

## WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**COMMITTEE:** HUMAN SERVICES - Employment & Training Administration

**DATE:** February 24, 2011

---

---

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: OTHERS PRESENT:**

SUPERVISORS STRAINER  
GIRARD  
VANNESS  
SOKOL  
BENTLEY  
WOOD

CHRIS HUNSINGER, DIRECTOR OF EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING ADMINISTRATION  
JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD  
SUPERVISOR MCCOY  
SUPERVISOR LOEB  
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*  
THOM RANDALL, *ADIRONDACK JOURNAL*  
JOANNE COLLINS, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

**COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:**

SUPERVISOR CHAMPAGNE

---

---

Mr. Strainer called the meeting of the Human Services Committee to order at 11:02 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. VanNess, seconded by Mr. Sokol and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Mr. Strainer informed the Committee that a meeting had been held with Christie Sabo, Director of the Office for the Aging; Sheila Weaver, Commissioner of the Department of Social Services; and Deanna Park, Director of the Countryside Adult Home, to discuss the possible relocation of the Warrensburg mealsite to the Countryside Adult Home and additional information would be provided at a future meeting.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Chris Hunsinger, Director of the Employment & Training Administration (ETA), who distributed copies of the agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Hunsinger stated that he had recently met with the Saratoga-Warren-Washington Workforce Investment Board (WIB), and a resolution had been adopted appointing members to the WIB Emerging Worker Council. He requested approval to appoint Sharon Sano, Senior ETA Counselor; Margaret Smith, Director of the Youth Bureau; and Lynn Ackershoek, Executive Director of the Community Action Agency, to the WIB Emerging Worker Council, for a three year term effective February 23, 2011.

Motion was made by Mr. VanNess, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to approve the appointments as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 18, 2011 Board meeting. *Copies of the resolution request forms are on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Hunsinger informed of the Regional Transformation Grant for which \$22,500 had been awarded to Fulton and Montgomery Counties, who had partnered with other Capital District WIB's to form the Regional Transformation Council. He expounded that a decision had been made last year to use the funds to provide manufacturing skills training through the regional Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES). Mr. Hunsinger recognized the Warren County ETA staff for their outreach and marketing efforts associated with the program and six participants had been identified for the program.

Mr. Hunsinger presented a request to amend the 2011 County Budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$12,000 to reflect Federal reimbursement for the BOCES training program.

Motion was made by Girard, seconded by Mr. Sokol and carried unanimously to approve the request to amend the 2011 County Budget as outlined above and to refer same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the request to Amend County Budget is on file with the minutes.*

Pertaining to the Governor's Proposed Budget, Mr. Hunsinger informed that the State budget had not included funding for the Summer Youth Employment Program and the future was unknown at this time.

With regard to Federal Budget, Mr. Hunsinger apprised that the majority of ETA funding streams were derived from Federal WIA programs which were forward-funded, which meant that dollars currently being expended were approved one to two years ago. He said the 2012 budget was currently under consideration in Congress, which would effect funding as of July 1, 2011. He further stated that the House of Representatives had passed the HR1 which eliminated funding for WIA and would rescind existing funding already awarded. If such a measure transpired, he asserted, the ETA Office could not continue to operate. He stated the HR1 was currently under consideration in the Senate, where he opined, it would not pass. Mr. Hunsinger stated that notification would be received by March 4<sup>th</sup> and he anticipated significant reductions of between 10% and 12%. Lastly, he said, the President of the United States recognized the need for training and had requested 2008 funding levels for the 2012 budget which were effective October 1<sup>st</sup>. He noted that members of the WIB had sent letters to elected Officials.

Continuing with the Agenda review, Mr. Hunsinger stated that a Virtual Job Fair was held to address the recent lay-offs at C.R. Bard which would continue over the course of the year. Many of the laid-off workers, he said, would be eligible for the trade assistance program coordinated through the ETA.

Mr. Hunsinger announced the Annual Job Discovery Day would be held on Thursday, March 17, 2011 in the Adirondack Community College Gymnasium and noted additional information would be forthcoming. He said the average number of attendees was 2,000, with 50 to 60 employer booths and three career planning/development workshops planned for the event. He explained that there was no cost to the County for the use of the ACC Gymnasium during the college's spring break.

Mr. Strainer contended that the Summer Youth Employment program provided area youth with an appreciable opportunity for job training, which was especially felt by rural families and those of modest income levels. Mr. Hunsinger pointed out that this was the first employment experience for participants and he attributed much of the programs success to the presence of mentors. Mr. Strainer stated that he had observed the positive comradery shown by the students which evidenced pride in their accomplishments.

As there was no further business to come before the Human Services Committee, on motion made by Mr. VanNess and seconded by Mr. Sokol, Mr. Strainer adjourned the meeting at 11:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joanne Collins, Legislative Office Specialist