending the Board approve all CareerLink® and affiliate sites at

this time. A motion was made by Bill Cockerill to approve the certification of our service locations as recommended by Garry, seconded by Cynthia Matthews - Board polled – motion carried.

The following CareerLink® and affiliate site reports were distributed to the Board members prior to this meeting.



PA CareerLink® Carbon County Overview

A. Administrative/Staffing

PA CareerLink Carbon County is currently open to the public by appointment only. We are able to offer a majority of our services while following proper social distancing and CDC mask guidelines. WIOA Title I staff continue to work in the office five (5) days a week, and BWPO staff is rotating two (2) days a week in the office and three (3) days a week telecommuting. Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry established guidance for BWPO working in the office, splitting time between telecommuting and in office, as well as limiting the number of employees in the office at one time. Partner staff such as OVR will continue to telecommute for the foreseeable future, and PrimeTech is telecommuting and going into the office on an as needed basis. Bob Pisko will continue to telecommute as well.

The CareerLink, along with the WIB Office has signed a lease to relocate to 50 E Locust St Suite 1, Nesquehoning, PA 18240, and is planning to be finished moving by January 4th, 2021. Despite a lack of commercial real estate within Carbon County, this site offers similar space requirements, as well as upgrades to parking, and ADA accessibility. The CareerLink will be able to offer the same services as in our current location. We are currently working with local, state, and partner offices, along with the property manager to coordinate all relocation efforts. This process is ongoing, but the transition is moving smoothly thus far. All partner organizations are moving to the new location, which includes WIOA Title I, EARN, BWPO, OVR, PrimeTech, and State Monitor Bob Pisko. We will also continue to have Unemployment compensation referee, and courtesy phone on-site to assist customer needs.

Although the CareerLink has not had any additions to the staff, we are saying goodbye to one. On December 11th, Dorinda Getz will be officially retiring after 36 years with Carbon County and the workforce training's many iterations. Dorinda is an invaluable member to the CareerLink, as well as Pocono Counties WIA. Her presence, knowledge, and skills will be missed when she is gone. Please do not hesitate to reach out to Dorinda to give well wishes, appreciation, or gratitude prior to her last day in office, which will be December 7th.

B. Services/Programs

Since reopening on August 26th, a majority of services have been available to the public. This includes, but is not limited to all employer services, career counseling or resume services, WIOA Title I Adult, Dislocated, and Youth Services, EARN program, On the Job Training (OJT) services, as well as use of the Computer Resource Room (CRC) for job searching. The main change that will occur with reopening is not only allowing walk ins, but also allowing clients to use the CRC and tools such as printing and faxing. The Unemployment Compensation courtesy phone will remain off for the indefinite future, and the RSEA program is on hold until it is changed and updated by the Department of Labor and Industry.

WIOA Title I Services continue with Adult, Dislocated, and Youth training tuition assistance. Our office continues to meet with perspective customers both virtually and over the phone. Training providers are continuing to reopen, and due to this, as well as reopening the CareerLink, we are expecting participants and obligations to increase over the coming weeks and months. EARN program is continuing to accept referrals, and we expect an increase in these numbers with EARN, Work-Ready, and WIC requirements that will soon be in our caseload.

WIOA Title I also continue to work Pinebrook Family Answers to establish a Youth Re-Entry Program. Pinebrook has hired a caseworker to work with youth in a reentry capacity, and are still working to establish the program and work within Carbon County prison in getting the program off the ground. Due to the continued restrictions at the Carbon County Prison, Pinebrook is working with individuals who have been recently released from prison. The CareerLink is continuing to assist with this process as much as possible.

All Employer services are continuing to be offered to the community. This includes not only posting jobs and working with employers to help hire job seekers, but also help organize and facilitate virtual job fairs to assist both employers and job seekers. Virtual workshops continue to be offered for individuals.

The Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment Program (RESEA) has been postponed since March, 2020. The program is scheduled to be resume in January of 2021, mainly virtually. This is an important program for referrals of services, and the BWPO staff is excited to resume these services at that time.

