

Regional Community, Agency, and School Alliance (RCASA) Minutes- November 14, 2018

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Presentation:

CDOS Overview

Leslie Tanner- O/N BOCES

Principal/Niagara Career and Tech

731-6800 ext 4442, ltanner@onboces.org

Leslie spoke about coordination of CDOS programs at BOCES and between school districts. Leslie spoke about students obtaining their 54 work based learning hours while working towards their 216 hours of CTE seat time. She said if BOCES has district students for a two year program, they will be able to obtain their 54 work based learning hours. BOCES will track student WBL hours. School districts should let BOCES know if 54 WBL hours are needed. Especially if attendance is an issue with a student.

School Districts are responsible for the Student's Career Plan.

Employability Profile is completed by BOCES. (Four times during a two year period).

- Junior year at 15 weeks and end of Junior year
- Senior year at 25 weeks and end of year.

Internship sites will be included on the Employability Profile.

Leslie mentioned that tours and guest speakers do not count for WBL hours. However, you can be creative when setting up a tour so hours can be counted. One to eight hours of job shadowing at an employer can count towards WBL hours. By adding job shadowing after a tour, WBL hours could be counted. Or students could demonstrate what they learned during their tour, than this could be counted as WBL hours.

There was discussion brought up about school districts receiving Employability Profiles. Leslie mentioned that BOCES could send out this paperwork when BOCES is notified of an upcoming CSE meeting.

Employer Expectations

Adam Khuns- business owner at R.I.C. Plumbing

Adam and his brother own and operate a small plumbing business in Niagara County. Adam shared employment trends while hiring and supervising employees. Jobs in trades are in a high demand and there are not enough workers to fill the openings. Adam spoke about the difficulty with finding employees. He mentioned that many job seekers going through the interview process lack everyday working skills and commitment.

Adam's number one concern in the workplace is the usage of cell phones while working in the trades. This is very dangerous due to heavy equipment and risks while working in this field. He has fired people due to excessive use of their cell phones while working.

Adam mentioned that he sees a trend with workers who are under 40 years old, which is a lack of dependability in today's workforce. He notices that younger people want to walk into a new job making a high salary. Adam mentioned that employees start at the bottom and work their way up in the trades.

Adam spoke about what he looks for when hiring:

- A firm handshake and eye contact
- Willingness to work
- Dress appropriately for the job interview.
- People skills
- Enthusiasm

Niagara Wheatfield High School and Empower/ Steps to Work (ACCES-VR)
Jennifer Prokops-Burns, Employment Counselor at Empower, 716-299-0851 ext 403 &
Lisa Lindamer, School Counselor NW High School, 716-215-3104,
llindamer@nwcsd.org

Jennifer spoke about the Steps to Work Program offered through ACCES-VR. Niagara Wheatfield High School/ Lisa Lindamer partnered with ACCES-VR/ Empower for this afterschool 12 week job readiness program.

This program works toward a summer employment program for students.

Starting process for this program:

- School identifies students for ACCES-VR referrals.
- Minimum of 10 students for project, who would benefit from this program.
- One session per week after school. (School would provide a late bus)
- Work readiness program runs April, May, and June.
- Provider agency job develops for summer employment.

Student/Parent:

- Sign all necessary consent forms and paperwork.
- Student attends all 12 sessions
- Student will need to be working on a goal of summer employment.

- Student needs to maintain paid summer employment (approx. 20 hours a week).

Timeline for ACCES-VR:

By October: School completes applications and eligibility documentation to ACCES-VR.

Announcements/sharing of information:

ACCES-VR Sarah Wolf- Sarah reminded us that ACCES-VR/ provider agency can work with students during school time. As long as services are not being duplicated. For example, a provider agency could come into school and work with students on interview skills.

Sarah mentioned that a transcript process is in place for the school districts. Clerical staff will be assisting with obtaining transcripts.

Parent Network- Tonia Weichmann, Transition Coordinator- Tonia mentioned that families can utilize the Eligibility Navigator at Parent Network to assist families through the eligibility process. The flyer will be on Transition Source.

RSE-TASC- Julia Duerr spoke about the recent Career Exploration Fair at BOCES Conference Center. There were 16 career areas to explore, and 100 students participated in the event. Julia also spoke about a Mentoring Day event that took place at Roswell in October. There were 10 departments involved at the hospital during this event.

Julia reminded us of the Mentoring Day at Niagara Falls Memorial Hospital on March 28, 2019.

School Districts:

Wilson School District will have an OPWDD Front Door overview tonight.

Lockport School District- Judy Arlington mentioned that they are planning on a Steps to Work Program at Lockport. They are looking forward to starting this program.

Next RCASA meeting will be January 16, 2019.