



**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

*Supporting the Development and Retention of a World Class Workforce*

*Jeffrey S. Swartz, Executive Director*

*Carl A Donato Jr., Chair*

**ABILITIES COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2024 (ZOOM)  
1111 MARLKRESS RD. STE. 101  
CHERRY HILL, NJ 08003**

**ATTENDANCE**

COMMITTEE INFORMATION AND ATTENDANCE									
Name	14-Mar-24	14-Mar-24	11-Apr-24	9-May-24	13-Jun-24	July (recess)	August (recess)	12-Sep-24	10-Oct-24
Alloway, Veronica									
<b>Donato, Carl, Chair</b>		X	X	X	X			X	X
Askie-Rosario, Andrea		X			X			X	
Aston, Arthur	Y		X						
Bowan, Jennifer		X			X				
Cirii, Frank	Y	X	X	X				X	
Coleman, Ardella									
Deitz, Jeffery									
Farber, Dan									
Fiore, Daniel									
Forman, Lois		X		X					
Freire, Edison									
Fugee, Antoinette		X		X	X				X
Galvin, Tim									
Gregory, Geralyn									
Heaney, Melissa									
Hoban, Colette		X	X						
Kaur, Nimit	Y								
Lavarin, Esther			X						
Legge, Patti									
Lucas, Angela									
Lynn, Meghan								X	X
Marks, Karen									
McClintock, Monica	Y		X	X				X	X
Metzger, Frances									
Page-Soncrant, Jeanne	T	X	X	X					X
Perez, Irene	Y		X	X					X
Quiqley, Kimberly					X			X	
Quinones, Cris									
Rizzi, Stephanie	N								
Scott, Jessica									
Spinelli, Allison									
Starcher, Connie									
Storm, Jeanne, Vice Chair	Y	X	X					X	
Stubbs, Andrea									
Thompson, Ryan									
Tyndell, Maurice		X	X						
Weinberg, Oriel	Y			X				X	X
Wikiera, Erik									
Gutbezahl, Maayan		X		X	X				
Swartz, Jeffrey S.		X	X	X	X			X	X
Hardison, Richelle									X
Vaughn, Debra		X	X	X	X			X	X



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**WELCOME**

Carl Donato, WDB Chair, greeted the attendees and called the meeting to order at 8:35 AM.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Carl asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2024 meeting. Motion was made by Irene Perez and seconded by Monica McClintock. With a majority vote to the affirmative, the motion carried and the minutes for the meeting held on September 12, 2024 were approved.

**COMMITTEE DISCUSSION/Webinar Presentation**

**Meghan Lynn, ARC of Camden County**

- Meghan is finishing content by tomorrow and will send out to the committee for review.
- Content includes Myths of Inclusive Hiring, Statistics, Success Stories ( including videos), and resources.
- Goal of the Webinar is to promote positivity and value of supportive employment to the people in the community and the workforce.
- Follow up with a Lunch and Learn hosted by Arc to keep the momentum, December date to be finalized soon.

**Irene Perez, DVRS**

- Irene recommended a Wednesday for The Lunch and Learn, no more than an hour.
- Irene volunteered to work with Meghan on this follow up event.

**Carl Donato, Abilities Committee Chair**

- “Inclusive Hiring, Minimal Risk – Big Reward!” webinar is scheduled for October 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM.
  - To date, there are 21 registrants, 12 outside the Abilities Committee. Attendance is expected to increase by at least 15-20 more registrants.

**COMMITTEE UPDATES**

**Irene Perez, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS)**

- October is Disability Awareness Month (DEAM). DVRS has 6-7 events planned this month.
- The events will be hosted by the awardees of the grant for employment and expansion.
- Jeanne Page-Soncrant has collaborated with Andrea Askie-Rosario to hold a recruitment event with Cooper in October, which is Disability Awareness Month.
- On October 21, a multi-county event including Burlington, Camden, Mercer, Monmouth, Atlantic and Cape May will be held in Burlington County.

**Meghan Lynn, ARC of Camden County**

- Meghan has been focusing on marketing this month and traveling to DVR offices to speak about available services.

**Antoinette Fugee**

- In partnership with Impact Charities, an internal 21-week program has been created to provide training for CMA certification for Cooper employees. The training will take place between 3:30 PM-10:00 PM to avoid interference with employee work schedules. The program is fully funded and set to launch on November 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Monica McClintock**

- Tri-State HRMA will hold a dinner meeting on October 10th. The focus of the meeting will be “Table Talk” which combines energy, ideas and networking. The focus of the November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting will be “Terms of Engagement: Proven People Strategies to Drive Productivity and ROI”.

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- In addition to the federal government and nonprofit job fair mentioned, Rowan University will host an all-majors career fair at its main campus on October 10<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.
- Rutgers-Camden will host an all-majors job fair on October 8<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM on the Camden campus.
- A legal symposium will be held on October 25<sup>th</sup> at Rowan College South Jersey (RCSJ) at the Sewell/Gloucester County campus.
- A job fair for the federal government and nonprofit agencies on November 12<sup>th</sup> at Rowan University's main campus from 10:00AM to 2:00PM.

**Oriel Weinberg**

- The JFCS building on Springdale Road has undergone major renovations. The grand opening will be held in November. The updated facility will be similar to "Life Town" in North Jersey, designed to look like a quaint town with shops.
- The culinary Training Program is up and running for Lenape students.
  - Food from the kitchen is donated to the Betsy and Peter Fischer Food Pantry in Cherry Hill.
- Due to low attendance for Jefferson-Stratford locations for students, Project Search has opened the program to adults. The package would include tuition assistance, transportation assistance, and stipends for student uniforms. Project Search is a program for transitioning students into the workforce that involves learning skills in a business setting where they have an opportunity to work in multiple departments.

**Jeffrey S. Swartz, Camden County Workforce Development Board**

- Jeff introduced Richelle Hardison, the new WDB Program Evaluator, to the committee.
- Events –
  - Jeff attended the Stand Down of SJ event for veterans with Carl on September 27<sup>th</sup>. He also attended the Winslow Twp Job Fair on 10/5/24.
- Michelle Rohan will begin her role as the WDB's Administrative Assistant and Committee Coordinator on October 15<sup>th</sup>.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Carl asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Antoinette Fugee and seconded by Irene Perez. The motion carried with a majority vote to the affirmative and the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 AM.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next Abilities Committee meeting will be held Thursday, November 14, 2024 at 8:30 AM on Zoom.

Submitted by,  
Michelle Rohan, Committee Coordinator