

ABILITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2022, AT THE WDB OFFICE

ATTENDANCE – ABILITIES COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE INFORMATION AND ATTENDANCE								
Name	Organization	Trustee Member	10-Jun-21	12-Aug-21	9-Sep-21	14-Oct-21	18-Nov-21	13-Jan-22
Abrams, Barbara	Jewish Family & Children Service of Southern NJ	✓						
Cirii, Frank	Local Area Operations Director	✓	X		X	X	X	X
Deitz, Jeffery	Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services	✓						
<b>Donato, Carl, Temp. Chair</b>	Wawa	✓	X	X		X	X	X
Forman, Lois	Jewish Family & Children's Service		X	X	X	X	X	X
Freire, Edison	JEVS Human Services		X	X	X	X		
Fugee, Antoinette	Center for Family Services				X			
Hale, Dawn	The Arc of Camden County							
Lucas, Angela	JEVS HireAbility				X			X
Marks, Karen	Jewish Family & Children Service of Southern NJ						X	
McClintock, Monica	Rowan University		X	X	X		X	X
Mills, Jay	NJ Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired							
Scott, Jessica	The Arc of Camden County		X	X	X	X	X	X
Smith, Veda	Camden County Independent Living Center							
Taguwa, Denise	LWD-WDB Coord + Support		X					
Veneziani, Jennifer	Program Planning and Development Specialist, DVRS							
Levitt, Alex	WDB Staff			X	X	X	X	X
Swartz, Jeffrey S.	WDB Staff		X	X	X		X	X

**WELCOME**

Carl Donato, Interim Committee Chair, greeted all those in attendance. He thanked Jeff for asking him to serve the committee as interim chair and pledged his commitment until a new chair is named.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

For the first order of business, Carl asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 13, 2022, meeting. Lois Forman made the motion and Monica McClintock seconded the motion. The motion carried with a majority vote to the affirmative and the minutes approved.

**PTSD EVENT UPDATE**

Carl reiterated the PTSD event was moved to Spring of 2022 due to continuing COVID-19 pandemic concerns and scheduling conflicts. The hope is the event will be in-person rather than virtual. Later in the discussion, it was decided that the Spring is too soon, given there has been no confirmation of availability for participation from Cooper. Carl offered to assist by contacting Cooper to solidify the event plans. Alex will send all the necessary contact information to Carl.

Concerning the Human Resource Certification Institute (HRCI) credits for the event, Monica McClintock noted the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) must be included in the submissions for the awarding of two credits. She has started a draft of the Request for Credit proposal, but it is on hold until Cooper confirms the speakers and provides their bios, as well as the subjects of their presentations. Monica has a commitment from the Vice-President of Tri-State SHRM to assist her with the submission of the request for HRCI credits.

Jeff stated that June is a better goal for the event date than Spring, depending upon the availability of speakers. Tentatively, June 7th and June 8th were determined to be better target dates for the event. Carl noted that it may be an option for speakers to record their presentations if they have a scheduling conflict with the event date. Jeff added that the speakers could be available by chat after their recorded presentations. Options will be explored for pre-recording speakers.

Jeff confirmed sponsorships for the event include Wawa, JEVS and Truist Bank. Other details for the event, including food options, will be discussed later depending on the budget and sponsorships.

Once Cooper has been contacted and a date has been set, other speakers and program participants will be notified.

If Carl receives confirmation of speakers from Cooper in time for the February meeting, the event date can be confirmed with the Camden County Boathouse and planning can proceed. Monica will then work with Tri-State SHRM to complete submission to for HRCI credits.

### COMMITTEE MEMBER ORGANIZATION UPDATES

Frank Cirii, One-Stop Career Center:

- Recent health inspections passed. Some staff are working remotely but in-person service is available for customers. A meeting of County directors is taking place to discuss operations and staff shortages due to COVID.
- No one from UI is working on site, and there are many frustrated people coming into One-Stop.

Angel Lucas, JEVS HireAbility:

- Staffing shortage is an on-going problem largely due to COVID, but with a grant from the State, they are still meeting their numbers and getting people hired.
- Jay Spector is retiring.

Monica McClintock, Rowan University

- Congratulations to Jessica Scott, who is now a member of Tri-State SHRM and joining the Workforce Readiness Committee.

Jessica Scott, ARC of Camden County:

- Stated that she will be sitting in on the Diversity & Inclusion Committee and trying to find a way to collaborate with the Workforce Readiness Committee.
- She has been in the field doing job coaching and getting an employment network going.
- ARC is focused on Social Security to get people safely off benefits and back to work.

Lois Forman from the Jewish Family & Children's Services (JFCS)

- The Soups and Sweets program started virtually in January. The chef has been able to navigate the training process and the clients are participating virtually. The Job Board is going very well and has had some successes. A flyer has been created for an upcoming program addressing domestic violence called "Made to Survive" as part of the family assistance program. "Made to Survive" will include a panel of domestic violence experts.
- Lois said JFCS is currently looking for a Director of Human Resources, and she noted that she is happy to include more training and hiring events on their job board. She stated she is also working with Carol McCormick at Camden County College and posting their trainings.

Carl Donato from Wawa:

- Wawa will be launching a new training program for General Managers.
- Carl is hoping to be tapped to launch The Wawa Innovative Network (WIN) for supportive employment this year. The network has five groups for different diversity and inclusion objectives in communities.
- Early next year Wawa intends to make an announcement concerning supportive employment. Based on research and data collected they have found ways to better implement programs that will help those who fall within the disabled population to find sustainable employment.

Jeff Swartz, CCWDB Update:

- Announced Kathleen's replacement will start on January 18<sup>th</sup>.
- As part of the 2022 Cohort for the ACE initiative, dates will be selected for virtual information sessions at Camden County College. There are approximately fifty-seven candidates that will be contacted to gauge their interest and invite them to the virtual information sessions.
- He has been working with Frank on the Incumbent Worker Training Program. Under the federal WIOA law, up to 20% of WIOA funding can be applied to Incumbent Worker Training, which entails collaborating with companies to upskill their current workforce and create a pipeline for new hires. A meeting is scheduled with the college to nail down the final details for a roll-out with a pilot company and follow through with other employers going forward. Jessica commented that the Hospitality sector is struggling, specifically naming the Crowne Plaza as one that is constantly asking for candidates.

Jeff thanked everyone and Carl for conducting the meeting.

#### NEXT MEETING

The next Abilities Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 10th @8:30am. This meeting will be conducted via Zoom.

Submitted by

Debra Vaughn

Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director