C. Current LMI/Foot Traffic Levels.

According to PA Workstats, Carbon County's current unemployment rate as of October 2020 is 8.1%, which is the same as Pennsylvania's unemployment rate. These are slightly higher than the national average of 7.9%. The county is still recovering from COVID-19 layoffs, but the steady drop in the unemployment rate is a good sign. We expect this to waver or increase due to temporary layoffs through the holidays. The number of job postings in Carbon County on the most recent report was at 408, which is more than double since September 2019. The largest industries affected by this are Trade, Transportation, & Utilities at 20% of UC Exhaustees, and both Manufacturing and Leisure and Hospitality, with 16.5% of UC Exhaustees.

Foot traffic and calls have steadily increased over the past 4 weeks, mainly due to unemployment compensation claims, as well as CARES Act assistance running out. Below is the number of Foot Traffic and Calls the CareerLink have assisted recently.

Foot Traffic and Calls

- Total Foot Traffic/Calls Per Day: 26
- Total Foot Traffic/Calls Per Week: 129.36
- UC Foot Traffic/Calls Per Day: 18
- UC Foot Traffic/Calls Per Week: 85.5
- WIOA Title I Foot Traffic/Calls Per Day: 3.5
- WIOA Title I Foot Traffic/Calls Per Week: 16.9
- Employer Foot Traffic/Calls Per Day: 3.05
- Employer Foot Traffic/Calls Per Week: 14.5

Monroe County Report

Since opening our office in late June, by appointment only to the public, the PA CareerLink Monroe County has been consistent in serving our customers, albeit, in different ways.

Since the last WDB report until November 18th, **674** customers have physically come through our doors and were served as follows:

- Unemployment Compensation Concerns: **166**
- Career Resource Room for Job Search: **198**
- WIOA – Job Training Appointments: **257**
- In Person Job Recruitments: **53**

We continue to meet regularly via Zoom with our partners and providers to successfully maintain our contracted programs and community alliances such as:

- The SLIP, contracted through Northampton Community College, has had 8 students in internships this summer at Pocono Mountains United Way, Barton Heights Veterinary Hospital, ARM Lawyers, Youth Empowerment Services and Village Farm & Bakery and wrapped up October 31st.

- Monroe County Career Pathways Internship Program, which utilizes the Business Education Partnership Grant, is on track to provide Internships/Mentors to high school students in all 4 school districts.
- The PA CareerLink Monroe County is a sponsor of the Economic Summit at ESU, scheduled to air virtually on Tuesday, December 15th 12:00 - 1:30 pm.
- With available funding, and the added flexibility of the new “virtual/hybrid” school year, we continue to provide 11 of the summer participants the opportunity of Work Experience at their respective worksites, and intend to do so at least until the end of the year. A daycare in the West End has been operating thru out the pandemic because it serves essential workers and this worksite continues to provide Work Experience to 3 participants.
- Since July 1st, the Job Training staff has written 27 training contracts to date by doing virtual, telephone, “curbside service” collection of documentation, and safe face to face appointments. At times we are unable to serve individuals because they do not meet the Federal Guidelines the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) imposes. When the Monroe County Commissioners awarded Northampton Community College funds, specifically for scholarships to individuals affected by the pandemic unemployment situation, NCC reached out to the PA CareerLink immediately and we were able to provide referrals of those individuals who did not meet our eligibility requirements. Many who otherwise would not have had funding available have been trained and/or certified in CDL Licensing, Hospitality, and Medical programs.

I. Business Services Team (BST)

- The LVER made the 94 visits and phone calls this quarter.
- Seven Job Fairs were held at the Monroe CareerLink this quarter. Participating employers were Lowes.
Wal-mart Distribution, Weiler Brush and Harbor Freight. The outreach by the LVER and BST resulted in 131 additional job postings added to the PA CareerLink® website.
- The main focus of the state staff has remained to be assisting Monroe County residents to get through the red tape of Unemployment. During this quarter over 300 first-time claimants have been assisted and 600+ repeat claimants have contacted the BST.

