



**Camden County
Workforce Development Board**
Supporting the Development and Retention of a World Class Workforce

Gregg T. DeBaere, Chair
Jeffrey S. Swartz, Executive Director

**ABILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
JUNE 14, 2016**

ATTENDANCE

Members	Meeting Dates									
	14-Jul	11-Aug	1-Sep	10-Nov	12-Jan	9-Feb	8-Mar	12-Apr	10-May	14-Jun
Maggio, Jim CHAIR	TFG/Judge Group									
Abrams, Barbara	Jewish Family & Children Service of Southern NJ									
Bowman, Cynthia	Shoprite									
Cipolla, Joe	Jewish Employment and Vocational Services									
Davis, Anthony	Mental Services of Southwestern New Jersey									
Deitz, Jeffery	Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services									
Forman, Lois	Independent Rehabilitation Jewish Family & Children Svcs									
Geoffrey, Taylor	NJ DOL DVOP									
Gismonde, Bernadette	Camden County College									
Kinzey, Joann	Camden County College									
Lombardo, Rick	Target Stores									
Lope, Krista	NJ Division of Vocational and Rehabilitation Services									
Lucas, Angela	Jewish Employment and Vocational Services									
Monturano, Melanie	Camden County College									
Newman, Jason	NJ DOL DVOP									
Panzatelli, Joseph	Camden County College									
Perez, Irene	Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services									
Pollard, Sheila	Camden County DVRS									
Stettler, Mark	T & M Associates									
Tumolillo, Terry	Voice Print									
Waltz, Julie	ARC of Camden County									
Wesley, Allen	ARI									
Swartz, Jeffrey S., Exec. Director	WDB									
Varallo Kathleen	WDB									
Naroden, Eric	WDB Intern									
Primas, Theo	WDB									
Stubblefield, Lelia	WDB									
Williams, Leslie	WDB									
Guest										
Antonakakis, Stavros	Stamton Chapel Insurance Associates									
Luzi, Domic	Rightside Labs									

WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 9:10am.

Jeffrey S. Swartz, called the meeting to order, welcomed attendees and asked for roundtable introductions. Jeff Introduced Kathleen Varallo, new CCWDB Administrative Assistant.

HIRE-ONE AND DISPELLING THE MYTHS: HIRING PERSONS WITH AUTISM EVENT

Jeff reported that the Literacy and Abilities committees have made some good progress with regard to the HIRE-ONE event since the last joint meeting in May. Both committees are now aware the event, originally

scheduled for June, is now confirmed for Oct. 21st 2016. The Jewish Federation Annex Building has been secured. Address; 1721 Springdale Road, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003. There has been quite a bit of work by committee members in terms of booking speakers, clinicians or panelists for the program. Jeff turned the floor over to Barbara Abrams whom he said has taken the lead on the event.

SPEAKER UPDATE

Barbara Abrams said that Dick Knopf has reached out to Peg Monahan of SAP as a panelist. SAP (www.SAP.com) is a software and technology company with 20-50,000 employees worldwide. Monahan started an “Autism to Work” program during her internship or fellowship there and now has 17 employees working at the Newtown Square office location.

Joe Cipolla tentatively booked a representative from Comp-Aid Inc. (CAI) Newark, Delaware to speak on the panel.

Lois Forman confirmed that a representative from Walgreens HR Department will attend and speak on the panel about their best hiring practices with regard to persons with disabilities.

Anthony Davis thought that the event should include more of a focus on employers.

Jeff Dietz asked about contacting the Apple Store as they might be a big draw to the event.

Joe Cipolla suggested a panel of four employers each given ten minutes to speak about their corporate decision to hire persons with disabilities and the positive impact it's had on their company.

EVENT UPDATE

There was some discussion by the committee about the proposed format of the event. They also discussed the importance of targeting the right audience and then tailoring the program to match the intended audience. It was decided the most productive approach will be to feature a panel of 4-5 employers expressing the skill sets they look for in employee hires as well as discussing the successes they have had with hiring persons with disabilities. Employers might want to hear more about the challenges and successes of hiring persons with disabilities. Potential employees would want to hear more about employment opportunities and skills sets they would need for gainful employment. All agreed that an important ingredient to the event would be a powerful guest speaker that would be a popular draw to the event. Jeff suggested that Jim Maggio act as a moderator to the proposed panel discussion. The guest speaker would be included in the panel.

The committee discussed expanding the event by not only inviting technology based companies but also warehouse or retail based companies thereby increasing the information gathering appeal for employers as well as the employment opportunities for job-seekers in attendance. The committee also moved toward broadening the spectrum of the event by inclusion of citizens with general barriers to employment. The main purpose of the event is to promote a variety of Camden County One-Stop Services.

Among businesses contacted by members of the committee are Walgreens, Walmart, Arc of Philadelphia, Comp-Aid Inc., Becker's School Supplies, SAP and TD Bank who is co-sponsor for “Going for the Gold” project. This program recognizes leaders in disability inclusion. The main speaker and panelists will be finalized at the

next joint meeting with the Literacy Committee on Tuesday July 12th. Both the Literacy and Abilities committee will be gathering contacts to invite as well as getting the word out to potential audiences or job seekers. Joe suggested that each committee member commit to inviting 2—3 company contacts to the event. Joe will also contact Rhonda at the Camden County Chamber to help spread the word about the event.

The committee originally established an overall event budget of \$500. Jeff said he would reach out to Matt Verney, Vice President TD Bank (Cherry Hill)) about underwriting some expenses to the event. Other suggestions for sponsorship included CVS, Wells Fargo, Rite Aid and Walgreens.

The committee reviewed a “Save the Date” flyer and made further revisions. The draft will be finalized at the joint meeting on July 12th. Barbara reminded the committee that “Soups and Sweets” Culinary Training Program will provide refreshments for the event and to be sure they are noted on the promotional flyers.

EVENT OVERVIEW UPDATE

- Panelist presentations by employers hiring the disabled led by a moderator (Jim Maggio)
- A Guest Speaker. (Possible Peg Monahan, SAP)
- Job opportunity information tables.
- “Success Stories” of individuals who gained employment via CC One-Stop services
- Recognition of employers who are hiring disabled workers.
- Tables will be set-up (incentives for employers, DVR, previous offenders and Literacy brochures).
- Continental Breakfast will be provided.

Jeff reminded committee members that both committees will meet in July to give updates on the event.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:13 am.

NEXT MEETING

The next Abilities Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 12 2016 at 8:30 am

Submitted by,

Kathleen Varallo

Administrative Assistant