

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

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

3:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

One Liberty Plaza, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10006

**Board Members Present:**

Lauren Andersen	Henry Garrido	Adria Powell
Linda Baran	Christina Ho	Edgar Romney
Adam Blasioli	Laura James	Saudia Davis
David Bolotsky	Angie Kamath	Daphany Sanchez
Daniel Bustillo	Eliana Palmay	James Sanders
Saudia Davis	Randy Peers	Lisa Sorin
Colleen Galvin	Merrill Pond	Alysia Steinmann

**Guests Present:**

Taylor Clinton	JeNean Jones-Seo	Yurij Pawluk
Elias Filpo	Christopher Lewis	Vanessa Preston
Lourena Gboeah	Jane Martinez Dowling	Hercules Reid
Antoinette Gregg	Jennifer Mongiori-Corcoran	Ardis Sanmoogan
Dynishal Gross	Valerie Mulligan	Vivian Soto

**Virtual Presenter:**

David Fischer		
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**NYC Talent Staff Present:**

Adolpho Casillas	Thwiba Eltom	Diandra Malahoo
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Danielle Chan	Felicia Forster	Chris Neale
Brendan Collins	Leah Hebert	Joe Rhoades
Phoebe Downes	Doug Lipari	Supriya Singh
Tess Edwards	Daniel Liss	Grant Yanney

### **Opening Remarks**

- Co-Chair Merrill Pond called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.
- Co-Chair Pond asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the June 4, 2025 Board meeting. Members called for and seconded a motion to approve those minutes. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

### **Welcoming Remarks**

- Doug Lipari, Executive Director of the NYC Office of Talent and Workforce Development, provided highlights from the previous month:
  - Community Hiring: The City celebrated the groundbreaking for the first construction contract subject to Community Hiring goals at the Baisley Park Library in Jamaica, Queens.
  - Green Economy: E.D. Lipari highlighted a recent visit to an electric vehicle training for City Fleet employees, which supports the City's ultimate goal of a 100% electric fleet and was supported by funding the Workforce Development Board received from the New York State Department of Labor.
  - Strategic Planning: E.D. Lipari thanked the Board for their dedication and input into the 2025-2029 Local Plan and the ongoing strategic planning process.
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### **Director's Report**

Chris Neale, Senior Advisor and Director, NYC Workforce Development Board, presented a Director's report to members.

### **WIOA Funding and Performance**

- **Funding Update:** Director Neale informed the Board about the status of WIOA funding given the federal government shutdown. The U.S. Department of Labor

notified the New York State Department of Labor (NYSDOL) that WIOA dollars will continue to flow despite the federal government shutdown. Director Neale explained that WIOA funding is made available every year in three “tranches” of funding, with a portion of the amount available to states on or around April 1, July 1, and October 1. New York City already received the first two but not the third, and, according to NYSDOL, the final tranche of funding for the year may be delayed.

- **Renewable Energy Training:** Director Neale informed members that the Board received \$250,000 in funding from the New York State Department of Labor (in partnership with the New York Power Authority) for renewable energy training. NYSDOL provided short notice, so the Board, with the help of NYC Talent, could not competitively procure new projects, but instead needed to identify existing channels available through the City. As a result, the Board made funds available to two projects: SBS’ NYC Cool Roofs program, which provides low-income individuals with paid, on-the-job training for installing reflective roof surfaces; and an introduction to electric vehicle safety, power, and maintenance for City Fleet workers. Member Christina Ho from Con Edison suggested a further conversation about how resources might be used in the future to address talent shortages. The Board team welcomed such a conversation, particularly with the Resiliency, Manufacturing, Industrial & Infrastructure Council (ReMIIIC) industry partnership, an entity housed at NYC Talent whose focus includes the green economy.
- **WIOA Performance:** The City achieved satisfactory performance on all of its 15 WIOA performance goals for the past year. Notably, after challenges in previous years (due to data collection, entry, and transfer, not to performance), NYC achieved 114% of the Adult Credential Attainment Rate and 119% of the Dislocated Worker Credential Attainment Rate. On the Measurable Skill Gains measures, NYC achieved 160% of the Adult goal and 161% of the Dislocated Worker goal.