II. Career Guidance Team

- The Career Guidance Team would like to welcome Benjamin Medina to the team!
- The Career Guidance Team has written 27 ITAs so far this program year.
- The Career Foundations and Technology Program at CDE currently has 4 enrolled.
- The GED/ABE Program at MCTI has re-enrolled 4 students and 2 new students since COVID and all are currently active.
- The EARN program enrolled 3 new participants in the program; 9 are currently active, with carry overs.

- The Career Guidance Team processed 46 appointments; 22 in-person and 24 virtually. 23 Dislocated, 19 adults and 4 OSY appointments. Over 76 O*Net assessments were mailed out to participants since August.
- The Career Guidance Team has administered the CASAS to 8 out-of-school youth.
- Youth Empowerment Service / Career Guidance enrolled 35 participants and placed all in Paid Work Experience since August, 11 are currently active.
- Maria, Benjamin & Kristi attended Stroudsburg High School Virtual Career Fair in November. The Career guidance Team is scheduled to present another time in November and once in December.

III. Customer Information & Resources Team (CIRT)

- We are currently scheduling appointments for our Career Resource Room (CRC) by staggering the appointment times and allowing only three individuals in the room at once. The appointments are set for 9, 11, 1 and 3. Each appointment is no longer than 1 hour and 15 minutes which allows for cleaning in between appointments. All individuals must wear their masks and gloves while in the CRC.
- The team is still providing virtual seminars to our participants. Three (3) seminars a week are offered. In September, there were 82 participants in attendance with 106 participants in October.
- Several in-person job fairs were held in October and November and coordinated by appointment only.
- Outreach by the team to the local school districts is ongoing as we work with youth to continue and grow the paid work experience opportunities.
- Virtual presentations for the area school districts are given bi-weekly to inform the students of all PA CareerLink services and to provide job search instruction and interviewing skills.

Pike County



Our office remains open and staff continues to assist job seekers and enroll persons interested in training programs. We hosted our first in-person hiring event (since March) with Pike County Correctional Facility. Every effort is made to maintain continuity of services as offered before

the Pandemic, while following the CDC's recommendations and keeping everyone safe. Appointments are made to control the number of people in the computer resource room.

We continue to have a higher than normal call volume and staff continue to assist individuals with Unemployment Compensation and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Assistance. We provide information gathered from the UC website and we contact UC and PUA representatives on behalf of claimants to resolve issues.

Additional staff activities and services available:

- Constant Contact newsletters for sharing information and services
- Job search and resume assistance - to limit the number of people in the building, appointments are made for staff assistance and computer usage in the CRC.
- Employer services – identifying and posting employment opportunities
- Providing information regarding available resources
- Currently accepting and processing applications for training
- Virtual Seminars/Workshops provided by staff at the Monroe County CareerLink

Attached is a copy of the most recent Pike County Profile from The Center for Workforce Information & Analysis for your review.



Pike County
10.2020.pdf

State Staff: will be not be allowed to return to the Pike County office until July 1, 2021. Charlie Montalbano from the Monroe County CareerLink continues to assist remotely with employer services and CareerLink job postings.

Employer Activity: Below is a list of some of the employers we have assisted since our September Meeting.

EUREKA STONE QUARRY
LAKE ADVENTURE COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION
AARP FOUNDATION
PENNSYLVANIA DEPT. TRANSPORTATION
PIKE COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
LAUREL HIGHLAND TELEPHONE CO
GOLD KEY COUNTRY CLUB
THE ESCAPE POA INC.
ERG STAFFING SERVICES
TWIN CEDARS SENIOR LIVING
CONNECTING THE PIECES LLC
WOODLOCH PINES, INC.
CAI, LLC
ELIPIDA MILFORD DINER
PRICE CHOPPER
EDWARD J. SCHAFER
PATHWAYS COMMUNITY SERVICES

