

Board Meeting Minutes

June 19, 2019

Call to Order: Chairman Cooper called the meeting to order at 8:03 am. He welcomed everyone and asked that members introduce themselves as we have a new member and guests present today.

Privilege of the Floor: There was none.

Guest Speaker: Director Mayforth introduced Claudia Whitmire, Deputy Director of Community Action Planning Council (CAPC). Ms. Whitmire presented the Community Needs Assessment and gave an overview of her history with CAPC. Mr. Alexander commented on the improvements to the Cooper Street School since CAPC took ownership of the building. He next asked why she refers to her clients as customers. Ms. Whitmire replied that the goal is to show their customers that they have value and that they can help the organization as much as CAPC can help them. She also stated that they have several past customers who now work for the organization. Further discussion ensued.

Approval of Minutes: Chairman Cooper asked for corrections to or discussion of the minutes for the December 19, 2018 Board Meeting. There were none. Chairman Cooper then asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Pietroski made the motion. Ms. Pettit seconded. All were in favor.

Chairman Cooper asked for corrections to or discussion of the minutes for the March 18, 2019 Executive Board Meeting. There were none. Chairman Cooper then asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Alexander made the motion. Mr. Todd seconded. All were in favor.

Chairman Cooper asked for corrections to or discussion of the minutes for the March 20, 2019 Board Meeting. There were none. Chairman Cooper then asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Stone made the motion. Ms. Pietroski seconded. All were in favor.

Chairman Cooper asked for corrections to or discussion of the minutes for the April 8, 2019 Executive Board Meeting. There were none. Chairman cooper then asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Pietroski made the motion. Mr. O'Driscoll seconded. All were in favor.

Correspondence: Director Mayforth reported that no correspondence had been received.

One-Stop Operator Report: Mr. Maloney reviewed the quarterly report for our Jefferson and Lewis County offices. He next explained that funding ended for the Veterans Financial Coach program. Mr. Alexander asked if the program had been State funded. It was a Department of Labor program, but funded through a Federal grant. Chairman Cooper asked if there are any other similar Veterans programs on Fort Drum. Director Mayforth stated that the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) includes a portion similar to the Financial Coach program. Further discussion ensued.

Mr. Maloney reviewed the Jefferson Leadership and Business Symposium in which Jerry Greenfield, Co-Founder of Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream, was the keynote speaker. Mr. Maloney and Director Mayforth have served on this committee for several years. He stated that attendance for this event has increased over the past few years, and credited JCC with the program's growth.

Mr. Maloney next introduced our new Youth and Young Adult Coordinator, Ethan Brown. He then commented that the Summer Youth Employment Program is off to a good start. The Summer Youth Counselors are all new with one exception, so it should be an interesting first season for Ethan.

Director's Report/Financial Report: Director Mayforth presented on Career Jam and explained that this event has grown to include 2100 students from 28 school districts across the North Country. Ms. Pietroski stated that her 8th grade nephew said that Career Jam helped him to solidify his future plans. Director Mayforth thanked the Board for their support of the event and explained that two thirds of the funding came from outside support. However, there was unfortunately no support from the City of Watertown in the form of decreases or waivers in the fees charged for the venue. Further discussion ensued. Director Mayforth stated that BOCES will be conducting a survey to measure how well information is flowing to our students.

Director Mayforth stated we will see a major increase in funding for PY19. We have a tentative budget that needs approval, and there will most likely be a modification to the budget at the September Board meeting once the State has solidified allocations. Director Mayforth next explained that each area must spend 80% of budgeted monies within the program year, even though WIOA law requires only 75% expenditures. WDB Directors have asked the State to drop the required expenditure levels to 75% to match the WIOA requirements. Further discussion ensued.

Chairman Cooper asked why there are both Dislocated Worker and Dislocated Worker for Adult categories. Director Mayforth explained that while the funds are interchangeable for spending, they must be accounted for separately to the State auditors. Dislocated Worker numbers have been decreasing due to a decrease in unemployment numbers.

Ms. Munson informed the Board that she will have plentiful funding for On-The-Job Training in PY19, and to please contact her if you are interested in utilizing this program.

Director Mayforth announced that we will be holding a Childcare Summit on July 10, 2019 at the Hilton Garden Inn. Director Nelson (North Country WDB) will be holding a separate Childcare Summit for Clinton, Franklin, Essex and Hamilton Counties. There will be guest speakers to make known the issues with unaffordable and unavailable child care. Ms. Munson asked the Board to forward any contacts that Board members may have in the childcare community. Commissioner Jones said she would look into who sits on the State Childcare Taskforce.

Director Mayforth next announced that we will be holding a recruiting event at Concentrix on June 25, 2019. In addition, Mr. Alexander informed the Board that there is a possibility our agency and JCC may be moving into the Concentrix building, along with other partners and/or tenants.

New Business:

Resolution #18-10 Ratification of Use of Perkins Grant Funds

Chairman Cooper asked for questions on the resolution. There were none. He then asked for a motion for approval.