## **Board Business**

### **WIOA Local Plan**

- Co-Chair Merrill Pond presented the 2025-2029 WIOA Local Plan for New York City, which spanned 138 pages, to the Board for approval.
- Co-Chair Pond noted that the public comment period (August 19 – September 5) closed with no comments received, though she noted that the Board engaged a wide variety of external stakeholders in developing the Local Plan.

- Co-Chair Merrill Pond asked members if there was a motion to approve. Members made and seconded a motion to approve the Plan for submission to the New York State Department of Labor. Members voted unanimously to approve the WIOA Local Plan.

### **Strategic Planning Update**

- Co-Chair Merrill Pond reminded members that the Board is engaging in a strategic planning process, undertaken in parallel with the Local Plan, which has involved more than 110 stakeholders to date.
- The Project Steering Committee identified seven priority topics for in-depth examination in planning workshops.
- The process will conclude with the Steering Committee prioritizing strategies for a final strategic roadmap.

### **Agency Updates and Budgets**

- Co-Chair Merrill Pond reminded Board members that she had announced a new budget process at the June Board meeting: the NYC Department of Small Business Services (SBS) and the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) will first present their proposed budgets to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will decide whether to recommend each budget to the full Board. Then the full Board will vote on whether to approve each budget.
- Co-Chair Pond stated that the Executive Committee received budget briefings from both agencies in September and recommends approval of both budgets to the full Board.

### **Adult Budget and Updates**

- **Proposed FY2026 WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker Budget:** SBS Commissioner Dynishal Gross presented the proposed WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker budget:
  - The proposed budget totaled \$73,761,548 for FY2026.
  - Key components included \$33.4 million for the Workforce1 Career Centers and \$20 million for training programs.
  - Co-Chair Merrill Pond asked if any members wanted to make a motion to approve the proposed budget. Members made and seconded such a motion.

Nearly all members voted to approve the budget, with the exception of two members, who abstained: Randy Peers and Henry Garrido.

- **FY2025 Program Update:** SBS Deputy Commissioner Yuri Pawluk provided a program update about the entirety of FY2025 with the following highlights:
  - SBS reported a strong year with key indicators up: a 12% increase in individuals served, a 3% increase in average wage paid, and a 10% increase in training enrollments.
  - SBS trained more than 8,000 people in FY2025.
  - The new Healthcare Accelerator program with Kingsborough Community College rapidly trained more than 400 individuals for careers like Pharmacy Tech and Phlebotomy Tech.
  - Jobs NYC, a Mayoral initiative, has hosted hiring halls since February 2024, providing more than 13,000 job seekers with access to employment opportunities and resources as of July 1st.
  - Board Feedback: Board Member Henry Garrido from DC37 recommended increasing the focus on training for low-skilled public sector employees who may face displacement due to AI or automation. SBS acknowledged the suggestion and stated they would follow up.

### **Youth Budget and Updates**

- **Proposed FY2026 WIOA Youth Budget:** DYCD Senior Budget Director Ardis Sanmoogan presented the proposed WIOA Youth budget:
  - The proposed budget totaled \$34,330,286 for FY2026.
  - The \$34.3 million budget is primarily allocated across DYCD's two WIOA-funded programs: Out-of-School Youth (OSY) and In-School Youth (ISY), including related contractual lines and direct participant wages.
  - 85% of the WIOA grant is dedicated to supporting the In-School Youth and Out-of-School Youth through combined contractual amounts and participant wages.
  - The remaining funds are allocated to DYCD personnel, Other Than Personnel Services (OTPS), and Technical Assistance for Out-of-School Youth providers.

