



<b>Committee Members</b>		16-Dec-20	24-Mar-21	23-Jun-21	22-Sep-21	15-Dec-21
Banks, Evangeline	Juvenile Justice Commission	X	X	X	X	
Barclay, Arthur	Camden County One-Stop					
Forman, Lois	Jewish Family & Children Services	X	X			X
Lucas, Angela	Jewish Employment and Vocational Services					
McCormick, Carol	Camden County College, Business Services		X	X		
McKelvey, Chris	NJ Dept. Labor and Workforce Development					X
Page-Soncrant, Jeanne	LWD, Business Services	X	X	X		
Pape, Barbara	Camden County One-Stop					
Peterson, Jyi	Camden County One-Stop					
Sinclair, Nidia	Director, Camden County Career Center					
Waller, Darchelle	Winslow Township High School	X		X	X	
Wardlow-Hurley, Rhonda	HACC Youth Build		X	X	X	X
<b>Guest:</b>		16-Dec-20	24-Mar-21	23-Jun-21	22-Sep-21	15-Dec-21
Abdill, Suzanne	Department of Education	X	X	X	X	X
Ayscue, Brian	Camden County One Stop Career Center	X	x	x	x	
Bennett, Ryan	Truist Bank	X	x			x
Davis, Pastor Keith	Camden Dream Academy			X		
Eisenmann, Kevin	Camden County One Stop	X				
Fetty, Brett	Camden County Technical Schools	X	X	X		
Fussell, Imani	Camden County Board of Commissioners	X	X			
Fugee, Antoinette	Center for Family Services, Inc.					X
Guzman, Elizabeth	DVRS		X			
Hanna, Kaina	Camden County College	X	X	X		
Hill, Lauren	Camden County College	X	x	x	x	
Iannucci, Susan	Camden County College	X		x		
<b>Guest:</b>		16-Dec-20	24-Mar-21	23-Jun-21	22-Sep-21	15-Dec-21
Leonetti, Mike	Camden County One-Stop			X		
McFarland, Salama	Camden County Board of Social Services	X	X	X		
McKelvey, Chris	NJ Dept. Labor and Workforce Development		X			
Mendez, Kelly	Camden County Board of Social Services	X				
Quinones, Cris	Wawa					X
Robinson, Terrenny	NJ Industry Partnerships	X	X	X	X	
Schafer, Derena	Camden County College					X
Veneziani, Jennifer	DVRS					
Venable, Margo	Camden County College		x	x	x	
Williams, Rev. Michael	Abundant Life Fellowship Church		x	x	x	X
Young, Jonathan	Camden County Board of Commissioners	X	x		x	

## WELCOME

- Matthew Verney, WDB Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:30am, and welcomed attendees to the December Quarterly Board of Trustees Meeting.
- Alex Levitt took an official roll call of Board members in attendance.
- Matt led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Rev. Michael Williams gave the invocation.
- Commissioner Jonathan Young thanked the partners for serving their constituents in the county and reminded them to tell non-profits to apply for an available grant through his office and to also guide the public there for assistance with food or rent during the holiday season. He spoke of using various opportunities to assist others in need and wished everyone happy holidays and thanked the attendees for everything they do for people of Camden County who are in need.

## BUSINESS MEETING - SUNSHINE LAW

- Ken Brahl, Vice Chair, read the following: In accordance with the Sunshine Law and the public's right to know, we are required to provide adequate advance notice of our meetings. This meeting was advertised on the WDB's website, and in the Courier Post on December 6, 2021. Therefore, the public is welcome to witness the process by which governmental decisions are made and see democracy in action. Due to the COVID19 restrictions the notice of this meeting was emailed to members and previous guest attendees in advance.

## APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- A digital copy of the minutes from the last Quarterly Meeting of September 22, 2021, was sent electronically to the full Board of Trustees for review. Ken requested a motion to approve the minutes from that meeting. Carl Donato made the first motion. The motion was seconded by Michael Willman. By a unanimous vote of the affirmative, the motion was carried, and the minutes for September 22, 2021, were approved.

## INDUSTRY DISCUSSION

- Matt commented that he and Jeff saw a video on CBS This Morning called "Back to the Office, Maybe" that they thought would be good to share with the Board. The video showed that 60% of working Americans prefer to work from home or remotely at least part of the time when employers are trying to get employees to come back into the office. With evidence that remote work is effective, it is more than likely that a hybrid model with the flexibility of office and remote work will evolve as the norm in business operations.

## GUEST SPEAKER

Karen Carroll, State Director of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, NJ DOL LWD  
After reading her extensive bio, Matt then introduced Karen Carroll, State Director of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services. She thanked Matt for the introduction and thanked Jeff Dietz, Manager of the Camden County field office and his team for their work for the DVR consumer and went on to explain the restructuring of DVR.

