


# Chautauqua Works

*one-stop workforce services*



Director's Report

3/21/06

## MOU

The MOU has been completed and will circulate for signatures. The MOU team is working on establishing a strategy for assessments, workshops and improving the front end.

## YOUTH SERVICES FAIR

Wednesday March 22 – tomorrow- Youth Council with CASA and CCON are sponsoring a Youth Services Fair. Over 190 participants including lawyers, faith based workers, school personnel as well as youth workers have registered to learn about the youth services provided in Chautauqua County. The need for this conference is reflected in the large turnout. Credit goes to Jody, and the CCON team that has pulled it together.

## SUMMER YOUTH WORK EXPERIENCE

\$25 million (same amount as last year) was allocated in the Governor's budget (Chautauqua receives just over \$200K to work with 100+ youth). It is anticipated to remain in the negotiated final state budget. Conversations with DSS are underway to determine their objectives for this summer. Cher Calhoun will coordinate this summer.

## GRANTS

### YES GRANT

Partnership with Department of Social Services and Dunkirk City School System to serve youth 16-21 through a \$102,406 grant to improve attendance, academic performance and work readiness. 40 youth have been referred and Socorro is meeting with each one. Many are interested in post-secondary education (help with FAFSA, etc), help with grades and all want a summer job.

### 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY GRANT

In partnership with Dunkirk City School System and BOCES to train parents on computer skills. Classes are being taught in Spanish and English in churches and at the Boys and Girls Club. The goals also include increased parent involvement with the school.

### COPC GRANT

The partnership lead by SUNY Fredonia was awarded the COPC grant from the federal government for neighborhood revitalization. The WIB is in the grant to tie the grant activities to the One-Stop, work readiness preparation and job training.

### BROOKS HEALTH CARE

Continue to partner with Brooks Hospital and other health care organizations to administer upgrade skills training for health care professionals.

## **PENDING GRANTS**

### **HIGH TECH INCUBATOR**

Partnered with SUNY Fredonia to submit a grant to NYSTAR for start-up funds for the High Tech Incubator to be located in Dunkirk. The WIB's role is to connect Chautauqua County businesses to the training and services offered through the incubator.

### **OSHA GRANT**

Partnered with JCC/BOCES to submit an OSHA grant to provide training to over 60 businesses within Chautauqua County.

### **PARTNERSHIP WITH YOUTH BUREAU**

Forming a consortium to partner with the LWIB to meet the workforce development needs of young people through grant funds provided by the State Office for Children and Families.

### **BUSINYS – 37L**

Conducted business forums with over 30 businesses attending which assisted them in understanding the on-line application process. So far, two companies have applied.

## **WASHINGTON – ALBANY – FUNCTIONAL ALIGNMENT**

a.k.a – politics, coping, future hope

### **WASHINGTON**

PY2006 budget deeply cut into WIA funding. NYS received 14.9% less, impacting Chautauqua with a 26.6% cut. PY2007 discussions find the administration proposing a drastic cut to WIA as well as to other domestic spending programs and it has met with great resistance from both sides of the aisle. Bush is advocating for Career Advancement Accounts (CAA) \$3000 vouchers for training and more centralized State control. USDOL continues to regulate changes without congressional reauthorization, the most recent is the Common Measures item.

### **ALBANY**

Continues to work to support local flexibility and planning. Through Maggie's leadership, meetings have been convened with WIB Directors and DOL Regional Administrators (Sam Drago) to work on integration of DOL and WIA. We will need to submit a 3 year plan revision before June that outlines our local integration plan and strategies to deal with the budget decline.

### **FUNCTIONAL ALIGNMENT AND OTHER SYSTEM CHANGES**

As part of the integration discussions, the topic of functional alignment has come to the forefront. Functional alignment defines an approach to aligning staff and resources from DOL and WIA around functions needed in the One-Stop. Supervision, allocation of resources etc. would be based on customer flow needs. The WIB committees involved in these discussions are considering use of technology and other self-service tools to assist with re-alignment. The intent of WIA from the beginning was to streamline services, the urgency of today's declining funds gives us the opportunity to seize integration as a tool.