

ABILITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES
THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021 AT THE WDB OFFICE

ATTENDANCE – ABILITIES COMMITTEE

| MEMBERS | | 9-Jul-20 | 13-Aug-20 | 10-Sep-20 | 8-Oct-20 | 10-Dec-20 | 14-Jan-21 |
|--------------------------------|---|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Maggioncalda, Jim CHAIR | TFG Management Services | X | X | X | | X | X |
| Abrams, Barbara | Jewish Family & Children Service of Southern NJ | | | | | | |
| Cirii, Frank | Local Area Operations Director | X | | | X | X | |
| Deitz, Jeffery | Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services | | | | | | |
| Donato, Carl | Wawa | X | | X | X | X | |
| Forman, Lois | Bancroft | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Freire, Edison | JEVS Human Services | | | | | X | X |
| Fugee, Antoinette | Center for Family Services | | | | | | |
| Hale, Dawn | The Arc of Camden County | | | | | | |
| Lucas, Angela | JEVS HireAbility | | X | X | X | X | X |
| Marks, Karen | Jewish Family & Children Service of Southern NJ | | X | | X | X | X |
| McClintock, Monica | Adjunct Professor, Rowan University | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Mills, Jay | NJ Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired | | | | | | |
| Smith, Veda | Camden County Independent Living Center | | | | | | |
| Taguwa, Denise | LWD-WDB Coord + Support | X | | | | | |
| Veneziani, Jennifer | Program Planning and Development Specialist, DVRS | | | | | | |
| Swartz, Jeffrey S. | WDB Executive Director | | | X | X | X | X |
| Varallo Kathleen | WDB Administrative Assistant | X | X | X | X | X | X |

WELCOME

Jim Maggioncalda, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:39, welcomed attendees to the Zoom meeting and thanked them for attending. The Committee discussed some personal experiences related to COVID-19 cases. The Committee reviewed the minutes from the meeting, December 10, 2020 and unanimously approved those minutes. Jim asked Kathleen Varallo, Administrative Assistant, WDB, to report on communications with the Camden County Boathouse about changing the date of the Veterans and PTSD event. Kathleen reported the Boathouse does have all Tuesdays open in the month of October. She said they also will set up an outside tent during the summer months. The current indoor capacity is 50 persons and may be increased by October. Kathleen noted that due to current sponsorship levels for the event, the budget may only allow the committee to accommodate 50 people. She emailed the team at Cooper University Healthcare yesterday. The Human Resource manager returned a response saying they are open for any of those dates. Jim asked the committee to review the Jewish holiday and Columbus Day dates to make sure they did not conflict with the event. The Committee reviewed the date and agreed on Tuesday, October 5th, or the 19th.

The Committee also discussed adding some of the current issues of PTSD as related to COVID-19. Many people are feeling the stress of separation from family, remote leaning and financial loss during the pandemic as well as the loss of loved ones who have passed because of the virus. Jim said some have suffered near death experiences and even younger people in their 30's, are facing tremendous stress. All agreed that issues of lockdown and COVID response efforts have gone on longer than anyone would have ever thought. They agreed to address these levels of trauma and stress with the Cooper Team and include these current PTSD topics in the upcoming

program. Edison Freire, JEVS Human Services, reported JEVS, noted there are studies coming from China and other world health organizations that address frontline and essential healthcare workers. Monica McClintock, Adjunct Professor, Rowan University, said she has seen many human resource information resources regarding COVID response efforts, but nothing related to trauma and stress. She felt it would be a very good draw to the program. Jim also confirmed that the Boathouse will accommodate an outside event, but he felt it was better for all to hold the event indoors. All agreed. Kathleen said she will send an additional email to the committee once the date is confirmed.

OUTREACH UPDATES

Kathleen reported she is updating a Literacy Resource Guide to the Literacy Committee. These are virtual services that can be accessed online, and it will include library resources. She would also like to collect information and links from the Abilities Committee to create a guide for residents to get help for individuals with disabilities. She said the social media campaign and the Abilities Committee's recognition of October's "National Disabilities Employment Awareness Month" worked out well. It gained a lot of attention and followers to the WDB pages. She asked the committee to send her information and links to specific services related to Disabilities. Lois Forman, Jewish Family and Children Services, (JFCS), said there is an access link online to all services in the state and would send it to the office.

The Committee also discussed goals for outreach in 2021. Monica said she is still working toward setting up a joint meeting with the Tri-State HRMA workforce development and initiatives committee. She said it has been difficult during these current circumstances. Jim said he would try to attend one of their Zoom meetings to help further that goal. Monica said there are three types of virtual events from the regular monthly meeting to, roundtable and networking events held each month, and she will forward those dates to Jim. Kathleen asked about submitting the upcoming PTSD event to Tri-State for HR credits or would the committee send it to a college for credits approval. Monica said there is a different group working on those types of approvals. She said once the program details are put into a proposal format, she may have better luck getting it submitted, the sooner the better. She noted there may be a cost involved.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Jeffrey S. Swartz, Executive Director, WDB, reported the One-Stop has been circulating information about virtual services by attending the food distribution and immunization site around the county. He said the One-Stop is open for virtual and by-appointment services. Referrals are starting to trickle in but he encouraged the committee to share links to the virtual services directory and let customers and clients know there are services and training grants available. Follow the link for more information.

Camden County One-Stop Virtual Services Directory

<https://www.camdencounty.com/service/employment/job-training-placement/>

He also reported the WDB committees are remaining active and meeting via Zoom. The WDB is also working on its certification process as required by the SETC. This is bi-annual process.

Monica McClintock, Adjunct Professor, Rowan University, said there is not much to report other than to say wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

Angela Lucas, Jevs HireAbility, wished everyone a happy New Year. She is working with DVRS and gearing up for a new year of programing and is attending meetings to set goals for 2021 hoping that their contract gets renewed. Her office is also planning a mini virtual job fair during the month of February and hoping to get at least 8 employers to attend. The virtual job fair will feature an opening topic for employers before clients sign on and then virtual break out rooms for the actual job interviews. She will hope to have more information for the committee by the next meeting

Karen Marks, JFCS, wished everyone a happy New Year and reported the organization is rather slow right now on a status quo basis. She has had some clients approaching the office for coaching who are coming with jobs in other words they found their own job but realized they may need some help adapting.

Edison Freire, JEVS Human Services, reported JEVS will be working with the incoming federal administration to make sure that any workforce development initiatives are fulling inclusive of individuals with disabilities. He is getting articles and information about national concerns and the cause to meet the national minimum wage.

Lois Forman, Jewish Family and Children Services, (JFCS), reported the job board is going along well. She is continuing to sign on new employers to add their job positions to the site. She said there is a lot of diversity in the job opportunities. Lois said she has been very involved with the food pantry and announce the Camden County Bar Association donated over 34 thousand dollars' worth of gift cards for residents in need. These were distributed to clients during the holidays. She said the letters of thanks have been very poignant in that families have used the gift cards to real needs such as heated blankets, food, and laundry supplies. The levels of service at JFCS continue to grow which may be due to seasonal layoffs and continued unemployment.

Jim thanked the committee for attending. He congratulated the incoming federal administration and the first ever women Vice President Kamila Harris. He ended the meeting with a quote he used to say to his daughter's soccer team and those coaching years... "Little Girls with dreams become women with great vision."

NEXT MEETING

The next Abilities Committee meeting is scheduled on Thursday, February 11, at 8:30am. This meeting will be conducted via Zoom conferencing. A notice will be sent with the link and dial-in information.

Submitted by

Kathleen Varallo

Administrative Assistant