- Karen noted that the DVR is now under the directorate of Assistant Commissioner Dr. Cheryl Yarborough of the Employment Accessibility Services. The DVR of it is now joined with two other divisions in the DOL, the Division of Disability Determination Services and the Division of Temporary Disability and Family Leave Insurance. These three divisions are now under one office, specifically to address the needs of people with disabilities, but the way the DVR functions will not change. She stated the pandemic has increased the challenges of meaningful employment successful outcomes for people with disabilities when they are among those who are most disproportionately affected by significant barriers to employment opportunities and lower wages. She asked that, in a future Business Services Outreach meeting, the DVR team could speak to the topic of employers and the associated myths of employing disabled people.
- Since October 18, 2021, DVR staff has been full time in the office and committed to assisting clients in gaining employment. The DVR has embraced offering virtual trainings, which allows for more frequency and broader outreach. For example, the Community Rehabilitation Program Unit which has conducted a full array of trainings over the past year, including pre-employment transition services, and are exploring other trainings as well. The implementation of WIOA has added to the expectations of DVR. The DVR is looking at strategic planning and what its strategic objectives are and will reach out to WDB partners and DVR staff to participate in the planning. Carol and Dr. Yarborough have been working what they call on "A Career Pathway Partnership for Employment Accessibility" to begin to identify all the components and partnerships needed in the plan. This plan includes a consortium of county college for adaptations to existing programs, internships, creating incentive programs for employers to hire

people with disabilities, improving access to underserved schools and utilizing the “Employment First” initiative to allow competitive and integrative employment to be the first and preferred option for people with disabilities and specifically, people with significant disabilities. Matt Verney thanked Karen for her time and informative input in the meeting and noted that the WDB looks forward to doing all it can to support the DVR’s objectives.

### ONE STOP CAREER CENTER UPDATES

Matt introduced Frank Cirii, Local Area Operations Director, to give an update about One-Stop Career Center operations.

- Frank reported that the One-Stop has been opened to the public in-person by appointment as well as virtually and things have been going well. They continue to try to assist individuals who need to speak to a representative from unemployment. One-Stop staff continues to provide information that may be helpful to claimants to reach UI, and to make them aware of training available to them. Staff continues to bring attention to the QR code for the One-Stop website. Links to all the One-Stop partners and State offices are available there.
- A WIOA Performance Report Titles I and III was shared. The report showed there has been a slight up-tick in trainings for the medical, tech, and CDL fields, all of which are in-demand and have great income potential. The workforce participation rate of 4.4% is a large drop from the participation rate of 31.9% in January 2020. A large gain was shown in credentialing for adult dislocated adult workers, but not in the youth segment. Referrals are needed for training. Employment overall is low, but hopefully will show improvement in the future.
- With the paperwork complete, the new Incumbent Worker Training Program is looking for potential businesses to participate in funded training to upskill their employees and improve retention.
- Frank offered special thanks to Brian Ayscue, a counselor, and Barbara Pape, a finance professional, who are retiring after spending their careers being of service at the One-Stop. He thanked the entire WDB staff and Jeff for their continued help and support. Frank then thanked the County Commissioners, specifically, John Young for his commitment to service in the county’s communities, and Deputy County Administrator, Jim Rhodes. In conclusion, Frank wished all in attendance safe and happy holidays. Matt thanked Frank and his staff for all the work that they do.

### YOUTH VIDEO PRESENTATION

- Matt told the Board about a video being produced to bring awareness to training that is available to young people at the One-Stop, featuring the success stories of participants. He thanked Alex for his work on the project.

### JEFFREY S. SWARTZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WDB

- Jeff opened with wishing everyone safe and happy holidays. He then thanked his administrative assistant, Kathleen, for her service as she relocates to be with family in Florida. Carl and Matt added their comments of thanks and well wishes to Kathleen.

### ADJOURNMENT

- Matt noted that if anyone had any questions, comments of concerns, they may reach out to him or Jeff, and thanked everyone in attendance for what they do to improve the lives of others. He then wished everyone safe and happy holidays and a great 2022 and asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Frank Cirii made the first motion, seconded by Dianna Cooper- Vanderling. By a unanimous vote to the affirmative the motion was carried, and the meeting adjourned at 9:30am.

➤ The next meeting will be virtual via Zoom Conferencing on March 23, 2022 at 8:30am

**WDB MISSION STATEMENT, AS STATED ON ALL REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

*To create the BEST customer driven delivery system for employment, training and education-related programs and services by providing strategic management, planning, implementation, and evaluation to enhance the regions long term economic success for all citizens and organizations.*

- *To provide leadership in all workforce issues.*
- *To provide a holistic delivery of services.*
- *To continually improve the quality of services for all customers.*
- *To empower customers to make informed choices and take control of their careers.*
- *To provide and guarantee universal access to employment opportunities.*
- *To provide quality workers for all the region's employers.*
- *To create partnerships and collaboration in the government, private and non-profit stakeholders.*

Submitted by,

Debra Vaughn

Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director