

## **Regional Community, Agency, and School Alliance (RCASA) Minutes- March 22, 2021**

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Presentations:

**Dr. John Craig**  
**Project Manager**  
**Adult Education, Orleans Niagara BOCES**  
**4124 Saunders Settlement Road**  
**Sanborn, NY 14132**  
**716.731.6800 Ext. 3764**  
**[jcraig@onboces.org](mailto:jcraig@onboces.org)**

John discussed the great need for entry-level workers in the skilled trades industry. He mentioned that the workforce has changed during the past 30 years. Many people are not staying with one employer throughout their work career. Also, over the past 25-30 years, attending college was put at a greater priority than jobs in skilled trades.

John discussed how millions of people have lost their jobs due to COVID-19 pandemic. The hospitality and service industries were both impacted through this pandemic. Many individuals with disabilities work in these industries. Due to these circumstances, John discussed how to advise our students through this time. Regarding our students, John suggested to build off strengths and not just interest alone. What kind of math skills does the student have? Can they work with tools? Do they have mobility and ability to use their hands?

John discussed aspects of accommodation when planning for careers in skilled trades for students with disabilities. Give thought to the work environments and what kind of reasonable accommodation that could be provided. For example, electrical and HVAC may offer more possibilities for individuals with disabilities in residential than commercial.

He discussed the pathways available of working towards professions in the skilled trades. This can be through either union organizations or a vocational program such as Orleans Niagara BOCES. Going through a union pathway, testing and entrance requirements are required. High school equivalency and diploma are needed to enter O/N BOCES adult vocational programs.

O/N BOCES adult programs offer both evening and day programs. ACCES-VR will fund vocational training through adult education programs.

**Tina Polito**  
**Program Director Vocational Services**  
**4286 Delaware Ave.**

**Tonawanda, NY 14150**  
**716-817-5746**  
**[tpolito@people-inc.org](mailto:tpolito@people-inc.org)**

Tina spoke about the vocational programs offered at People Inc.

- Provide school districts with Pre-ETS and Steps to Work programs through ACCES-VR.
- Supported Employment and Outcome Based Services.
- Participate in the OPWDD's ETP Program

Outcome Based Services assists adults with obtaining a job for individuals who need assistance with getting their foot in the door for employment. Once they are employed, their case is closed.

Supported Employment services will stay with an individual throughout their life, as long as they want services. Supported Employment assists individuals with researching and applying for jobs, and provide job coaching on site. Once an individual stabilizes at their job, job coach will provide check-ins and can assist to find another job, if they lose job or want to try something else. If you have any questions, contact Tina at 716-817-5746 or [tpolito@people-inc.org](mailto:tpolito@people-inc.org).

**Renee Zimmerman**  
**Program Director**  
**Young Adult Life Transitions**  
**[rzimmerman@people-inc.org](mailto:rzimmerman@people-inc.org)**

Renee spoke about People Inc's Young Adult Life Transition (YALT) which provides pre-vocational services for young adults who qualify for OPWDD services. This program provides career exploration, internships in the community, job readiness and life skills. This program is for young adults and the average length of this program is 3 to 4 years for individuals. The last year of program, there is a partnership with OPWDD's ETP program. Through ETP, participants can be paid for their internship hours at YALT.

Renee mentioned that 1:1 support in pre-vocational programs is not provided. Participants of this program should have some level of independence when entering this program. Possibly, if a student in school has a PCA or 1:1 support, this is something to start to phase out during the last couple years of school if interested in pre-vocational program.

Lockport YALT has both a YALT and pre-vocational program. Students from Niagara County also attend YALT programs in Erie County as well, depending on where they live. (Daemen College and UB South Campus have YALT programs). Individuals can attend YALT either full or part-time.

If you have any further questions, contact Renee at [rzimmerman@people-inc.org](mailto:rzimmerman@people-inc.org).

**Kelly Anstey**  
**Associate Executive Director of Day Services**  
**Arc of Genesee Orleans**  
**[kanstey@arcgo.org](mailto:kanstey@arcgo.org)**

Kelly shared information about services at ARC of Genesee Orleans Day Habilitation. ARC GO day services are provided at three main sites:

- Academy in Albion NY, Elba in Elba NY
- Walnut St in Batavia
- Go To Hub, which is the Genesee Orleans Training Opportunity Hub.
- Day Hab Without Walls, which utilizes the Walnut St Hub as a starting/stopping point.

ARC Go Day Hab programs utilize many local entities in their area, and there is an emphasis to foster civic duty. ARC GO has a contract with the Office of the Aging to deliver meals which they utilize in their day hab programs to provide work. Pre-Vocational and SEMP utilize a snack shack to provide services in the community.