Motion: Mr. Alexander

Second: Mr. Monaco

Approved: All present voted yes with the exception of Dr. Stone who abstained.

Resolution #18-11 Ratification of Youth Recruiting Incentives

Chairman Cooper asked for questions on the resolution. There were none. He then asked for a motion for approval.

Motion: Mr. Alexander
Second: Mr. Monaco
Approved: Unanimously

Resolution #18-12 Membership Renewal for New York Association of Employment and Training Professionals (NYATEP)

Chairman Cooper asked for questions on the resolution. There were none. He then asked for a motion for approval.

Motion: Ms. Pietroski
Second: Mr. O'Driscoll
Approved: Unanimously

Resolution #18-13 Nomination/Election of Officers for Program Year 2019

Chairman Cooper asked for questions or comments on the resolution. Director Mayforth stated that the 2nd Vice Chair position is currently empty and asked for nominations from the floor. Mr. Castillo stated he would be willing to take that seat. Chairman Cooper asked for a motion to be made on the following slate:

Board Chair:	Matthew Cooper	2 nd Vice Chair:	Rod Castillo
1 st Vice Chair:	Jody Pettit	Secretary:	John O'Driscoll

Motion: Ms. Pietroski
Second: Ms. Yarina
Approved: Unanimously

Resolution #18-14 Membership Renewal for National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB)

Chairman Cooper asked for questions on the resolution. There were none. He then asked for a motion for approval.

Motion: Mr. Alexander
Second: Mr. Misiewicz
Approved: Unanimously

Resolution #18-15 Approval of the Program Year 2018 Modification

Voided due to lack of financials from NYS. All further resolutions will be renumbered for continuity.

Resolution #18-15 Approval of Program Year 2019 Budget

Chairman Cooper asked for questions on the resolution. There were none. He then asked for a motion for approval.

Motion: Mr. Monaco
Second: Ms. Pietroski
Approved: Unanimously

Resolution #18-16 Approval of Youth Services for Program Year 2019

Director Mayforth explained why the Board needs to approve the One-Stop as the Youth Program Provider. Chairman Cooper asked for questions on the resolution. There were none. He then asked for a motion for approval.

Motion: Mr. O'Driscoll

Second: Mr. Monaco

Approved: Unanimously

Resolution #18-17 Approval of Program Year 2019 Meeting Dates

Director Mayforth stated that she would like to move meetings from Wednesdays to Thursdays due to conflicts for multiple Board members. Chairman Cooper asked for questions on the resolution. There were none. He then asked for a motion for approval.

Motion: Mr. Alexander

Second: Ms. Pettit

Approved: Unanimously

Roundtable Discussion: Chairman Cooper opened the floor for any news, updates or comments.

Ms. Pettit asked if the high waters locally have affected employment opportunities. Director Mayforth stated that there has not been a major impact seen so far. Chairman Cooper stated there has been a decline in revenue at marinas. Mr. Monaco predicted a boom in repair business after the water recedes. Ms. Pettit commented that roofers and painters are not currently busy due to the weather.

Mr. Hayden discussed why it is so hard to find employees. He will be taking a webinar on solutions to labor shortages and will share the outcome at the next Board meeting. Chairman Cooper stated his firm struggles to find and retain Engineers and that there are dozens of jobs available. Mr. Hayden commented that Jefferson County is at a serious labor shortage and that Lewis County is even worse. Director Mayforth agreed that it is the lowest she has ever seen, and it is in part due to "Baby Boomers" retiring and more people moving out of state. Further discussion ensued on the lack of a ready workforce.

Dr. Stone asked if there is a false message in the Unemployment Insurance numbers, and suggested training for the under-employed to advance in their employment. She next stated that the number one sector in the North Country is retail, with healthcare being second and the public sector being third. Many of these positions do not offer high wages.

Ms. Pettit expressed that businesses cannot afford full time employees and the costs of benefits. She also commented that employees working paycheck to paycheck cannot afford further training and education, nor do they have the time as many work multiple jobs to make ends meet. Ms. Munson agreed and stated that people in survival mode are not thinking that far into the future. They are too concerned with tomorrow or the day after. Director Mayforth stated there are plenty of job openings but they do not pay well and are quite often part-time. Further discussion ensued.

Chairman Cooper asked members to think on this topic and bring ideas to the next meeting.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 19, 2019, location TBD.

Adjournment: Chairman Cooper asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Pietroski made the motion. Mr. Castillo seconded. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 am.



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Attendance:

Donald Alexander
George Anderson
Rod Castillo
Matthew Cooper
Cheryl Mayforth
Theodore Misiewicz
Lynn Pietroski
John O'Driscoll
Shellie Orloff
Jody Pettit
Ty Stone
Lisa Storey
Stephen Todd
Tracey Yarina

Others in Attendance

Ethan Brown
Brittany Davis
Anthony Hayden
Lisa Hetzner
Cody Horbacz
Jennifer Jones
Tim Maloney
Angel Munson
Jennifer Pound
Claudia Whitmire