

ABILITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2022, AT THE WDB OFFICE (ZOOM)

ATTENDANCE – ABILITIES COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE INFORMATION AND ATTENDANCE									
Name	Organization	Trustee Member	12-Aug-21	9-Sep-21	14-Oct-21	18-Nov-21	13-Jan-22	10-Feb-22	
Cirii, Frank	Local Area Operations Director	✓		X	X	X	X	X	
Deitz, Jeffery	Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services	✓							
Donato, Carl, Interim Chair	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					
Galvin, Tim	Cooper University Healthcare								X
Hale, Dawn	The Arc of Camden County							X	
Lucas, Angela	JEVS HireAbility			X			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								
Tyndell, Maurice	BestWorks								X
Veneziani, Jennifer	Program Planning and Development Specialist, DVRS								
Levitt, Alex	WDB Staff		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Swartz, Jeffrey S.	WDB Staff		X	X		X	X	X	
Vaughn, Debra	WDB Staff								X

WELCOME

Carl Donato, Interim Committee Chair, greeted all those in attendance. The attendees introduced themselves and the meeting was called to order at 8:34am.

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. Monica McClintock made the motion and Lois Forman seconded. The motion carried with a majority vote to the affirmative and the minutes for January 13, 2022, were approved.

PTSD EVENT UPDATE

Captain. Timothy Galvin, MSN, RN, CCRN-K

Director of the Section of Military, Diplomatic and Field Surgical Affairs in the Department of Surgery at Cooper University Health Care. Tim confirmed that June 7th is the accepted dated by the Cooper participants. He will participate in the event and provided the names of the panelists available to contribute to the event:

- In-person
 - Ardella Coleman, MHR, MBA, CDE, CMP, Vice President, Diversity and Talent Acquisition, will serve as kick-off speaker
 - Dr. Daisy Velez, PsyD
 - Corey Terry, Preceptor, Special Operations Combat Medic
 - Rich Heffernan, Field Operations Manager
Bradford J. Bitting, Former Platoon Forward Observer, Battalion Fire Support Sergeant
United States Army Fort Campbell, KY 101st Airborne Division

- Videoconference
 - David M. Lang, NR-P, FP-C, Office of Strategic Medical Preparedness, Operational Medicine Directorate, U.S. Department of State (possibly a virtual appearance as he may be traveling with the State Department)
 - Geoff Dardia - Director of TFDSOF Health Initiatives Program (Task Force Dagger Special Operations Foundation – teaches Resilience Training, is available by video conference only on 6/7)
- Confirmation pending
 - Charlie Ellison – Travis Manion Foundation (“TMF empowers veterans and families of fallen heroes to develop character in future generations.”)

Tim will send out a calendar invitation to so the panelists will be secured. He offered to utilize his resources and IT personnel to prepare the room to make accommodations videoconferencing for panelists who cannot appear in person.

- Monica reiterated that her submissions for HRCI credits require the bios and outlines of the presenters.
- Jeff inquired about the food and beverage to be served. and a vendor participation area.
 - Coffee, Danish pastry and fruit will be served.
 - Space for vendor participation tables will be provided. Jessica Scott stated that Arc of Camden County will have a vendor table. She asked if any volunteers would be needed and stated that committee members from Tri-State SHRM and other professionals expressed an interest in volunteering for the event. Jeff stated that volunteers would be welcome and would like to extend an invitation to Deb Deissroth, President of the local SHRM, to attend the event.
- Tim Galvin raised the question of media attention for the event. Once the event details are finalized, the information will be submitted for a press release.

COMMITTEE MEMBER ORGANIZATION UPDATES

Monica McClintock, Rowan University

- Tri-State HRMA is hosting their annual conference, in-person, on the first Thursday in May. Business and HR topics will be discussed. They are also hosting an event in July for non-profit networking. Monica requested the names and contact information for non-profits to send invitations.
- Rowan business students are available for internships, preferably with a rate. The students are available for full or part time work.
- Rowan will be having an in-person Career Fair the week of February 21st. Google Rowan University Career Fair to complete registration on the link.