Kelly spoke about their pre-vocational sites:

- Orleans Enterprises on Washington St. in Albion, which is a former sheltered workshop under transition to hopefully integrate into a business of light assembly.
- GO TO HUB on Walnut St. Batavia, shared space with the Day Hab. They have a gym, new computer lab, art classroom, and two additional training classrooms.

Kelly spoke about their Supported Employment program which is funded through both ACCES-VR and OPWDD. This program is tailored to individual's needs. Typically this program has an intensive placement/training phase and a long-term follow along phase.

They also provide additional services:

- Discovery- Opportunities for individuals to participate in pre-employment assessments in and around their communities. Provides a job developer to assist with how the individual can be best supported in employment.
- ETP- Training is paid as a NY State employee and will pay wages while training on the job, desired outcome is to continue employment on the employer's payroll.
- Pathway to Employment which involves discovery opportunities in community.
- Provide vocational evaluation services through ACCES-VR.

Kelly discussed ways of supporting students for transition into adult services. She mentioned building a "real life" resume through personal experiences in and out of school, which can be utilized to develop areas for further exploration. A "family resume" can gain a wealth of knowledge of the world of work by talking to family members about jobs and career paths.

Sometimes students better relate to more familiar people as a starting point on their job aspirations/career development.

Additionally, Kelly spoke about engaging ARC GO early on for transition meetings, to provide information sessions, and tours.

Kelly also spoke about considering physical fitness for transitioning students. Adult service providers sometimes find a lack of physical stamina to be a barrier to attaining desired community jobs and volunteer opportunities for individuals.

ARC GO contacts: Admissions: Macy Paradise III- QA Specialist- [mparadise@arcgo.org](mailto:mparadise@arcgo.org)

Director of Vocational Services: Melissa Cotter- [mcotterarcgo.org](mailto:mcotterarcgo.org)

Eileen Corcoran- Senior Vocational Evaluator, [ecorcoran@arcgo.org](mailto:ecorcoran@arcgo.org)

Kelly Anstey- Associate Executive Director Day Services- [kanstey@arcgo.org](mailto:kanstey@arcgo.org)

Or call 585-589-4456 or website: [arcgo.org](http://arcgo.org)

#### **Updates:**

- Julia Duerr: Julia provided information on trainings offered through West Regional Partnership Center.
  - Look out next month for Diploma Credential Options.
  - Workshop: Agency 101- April 12-23, 2021

Information on how to register for an Erie 1 BOCES workshop or training is attached.

- Alan Vensky at Person Centered Services: May 25, 2021 Virtual DD Day. April 2, open registration. Check DD Day website for more information.

**Next meeting: May 14, 2021**

**Topic: Independent Living:** Topics will include: Supported Housing, Supported Decision Making/Guardianship, and Intandem will be presenting on their Community Hab and Recreation Programs.

## Register for an Erie 1 BOCES WR Activity Frontline Professional Learning Management

1. If you have a link to a specific activity, click the link to view activity details and click Enroll.

### Select a Log in Method

2. If you have never registered with Erie 1 BOCES WR, select that you are a new user.

**This is different than your district's Frontline and you have to create a new account. Your district credentials will not work.**

Enter your first and last name, email address and you've created an account. There will be a form to set your password and more required information. Fields outlined in red are mandatory. Click Create Account at the bottom.

I'm a new user

Select this option if you do not have an account yet. The account is free and you can use it to check the status of your registrations and maintain records.

I'm a registered user

Select this option if you have already created an account.

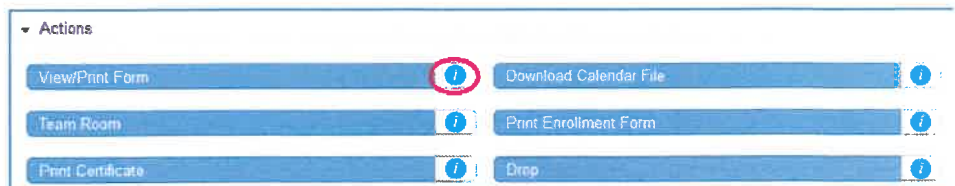
3. If you have registered in the past with Erie 1 BOCES WR, you are a registered user, log in with those credentials. Update your account information if needed, click update and continue at the bottom.
4. Fill in the required information on the registration form, click the checkmark agreeing to the terms and conditions, click Submit.
5. You will receive an email confirming that you have registered, and it will include details of the activity.

### View your Registrations

1. Go to <https://www.mylearningplan.com> and log in.
2. Your registrations will show under My Registrations, click the pulldown arrow if you don't see them. Click the title to view activity details.



3. Scroll to the bottom for Actions. Float your cursor on the i for more information, especially if you need to drop the activity. For many, you will not be able to drop yourself and there will be contact information listed.



Please contact Lynne Widmer at [lwidmer@e1b.org](mailto:lwidmer@e1b.org) if you are having problems.