

Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board  
**YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board  
41 Lewis Street, Geneva, NY 14456  
Monday, January 9, 2012

**ATTENDANCE:** **Members:** Menzo Case, Chair, Karen Beals, Jessica Bacher, Chris Edgar, Sarah Rowe, Lori Greene, Patty D'Amico, Brandon Mead, John Mueller  
**Staff:** Pat Gopen, Youth Systems Coordinator  
**Guests:** Deb McGrimley, Chastity Clarke Loree Martin,

**ABSENT:** **Members:** Colleen Combs, Kathy Swartout, Brian Young, Johnny Robinson, Kathy Templar, Barb Delpriore, Peg Birmingham, Valerie Mallard, Pat Pavelsky, Chris Kear

**CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS:** Mr. Case called the meeting to order at 4:00pm. Introductions of guests and Guest Speaker were made and Youth Council member resignations were accepted from Jocelyn VanGelder, due to her retirement and Susan Acquisto, due to her job relocation

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes from November 7, 2011 meeting approved. Motion to approve by Ms. Beals, second by Ms. Rowe. All in favor, motion carried.

**Guest Speaker:** Guest Speaker Tina Zapetis from FLACRA presented about the dangers of so called 'bath salts', 'designer drugs' and synthetic marijuana/hallucinogen products being sold legally in our community. Youth Council members engaged in discussion regarding their knowledge/concern about the use of these products and Chairperson Case promised the engagement of the Youth Council in helping to discourage local retailers from selling these legal but dangerous products. Youth member Chastity Clarke agreed to meet with Mr. Case to review her draft letter to retailers. The Youth Council will review their collaborated efforts and make a decision on endorsement at our March meeting. The Youth Council discussed forming an Ad Hoc committee that would reach out to partner with other FL service providers and organizations that likely would join ranks against these products. Ms. Gopen to receive referrals (from YC member) and contact regarding their interest in the initiative.

**YOUTH PROGRAM UPDATE:**

- Ms. Gopen reported that plans for the March 14 Healthcare Alliance Career Day at FLCC Geneva campus are progressing well and that Mike Woloson reports almost 300 students from 14 Finger Lakes schools have already registered to attend the event. Vendors and exhibitors are still needed to participate and anyone interested in learning more can go to the website at: [www.healthcareworkforcealliance.net](http://www.healthcareworkforcealliance.net)
- Ms. Gopen reported that the FAME Pipeline Committee has been actively introducing area middle school youth to the world of Advanced Manufacturing and have been taking local school groups on tours of Finger Lakes companies.
- Youth Counselors Loree Martin and Deb McGrimley reported on the Youth Issues Trend of homelessness amongst Finger Lakes youth and the lack of temporary housing available for

youth in need of shelter. The term 'homeless children and youth' means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate night time residence. Youth staff have identified an increase in homelessness in participants they serve in our youth programs. Discussion ensued regarding members' personal experiences with this problematic barrier to youth employment and success.

- Mr. Case reported that the Youth Council will be working with the FLWIB Marketing Committee to roll out their annual marketing campaign geared toward career exploration and career path development for K-12 youth.
- Ms. Gopen announced that youth staff from all four WIA contractors will be attending the NYATEP Youth Academy conference in Syracuse on March 6-7, 2012. The focus of this year's conference is Best Practices/ Don't Reinvent the Wheel when it comes to developing successful youth programs.

#### **SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

- A. Membership Committee; Ms. Rowe welcomed new youth member Chastity Clarke. Ms. Rowe and Ms. Gopen met prior to the Youth Council meeting to review membership policies and records in preparation for a February membership committee meeting. The Membership Committee will be meeting to review current membership requirements and determine what recruitment actions need to be taken.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS /DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

Conversation continued about possible formation of an Ad Hoc Committee to address 'designer drug' concerns. Such a committee might invite local area service providers with connections to substance abuse issues to partner: Council on Alcoholism, Geneva High School Counselor Susan McGowan, Seneca Substance Abuse Coalition, etc.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Adjournment at 5:00

**NEXT MEETING:** Monday, March 5, 2012 in Conference Room B, Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board, 41 Lewis Street, Geneva, 4:00-5:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pat Gopen, Youth Systems Coordinator