

**MEETING MINUTES
NYC WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
QUARTERLY MEETING**

Thursday, February 6, 2025
8:30 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.

Board Members Present:

Adria Powell	Angie Kamath	Colleen Galvin
Daniel Bustillo	Degan Leopold	Edgar Romney
Eliana Palmay	Eliza Loehr (Designee)	Grace Bonilla
James Sanders	Katy Gaul-Stigge	Laura James
Lenore Friedlaender	Merrill Pond	Rich Buery
Sarah Henderson Rosenberg	Saudia Davis	

Guests Present:

Adele Reardon	Antoinette Gregg	Audrey Wilson
Diallo Shabazz	Dynishal Gross	Eunsun Cho
Grace Riddick	Judith Smith	Linda Nguyen
Lourena Gboeah	Mavreen White	Megan Keenan-Berryman
Nicole Epps	Paula Bailey	Sin Ting So
Vanessa Preston	Vivian Soto	Yurij Pawluk

Staff Present:

Abby Jo Sigal	Adolpho Casillas	Brendan Collins
Chris Neale	Daniel Liss	Danielle Chan
Grant Yanney	Jasmine Vega-Pegram	Leah Hebert

Welcome

Board Co-Chair Adria Powell formally called the meeting to order at 10:00am. She welcomed attendees, then briefly previewed the speakers and agenda items. A quorum of Board members were present.

Board Business

Co-Chair Powell requested a vote on the meeting minutes from the December 11, 2024 Workforce Development Board meeting. Members offered a motion and a second. The Board voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes.

Director's Report

Updates on WIOA Reauthorization: Director Chris Neale provided an updated on the federal bill to reauthorize WIOA, A Stronger Workforce for America (ASWA). Although the bill did not pass, it came very close: Congress included it in the original Continuing Resolution bill in mid-December, but excluded it from the final version that they ultimately passed. As a result, there are no changes to the current WIOA law. The final version of the bill included some positive improvements. Namely, although it still included a requirement to spend a minimum of 50% of Adult and Dislocated Worker funds on training services, up to ten percentage points could come from supportive services or career services.

Harkin International Disability Employment Summit: Staff from NYC Talent, including Director Neale, attended and presented its Plan to Advance Career Success for People with Disability at the conference. In the context of WIOA and local services, the Department of Small Business Services has taken significant steps to integrate services for people with disabilities into its Workforce1 Career Centers. The conference is named after Tom Harkin, former U.S. Senator from Iowa and an author of the Americans with Disability Act (ADA). Senator Harkin formed the Harkin Institute, which coordinates this conference annually.

WIOA Local Plan: WIOA requires local areas to create a local plan every four years. We view the plan as an opportunity to figure out how the system should work, where to invest resources, and how best to position ourselves for success. We are looking to procure the services of a consultant and will engage Board members extensive for their input into the development of the plan.

WIOA Activities and Performance: We informed the Board previously that DYCD has awarded the Youth WIOA contracts for both In-School Youth (Learn & Earn) and Out-of-

School Youth (Train & Earn) programs. SBS is currently reviewing submissions for the Workforce1 Career Center Request for Proposals. With respect to WIOA performance, we continue to focus on the Adult Credential Attainment Rate. Additionally, New York State Department of Labor circulated a draft technical advisory around defining credentials which will likely provide a lot more flexibility to us and help us further increase our Credential Attainment Rate performance.

Update on Youth Programs

Co-Chair Merrill Pond presided over the remainder of the Board meeting. Co-Chair Pond highlighted the importance of the WIOA Local Plan and the opportunity to develop a strategic plan as part of the Local Plan. She expressed her excitement about the increased investment in the Local Plan and noted that the members of the Early Career Success Committee will focus their time on the Local Plan. She also indicated that members of the Board and Council have informed her that they are willing to bring in staff from their organizations to bolster the effort. According to Co-Chair Pond, the Local Plan will be a great opportunity to involve all partners in developing a plan that will stand the test of time.

Megan Keenan-Berryman, Assistant Commissioner, Department of Youth and Community Development, reported significant progress with the 40 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth contracts in the pipeline. Regarding enrollment and services, young people are actively being enrolled, and services have commenced across the board. Organizations have received their contracts through PASSPort, the City's online system for managing contracting and payments.

WIOA Program Breakdown:

- **Learn & Earn (17 contracts):** This program targets In-School Youth with a focus on high school Juniors and Seniors, providing graduation support and post-graduation planning.
- **Training & Earn (23 contracts):** This program targets Out-of-School Youth and is thus designed for young adults who are neither working nor in school, providing occupational training and job placement assistance.

Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) Update:

- **Target Participation:** DYCD aims to serve 100,000 young people through SYEP this summer, matching its service numbers from last year.
- **Worksite Recruitment:** A call for worksite hosts was made to the Board members. Interested parties are encouraged to contact Director Chris Neale for connections to the relevant DYCD staff.

- **Application Status:** The application, released on January 21st, has received over 89,000 applications as of February 6th, indicating a strong pace. The SYEP application is scheduled to close on February 28th.

Community Resources for Employment and Development (CRED) Program Launch:

- **Launch Event:** As part of "Jobs Week," DYCD is launching the new Community Resources for Employment and Development (CRED) program.
- **Funding & Scope:** This \$15 million initiative will be distributed among eight organizations to provide services for adults aged 18 to 40 who have been impacted by community violence. This area is new to DYCD and they are excited to implement the programs.

Update on Adult Programs

Yurij Pawluk, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Small Business Services, provided updates and highlights on Adult programs and activities.

Spotlight on Successful Training Programs:

Registered Nurse (RN) Licensure Program for Foreign-Trained Nurses:

- This program assists individuals who trained as registered nurses abroad in preparing for and passing the U.S. nursing exam.
- It's highly successful, enabling participants to transition from lower-paying jobs (e.g., home health aides, \$30,000-\$40,000/year) to six-figure salaries upon graduation.

Health Care Finance and Operations Program (formerly Medical Billing):

- This program has strong partnerships with major healthcare institutions, including New York-Presbyterian and NYU Langone.
- A longstanding partnership with the Harvard Business School Alumni in New York City provides support and facilitates job connections for graduates.

Made in New York Boot Camp:

- A collaborative effort with the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment and Roundabout Theater.
- Recently hosted a showcase night, allowing attendees to observe the intricate behind-the-scenes aspects of theater production, including wardrobe and sound,

alongside actor performances. This visually demonstrated the impact of the training programs.

Update on Competitive Requests for Proposals (RFPs):

Workforce1 Centers RFP:

- The RFP process is nearing completion, with scoring and evaluation almost finalized.
- Announcements and negotiations with top bidders are expected to begin relatively soon, indicating the process is close to the finish line.

Training RFPs:

- **VESL Program (Vocational English as a Second Language):** This program provides vocational English language training for New Yorkers seeking careers in the food service field.
- **Construction Site Safety Training Program:** This "highly regarded" program is also being re-bid this year.

Training Participation and Employment Outcomes:

- **Increased Training Participation:** This year has seen a notable increase in training participation.
- **Decrease in Hires and Promotions:** A slight decrease in hires and promotions from these programs has been observed. This may be partly due to less time for job verification (validations), as the current meeting is earlier in the quarter compared to previous reporting cycles. There's also a noted decline in promotions linked to the customized training program, which is currently under review.
- **Commitment to Improvement:** The team is actively investigating the reasons for the decrease and is committed to ending the fiscal year on a strong note regarding employment outcomes.

Jobs NYC Initiative

- **Impact:** Over the past 1.5 years, the Jobs NYC initiative has helped more than 1,000 New Yorkers secure employment, demonstrating significant leadership in this area.
- **Services Provided:** Over 10,000 New Yorkers have been served, with more than 4,100 referred to employers.
- **Partnerships:** The Department of Small Business Services is collaborating with the Mayor's Office of Talent and other city agencies to advance this work.
- **Hiring Halls:**
 - 31 hiring events (up from 27) have been held to date.

- A recent mini-hiring hall focused on the legal sector (attorney, paralegal, legal assistant roles) attracted almost 200 attendees.
- A highly successful hiring hall at BronxWorks saw nearly 450 job seekers and featured over 30 organizations (27 employers and half a dozen resource organizations).

The initiative has baseline funding from the City to continue its work. Recent rounds of Jobs NYC events have achieved a 100% employer satisfaction rate, indicating high employer engagement and positive outcomes.

Credential Attainment Rate:

- SBS is highly focused on achieving the goal for the WIOA Credential Attainment Rate standard for the current year.
- An internal task force, with dedicated team members present at the meeting, is working diligently on this.
- Close collaboration is ongoing with NYS DOL (New York State Department of Labor) and the state to meticulously track individuals and the credentials they obtain.

Closing

Co-Chair Pond thanked all members for attending the meeting. She then requested and received a motion and a second to formally close the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 10:30am.