HAMPTON INN MATAMORAS
MASTHOPE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY
POCONO TRANSCRETE INC
ANDERSON MERCHANDISERS LP
ABOVE THE REST HOME CARE
FOLLETT CORPORATION
HONAT BANCORP, INC.
PIKE COUNTY AREA AGENCY ON AGING
BELLE REVE HEALTH CARE
SOVEREIGN COMMERCIAL SERVICES INC.
DAVITA
DUTCH'S MARKET
WILLIAMS WELL DRILLING
RECREATION MANAGEMENT
CORPORATION
HOLBERT BROTHERS BLUESTONE CO
84 LUMBER COMPANY

Events and outreach: We hosted PCCF and have 2 additional employers scheduled for in-house hiring events. We also offer virtual Zoom/Skype recruiting events. We are utilizing our social media accounts including, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Constant Contact and Instagram to promote virtual events, employment opportunities, available services, and job search/employment retention tips. Please follow the link to see our latest newsletter, <https://conta.cc/3pywnqD>

WIOA Training: More training options are becoming available with schools reopening and some are offering virtual options.

PY 2020 (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021)

11 Individual Training Account agreements (6 CDL A Drivers, 1 Massage Therapist, 1 CNC Machinist, 1 Bookkeeping Admin. with MOS, 1 LPN, and 1 Nurse Aide)

- \$56,720.00 - Individual Training Accounts (ITA)
- \$0.00 - On-the-Job Training

12 Summer Youth Program participants. 3 continue to participate in paid work experience opportunities.

- \$17,106.00 - Paid Work Experience

3 State/Local Internship Program (SLIP) participants. Employers were reimbursed for wages, workers' compensation, and FICA expenses.

- \$10,020.00 - SLIP Program reimbursements

Youth Offender Program: This (reentry) program was approved by the Board at the March 2020 meeting and we continue to work with Choosing Integrity to identify and serve young offenders. Participation has been limited due to restrictions brought on by COVID-19. Currently, we have one active participant.

Choosing Integrity is an organization that supports men and women who are in custody and/or recently released. They were recently recognized in the Pike County Courier for their program accomplishments; <http://www.pikecountycourier.com/news/local-news/choosing-integrity-helps-pike-inmates-rebuild-their-lives-in-and-out-of-jail-BM1349276>.

Welfare Funded Programs: Clients in these programs are given the option to participate with virtual activities but some are choosing to return to in-person program activities including job search, subsidized or unsubsidized employment, and community service.

We have 6 active participants in Pike and Wayne Counties. 4 are employed and 1 recently graduated.

Clients in these programs require intensive case management as they prepare to enter employment and become self-reliant.

As of September, we are renting office space in the Hawley Silk Mill from Lackawanna College – Lake Region Center, to better serve our Wayne County EARN program participants.

WORKFORCE ALLIANCE - WAYNE COUNTY

1. Guest Services

- September
 - Total clients served 314 Last year (LY)-134
 - 132 Unemployment Compensation/PUA calls/assistance provided
 - 86 Career counselling sessions
 - 28 Business engagements
- October
 - Total clients served 280 LY 176
 - 129 Unemployment Compensation/PUA calls/assistance provided
 - 79 Career counselling sessions
 - 15 Business engagements
- November (to 11/20/2020)
 - Total clients served 240
 - 108 Unemployment Compensation/PUA calls/assistance provided
 - 67 Career counselling sessions
 - 30 Business engagements

Career Services

Electronic WIOA applications going well. We added an unemployment questions form on our home page. Appears to be useful for claimants to access.

- Individual Training Account/On the Job Training- 3 new
- ADULT/DW
 - Case load: 27

Current ITA's: 16

Closed ITA's requiring quarterly follow-ups: 2 with full-time employment.