- Co-Chair Adria Powell asked if there was a motion to approve the WIOA Youth Budget for Fiscal Year 2026. Members motioned and seconded. The members then vote to approve the budget unanimously.
- **FY2025 Youth Program Update:** DYCD Deputy Commissioner Valerie Mulligan presented an update on the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP):
  - DYCD completed its fourth consecutive year of offering 100,000 paid opportunities to young people this summer.
  - The program has grown from a baseline of 30,000 slots to 100,000.
  - The program received a record-breaking 209,000 applications this year, up from 183,000 applications the year prior.
  - SYEP targeted some SYEP slots to priority populations, including:
    - 15,000 young people residing in NYCHA public housing
    - 20,000 young people from the six precincts with the highest rates of gun violence
    - 4,000 young people who self-reported having a disability
  - Deputy Commissioner Mulligan further described some of the programmatic innovations for this round of SYEP:
    - **Financial Literacy:** Every participant was required to complete a minimum of two hours of financial literacy training before starting their internship.
    - **CUNY Reach Pilot:** A new offering allowed young people to earn college credit during the summer while being paid for the hours spent in class, in conjunction with their internship.
  - Board Feedback: Board Member Christina Ho from Con Edison praised the high quality of the 60 students that her company hosted this summer.
    - The students were engaged in valuable work, such as identifying deluge flooding potential as part of climate resilience initiatives, rather than "just moving boxes around".
    - Con Edison also hosted a career day for participants in the younger youth program at the Con Ed Center.
  - Deputy Commissioner Mulligan updated the Board that DYCD was currently enrolling participants for Work, Learn, Grow, which provides 7,000 slots as a year-long extension of SYEP.

- Board Feedback: Board Member NYS Senator James Sanders asked how the debit card fraud incident affected the program's budget. Deputy Commissioner Mulligan responded that the incident was a glitch on the bank's side affecting the debit cards used by unbanked youth (approx. 30% of participants). The City's funding was secured and it did not lose any money. All young people were paid for the hours they worked, regardless of their involvement. Fewer than 1,000 young people were significantly impacted. The investigation is ongoing, involving the NYPD and NYC Department of Investigation.
- Board Feedback: Board Member Daphany Sanchez from Kinetic Communities Consulting asked what DYCD is doing to increase the number of job placements, especially given the high number of NYCHA residents applying but not getting in. She further asked what DYCD is doing to be intentional about the quality of the placement opportunities. Deputy Commissioner Mulligan responded that the gap between applications (200,000) and slots (100,000) is due to a lack of resources/funding to pay wages, not a lack of employers. DYCD currently turns away employers. The budget covers 100,000 slots. DYCD's philosophy prioritizes youth choice. Deputy Commissioner Mulligan acknowledged a wide diversity in quality among community-based organization partners. She stated that DYCD is investing heavily in capacity building for nonprofits to help them improve matching young people to desired jobs. Additionally, DYCD is working with public schools on intentional planning to tie high school experience to job types. Finally, DYCD is bringing in "industry champions" to help grow the number of jobs in high-demand sectors, with a current focus on healthcare.

### **Federal Budget and Policy Update**

- David Fischer, Interim Executive Director of New York Association of Training and Employment Professionals), presented an update on federal workforce budget and policy, including the following highlights:
  - Mr. Fischer reported continuing uncertainty in federal workforce policy, in part as a result of the federal government shutdown. He noted two competing policy impulses from the federal administration, including, on the one hand, a desire to expand some investments in workforce, like increasing

registered apprentices to one million and launching Workforce Pell grants, while, at the same time, proposing extensive budget cuts to a number of WIOA-funded programs.

- The House Appropriations Committee's bill proposed significant cuts to workforce programs compared to the one proposed by the Senate Appropriations Committee bill.
- Despite these budget and policy challenges, a long-term reason for optimism exists, argued Mr. Fischer: workforce development services may increase in importance in the U.S. as the labor market becomes more constrained due to decreased birth rate and restrictions on immigration. Moreover, there may be an opportunity for the workforce system to rethink strategy and push towards a model that prioritizes job quality, retention, and advancement.

### **Meeting Closing**

- Co-Chair Adria Powell announced that the next quarterly Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 3, from 3:00pm to 5:00pm, at the same location: One Liberty Plaza, 11th Floor, in Lower Manhattan.
- Co-Chair Powell asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Members motioned and seconded, and all members voted for the motion. Co-Chair Powell adjourned the meeting at 5:00pm.