Edison Friere, JEVS Human Services

- Edison commented that schools are struggling with how to help graduating youth and are hosting virtual and in-person high school career fairs. He offered that the committee should consider participating in the career fairs to highlight opportunities available for teens with disabilities to make the transition from school to work.
- The PACE grant cycle from the DOL will be starting, so JEVS is looking at manufacturing extension programs, building pre-apprenticeship programs that are inclusive. Edison stated he is very interested in visiting Bestwork Industries to explore opportunities there.

Maurice Tyndell, Bestwork Industries for the Blind

- Maurice invited meeting attendees to come for a tour of the Bestwork facility, where blind and visually impaired employees manufacture textiles for the military and the State of NJ. He has openings for high school students and is starting an internship program.

Jessica Scott, The Arc of Camden County

- Arc has been successful in reaching businesses and creating networking opportunities with HR professionals and facilitating employment.

Dawn Hale, The Arc of Camden County

- Arc is hosting a Designer Bag Bingo on March 26th.
- Efforts are being concentrated on providing Social Security benefits counseling.

Frank Cirii, One-Stop Career Center

The One-Stop passed recent health inspection. Some of the staff are still working remotely, but in-person service is available for customers. A meeting of County directors will be taking place to discuss operations and staff shortages due to COVID.

- UI's continued absence is a growing problem and there are a number of frustrated and irate people coming into One-Stop. People having issues with unemployment must create an ID.me profile using their exact UI claim email address, but people are unaware of the ID.me process.
- The Incumbent Worker Training program, in coordination with Camden County College, has launched and seeks employers and non-profits to participate in the program. Utilizing grant money, the program creates an opportunity to upskill their employees to facilitate promotions, minimize layoffs, and increase employee retention. There is a small match for the business, on a sliding scale dependent on the number of employees the business has. Referrals are welcome.

Karen Marks, Jewish Family & Children's Services (JFCS)

- The Soups and Sweets culinary training program started virtually in January. The chef and the clients were participating virtually and are now in-person. The TOPS Day Program is now operating in-person.
- JFCS is currently looking for a Director of Disability Services and a Skills Trainer for TD Bank, who will serve as a combination of job coach and assistant to the people in the Project Search Program. The job is considered full-time at 32 hours per week during the year, with the summer off.

Jeff Swartz, CCWDB Update

- The WDB has applied for a grant for a Summer Youth Employment Program. The program will offer 8 weeks of employment for 45 youth aged 16-24, in a wide variety of industries, starting with a 1-week training session. The youth candidates will be interviewed to match their interests to the participating employers. The participants will work 20-25 hours per week and be paid a stipend.

Debra Vaughn, CCWDB

- The June 7th event date at the Camden County Boathouse was available at the time of the January meeting.

Alex Levitt, CCWDB – Youth One Stop Video

- The Youth One-Stop video process is near completion. The final video is available to view on Google Drive. The video will have to be spliced into smaller files for sharing and promotion on social media.
- A Sub-Committee is being formed to determine how to bring more of a youth presence and gain a better sense of what would best and most efficiently will serve their needs.

Tim Galvin, Cooper Hospital - Military, Diplomatic and Field Surgical Affairs in the Department of Surgery

- From September through the beginning of November, they have assisted in the repatriation of Afghans and helped transition upwards of 20,000 Afghans now relocated to the United States.
- The first inaugural asset course involving surgical residents, med students, State Police, the County Prosecutor's Office, local Sheriff Departments, US Army active-duty service men and woman out of Fort Bragg who are about to be deployed was successfully completed. The second asset course was held in January.
- The department has grown, with the addition of The Department of Homeland Security as the newest program to train its emergency medical technicians. Additional FBI agents and State Department medics who will serve Pakistan, Ukraine and other remote locations are also receiving training offered at Cooper.

Carl Donato, Wawa

- Carl commented that he would be glad to hear ideas for events or outreach activities for the members of the committee to be engaged in the communities of Camden County.
- Wawa's new program for supportive employment is moving forward, educating over the next 3 months on ways to train and work with employees with limited abilities. Training sessions are now in place for General Managers.
- Along the NJ shoreline, from Toms River to Cape May, Wawa will be looking for 400 associates from supervisory role to customer service for Summer hiring.

ADJOURNMENT

Carl thanked everyone for attending the meeting and requested a motion for adjournment. Edison made the motion, seconded by Frank. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 9:35am.

NEXT MEETING

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

Submitted by

Debra Vaughn

Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director, WDB