

**ABILITIES COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2022 (ZOOM)**

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE INFORMATION AND ATTENDANCE										
Name	Organization	Trustee Member	9-Jun-22	11-Aug-22	8-Sep-22	13-Oct-22	10-Nov-22	8-Dec-22	12-Jan-23	
Cirii, Frank	Camden County One-Stop	✓	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Coleman, Ardella	Cooper University Healthcare			X						
Deitz, Jeffery	Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services	✓								
Donato, Carl, Interim Chair	Wawa	✓	X	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		
Fugee, Antoinette	Center for Family Services									
Galvin, Tim	Cooper University Healthcare									
Hale, Dawn	The Arc of Camden County									
Lucas, Angela	JEVS HireAbility			X				X		
Marks, Karen	Jewish Family & Children Service of Southern NJ									
McClintock, Monica	Rowan University		X		X	x	X	X		
Quinones, Cris	Wawa		X							
Scott, Jessica	The Arc of Camden County		X		X	X		X	X	
Taguwa, Denise	LWD-WDB Coord + Support									
Tyndell, Maurice	BestWorks		X							
Turnage, Shay	Cooper University Healthcare			X						
Weinberg, Oriel	Jewish Family & Children's Service			X	X				X	
Henderson, Bridget	WDB Staff					X				
Levitt, Alex	WDB Staff		X	X	X	X	X			
Swartz, Jeffrey S.	WDB Staff		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Vaughn, Debra	WDB Staff			X	X	X	X	X	X	

WELCOME

Carl Donato Jr., Interim Committee Chair, greeted the attendees and the meeting was called to order at 8:35 am.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Carl asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 8, 2022, meeting. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Jeff Swartz, seconded by Frank Cirii. Oriel Weinberg abstained. The motion carried with a majority vote to the affirmative and the minutes for December 8, 2022, were approved.

Jewish Family & Children's Service (JFCS)

Oriel Weinberg, Director of Disability Services

- JFCS has its first client for its Ticket To Work Program, as new providers contracted with the State of Virginia's Administrative Employment Network (AEN). Oriel stated that training and guidance is being provided for the processes of how better serve the veterans who participate in the program.
- Benefits counseling for members of the community is available at JFCS through DVRS. Offered since September 2022, JFCS has assisted approximately 16 clients.

Lois Forman, Job Bank Coordinator

- The JFCS' family assistance program for food and gifts during the holiday season was very successful.
- A coat drive will start on Monday (Jan 16th) from 1 pm to 3 pm at the 6 East Miami Avenue, Cherry Hill location. The first donations were new coats from the Cherry Hill Fire Department.
- On March 21st, JFCS will hold a workshop at the JCC from 7 pm to 8:30 pm called "Shifting Gears, Tools for Career Transition". The event is for women in career transition who are seeking to enter/

re-enter the workforce or are changing careers. The keynote speaker is Deb Deissroth (SHRM) and some of her colleagues will participate in the program. The event flyer is forthcoming.

Arc of Camden County

Jessica Scott, Director

- Effective January 26th, Jessica will be Arc's Director Of Support with these sub-departments reporting to her: supported employment job coaching pre-placement, benefits counseling, the employment network and project search.
- Arc of Camden County currently has hiring opportunities for additional benefits counselors, quality assurance specialists, employment specialists, an assistant director. Jessica will share the position listing with Jeff, Lois and Carl after the internal posting period expires.
- Jessica discussed Tri-State HRMA's Workforce Readiness Committee participation in the proposed 2023 Abilities event with Maria Morales. Maria was very receptive to being involved and the event is now listed on their event calendar.

Camden County One-Stop Updates

Frank Cirii, Local Area Director

- Frank stated the county management team has resumed its post-COVID meeting. Because there is a conflict with the Abilities Committee meeting schedule, the One-Stop will be represented by other staff members when he is not available.
- The Board of Social Services has officially relocated at the One-Stop complex in Cherry Hill. The South Jersey Transportation shuttle bus is in service, operating in the morning and afternoon. The transportation schedule will be circulated to committee members. The bus route includes Voorhees Town Center (formerly the Echelon Mall) The PATCO Woodcrest Station to and from the One-Stop and Board of Social Services offices.
- In-person service numbers have improved since UI is seeing people on site. Customers can self-schedule appointments for assistance with claim problems using the DOL website link.
- The One-Stop's outreach program continues with advertisement on bus wraps and trains, in PATCO train stations and in print. The ads include a QR code providing a link to information about services available at the One-Stop and with all of its partners. A radio advertisement will also air. The outreach efforts were approved by Ahmad McDougale and the DOL.
- Occupational training in the medical fields or CDL have been most in demand at the One-Stop. There has been a slight uptick in enrollment for funded training for employment based on the occupational demand list.
- The One-Stop has resumed live operations with referrals from the Board of Social Services. The Chromebook Loaner Program assists referred clients for a four-week span with job search activities, in job training activities, or any activity that their counselor assigns them.
- HiSET testing is live and people can schedule themselves to take their test. There were some issues that developed when HiSET was acquired by new ownership, giving cause at the State level to consider eliminating the service. With the delays caused by installation complications due to hardware and Internet issues, vendor issues and constraints to delay GED compliance inspection, there is a new urgency to complete the process in the event that HiSET testing is eliminated by the State. For now, HiSET testing is taking place in the Learning Link.
- Two job fairs are being coordinated with the Cherry Hill Mall. A proposed date for the first event is March 3rd, with the second possibly held in the Fall. The attention will be the One-Stop's training opportunities and partner services and on job postings, especially in the public safety related fields. Camden County is in need of recruits for the Camden County police force, juvenile detention officers, corrections officers and 911 dispatching. Public Safety positions are 24-hour operations

