

ABILITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2021, AT THE WDB OFFICE

ATTENDANCE – ABILITIES COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE INFORMATION AND ATTENDANCE								
		Trustee Member	13-May-21	10-Jun-21	12-Aug-21	9-Sep-21	14-Oct-21	18-Nov-21
Maggioncalda, Jim CHAIR	TFG Management Services	✓	X	X	X	X		
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	✓						
Donato, Carl	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	X	
Fugee, Antoinette	Center for Family Services					X		
Hale, Dawn	The Arc of Camden County							
Lucas, Angela	JEVS HireAbility					X		
Marks, Karen	Jewish Family & Children Service of Southern NJ		X					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					X	X	X	X
Swartz, Jeffrey S.	WDB		X	X	X	X		X
Varallo Kathleen	WDB		X	X	X	X	X	X

WELCOME

Carl Donato, Board of Trustees member, greeted all those in attendance and led the meeting in the absence of the Chair.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

For the first order of business, Carl asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 14, 2021, meeting. Jessica Scott made the motion and Monica McClintock seconded the motion. The motion carried with a majority vote to the affirmative.

PTSD EVENT UPDATE

Carl reminded everyone that the PTSD event from October 2021 has been rescheduled to the Spring of 2022 due to continuing COVID-19 pandemic concerns and scheduling conflicts. He suggested the committee should again begin planning for the event immediately following the holidays, in January 2022. A new date will need to be determined and the location will need to be re-confirmed.

Concerning the Human Resource Certification Institute (HRCI) credits for the event, Kathleen suggested that representatives from the committee get together to determine the objectives of the workshops and submit the required paperwork to the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) for approval and the awarding of two credits. Kathleen noted however that Monica McClintock has started a draft of the Request for Credit proposal. The committee agreed that submitting the Request for Credit proposal as soon as possible would be preferred so that the possibility of obtaining HRCI credits could be included on all promotional materials. Kathleen reminded everyone that the Law workshop would be more of an update and not for credit. Carl

suggested that the information needed to complete the proposal be the primary focus of the next committee meeting on December 16, 2021. Carl asked that the information about the workshops, previously planned, be emailed to all committee members for review prior to the next meeting and that the next meeting be a working meeting to prepare the Request for Credit proposal.

Monica asked that the speakers and the content of the workshops that were scheduled for October, be re-confirmed before submitting the Request for Credit documents. After some discussion, the committee decided to tentatively schedule the event for either Thursday, April 21st; Tuesday, June 7th; or Wednesday, June 8th, depending on the availability of the venue and the speakers. Kathleen will follow up with the venue and the speakers.

Carl suggested the speakers for the PTSD event still be recorded for presentation. The committee also discussed various resources for recording and technology needs including using the Boathouse's Marketing Department. Other details for the event including food options will be discussed later depending on the budget and sponsorships.

COMMITTEE MEMBER ORGANIZATION UPDATES

Karen Marks from the Jewish Family and Children Services:

- They have hired a new Employment Specialist in mid-September.
- New clients are starting to come in slowly.
- They are in the process of placing their Project Search graduates.
- Soups and Sweets, their culinary program, will re-start in January 2022.

Monica McClintock from Rowan University and Tri-State SHRM:

- One month from the end of the Fall 2021 semester, many students are getting sick with the flu as well as COVID-19 cases are on the rise again.
- Tri-State SHRM had an in-person event but due to the rise in COVID-19 cases they are moving back to a virtual platform. However, they are going to try one more in-person networking event in December. There is some difficulty finding volunteers to be speakers for their virtual events.
(Lois Foreman asked Monica to send her Tri-State's specific needs concerning speakers.)

Lois Foreman from the Jewish Family and Children Services:

- Job Board is going very well and has been populated with several opportunities. Positive feedback has been received from smaller businesses. The range of high level to entry level jobs is good. (Lois recognized Wawa for sending in open positions.) Lois, Karen, Jennifer, and Barb did a site visit to Scrub Daddy in Pennsauken and look forward to collaborating with them once they settled.
- The JFCS Food Pantry had their ribbon cutting ceremony at their new location on East Miami Street and Kings Hwy. In addition to the food pantry housed in the "Carriage House" on the property, there are case management offices as well as counseling suites. JFCS is looking to partner with the South Jersey Food Bank to provide cooking demonstrations and nutritional services for their clients.

Jessica Scott from the Arc of Camden County:

- Just had a ribbon cutting ceremony on their new building just for employment services.
- Jessica is managing a new employment network which provides services for people receiving social security benefits and what to get off social security to achieve financial independence. Several Counties are already referring clients. When the minimum wage reaches \$15 an hour, those receiving social security benefits will have some challenges.

Carl Donato from Wawa:

- Business has been incredibly good for 2021. Staffing continues to be an issue as it is for businesses around the world. Wawa appreciates the support of those on this committee who assist them in promoting employment opportunities.
- 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.

WDB Update:

- Kathleen: Quarterly Meeting will be December 15th and the guest speaker will be Karen Carol who is the Director of DVRS
- Kathleen: The One-Stop has fully re-opened. The State staff has also returned to the office scheduling appointments effective October 18th except for unemployment who are still assisting customers remotely. DVRS staff are back in the office but are engaging with customers virtually.
- Kathleen: Employment Services has a great orientation video which promotes our services.
- Alex: The Youth Committee has prepared a promotional video which is currently being updated with close caption text for the hearing impaired. It should be ready for use in 2022. The Youth Committee has also formed a sub-committee to find out how to get young people ages 16-24 involved in the committee and engaged in the discussions.
- Jeff: The Virtual GSETA Conference held on November 15th and 16th was very successful and well attended. Regional and National speakers made presentations.

On behalf of the Chair, both Carl and Jeff thanked everyone for their hard work and wished the committee a Happy Thanksgiving.

Jeff ended the meeting with the following quote:

“Change is disturbing when it is done to us but exhilarating when it is done by us.”

NEXT MEETING

The next Abilities Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 16th @8:30am. This meeting will be conducted via Zoom.

Submitted by

Leslie Williams

WDB Comptroller