- 4 pending ITA's
- 1 participant just received her Massage Therapy license and is seeking employment at Woodloch Resort.
- 1 participant received NHA certification as a Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA) and is seeking employment as a contact tracer in Wayne County.
- Researching other training opportunities/developing and implementing Virtual Career fairs, on-line career exploration workshops and an electronic Re-entry Career Path Program for returning citizens.
- Continuing to serve as a partner to identify candidates for internships and employment opportunities specifically for Hospitality/Leisure businesses in Wayne & Pikes Counties. (Training Source: USDA Rural Development.
- New partner with recovery to work (WORC) grant to assist in career development for people with addictions.
- Access to Tutor Me to assist YOUTH
- YOUTH
 - 8 OSY, 11 ISY - There are currently 2 pending OSY
 - 4 pending PWE - 3 are new positions
 - 2 Completed ITA - one has been hired.
 - 2 ISY have matriculated to college and one also has an unsubsidized job.
 - 2 working on GED
 - 3 former PWE's now have unsubsidized employment
 - 9 PACTT

2. 2020 Grant (State/Local Internship Program)

We continue to provide support to all the employers in the program to encourage a safe work environment for interns and other staff members. We collaborated with HNB, EverFi and Launch your Career to offer a variety of online training to our SLIP Students. We recruited 19 students and 22 employers for our SLIP 2020 Summer Program. Out of the 19 students recruited only 17 students completed their internships. The decline is due to students feeling anxious about working during the COVID-19 pandemic. As we near the final stage of the SLIP project, we started to collect our satisfaction surveys from participating employers and interns. The support and feedback the SLIP program has received has been very positive

3. Employer Services

- Incumbent Worker Training- 4
- On the job training- 3
- Apprenticeships- potentially 3

4. Other Workforce Activity (Staff & Participants)

- All Wayne County WDB members will receive EO training from EO state office by Dec 31
- PACDA Leadership Committee/ Programming committee
- Reentry Career development resumes with the prisons remotely
- New board member of the Professional Development Institution at Keystone College
- Requested to speak as a panelist at a regional job fair for returning citizens sponsored by a state agency
- Participate in Project Search for differently-abled YOUTH in career development/ mentoring/participated in Agency night
- Held career development training courses with our high schools
- Working with SHINE program for career development
- Continued participation with Wayne County juvenile justice system for referrals
- Continued partnership with PATHSTONE
- Re-affiliation as a Community Based provided for the Pennsylvania Academic, Career & Technical Training Project through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime Delinquency
- Staff continues to prepare for Certified Workforce Development Professional certification
- Wayne County Employment Coalition participation
- Participated in Perkins meeting at Honesdale High School
- Monthly Wayne Tomorrow meeting and work on the Ag and Resource Development subcommittees
- 10 million cups weekly meetings
- Women in Apprenticeships training

YOUTH INCENTIVE POLICY

Garry Wentz reported to the Board, that the Title I Service Providers for all 4 counties had met by Zoom after the September meeting to further discuss Wayne County Workforce's suggested Youth Incentive Policy that was tabled for further discussion at that meeting. Garry reported that as a result of that discussion, the group had come up with a solution to the issue that did not require the Board to adopt a Youth Incentive Policy. He said that some of the things that Wayne County wanted to utilize Incentives for could be addressed under our current Supportive Service Policy instead. Helen Mancuso advised the Board that they were withdrawing their Youth Incentive Policy proposal at this time.

OTHER BUSINESS

Garry informed the Board that the Wayne/Pike Alliance had recently been notified that a grant proposal they submitted had been approved. He congratulated them on the success of their proposal and asked Lucyann Vierling, Executive Director of the Wayne/Pike Alliance to provide some information on the grant and how it might align with our ongoing workforce development efforts within the region. Lucyann reported that the grant they received was a 3-year grant to provide workforce services to Rural Communities. Their proposal covered a 9-county area, and would provide additional resources to our efforts here in the Pocono Counties WDA.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will take place Wednesday, March 3, 2021, in Pike County, with a location to be determined, or by Zoom Conference call if conditions do not allow for in person meetings at that time. Garry Wentz and Frank Revitt both wanted to thank Debbie Harrison from our Monroe County CareerLink® for the work she did in lining up a meeting at the Kalahari Resort. Unfortunately, based on the increasing COVID-19 case numbers, the Board decided to conduct the meeting by Zoom again. Garry hoped the we would have an opportunity to arrange for a future Board meeting at the resort once conditions allowed.

With no other Business to be brought before the Board, a motion was made by Tony Hertzog to adjourn, and seconded by Trip Ruvane. Board polled-Motion carried. The meeting ended at 11:00 A.M.