with shift-oriented positions, and there is constant turnover from retirements. The One-Stop will promote those positions and all of its training services and our partner services at these upcoming job fairs. Available positions are listed at www.camdencounty.com, public safety careers.

Discussion

- The committee discussion turned to the idea to hold an event that would serve as a veterans/disabled veterans job fair and also provide a workshop focused on issues pertinent to HR professionals with regard to hiring veterans and the disabled. The proposed event would be held at the beginning of June. Partnering with Ardella Coleman and her Cooper HealthCare team was discussed.
- The workshop panelists will include employers, and HR professionals who understand both from the military side and also from the HR side and can discuss the challenges and some ways to break barriers down to ensure veterans can successfully navigate transition into the workforce as civilians.
- Further consideration for the proposed outline includes panelists of HR professionals and employers, and also will include veterans for a Q&A session during a workshop from 8:30 am to 10:00 am. After the presentation, HR professionals will be available to assist veterans with resumé preparation that includes translating their military experience into relevant skills for the workplace as civilians.
- Carl suggested a speed networking session with employers present to offer employment. Other considerations discussed were whether to charge admission and the event location.
- Jeff proposed making the event a regional collaboration and to include the Gloucester County WDB. Jeff noted that he's spoken the GC WDB's Executive Director, Michelle Shirey. The GC WDB works very closely with veterans in Gloucester County is interested in participating in the program. In addition, Carl is a member of the Business Committee of the Burlington County WDB and suggested involving them and Jeff stated he would reach out to BC WDB Director, Kelly West.
- The venues mentioned for consideration were Cooper University Hospital, The Kroc Center, Rowan College of South Jersey-Gloucester County (in Sewell), Rowan College of South Jersey-Burlington County and Camden County Boathouse. The location will have to accommodate space for the panel discussion and tables for employers for veterans to meet with.
- The dates agreed upon for consideration were June 7th or 8th. Jeff will follow up with Ardella Coleman, Michelle Shirey and Kelly West to see if those dates are available at any of their venues.
- Event content and presenters will be discussed at the next meeting. Lois suggested Margie McLaughlin who has worked as an HR manager at BLUSA (Bright Lights USA), a defense contractor, as a panelist and will reach out her for interest in participation.
- The event framework, budget and funding will have to be considered to cover the event expenses.
- Carl expressed interest in inviting others to become involved in the Abilities Committee.

Workforce Development Board

Jeffrey Swartz, Executive Director

- This is the fourth year for certifications and procurement. A consultant has been engaged to help the write the regional plan. The local plan is also in the process of being written.
- The WDB recently received notification from the State that funds will be made available for a summer youth employment program. The notification came at a much earlier date than the previous year and a grant application will be submitted.
- The WDB and the One-Stop are working on an EMT program certification with Cooper University Hospital, as well as CCC, to provide training for Camden City residents who are interested in getting into the EMT field.
- Atlantic City Electric (ACE) has completed the first year of its Physical Abilities Program, which provided actual bucket truck and pole training. Four candidates graduated and are now on their way

to careers in the utility industry. ACE will have a summer youth internship program and teachers externship program for interested individuals and is also getting ready to launch another WISE/GIE (Get into Energy) program at the end of 2023.

- The WDB committees are in the process of setting goals for the year. While the Abilities Committee has adopted veterans as its priority and will work in partnership with Cooper Health Care, the Literacy Committee has discussed holding events in Clementon and with the Clementon library. Larry Abrams, of BookSmiles and recently retired from teaching in Lindenwold, has joined the Literacy Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Carl asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Lois Forman and seconded by Frank Cirii. The motion carried with a majority vote to the affirmative and the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 am.

NEXT MEETING

The next Abilities Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 9, 2023 at 8:30 am. The meeting will be conducted via Zoom.

Submitted by,

Debra Vaughn

Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director