



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Supporting the Development and Retention of a World Class Workforce

Jeffrey S. Swartz, Executive Director

Carl A. Donato Jr., Chair

**BUSINESS SERVICES AND OUTREACH TEAM
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023, 2:00 PM
ZOOM MEETING**

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE INFORMATION AND ATTENDANCE							
Name	Organization	Trustee Member	15-Jun-23	20-Jul-23	17-Aug-23	16-Nov-23	14-Dec-23
Thompson Ryan	Truist Bank, BSOT Chair			X		X	X
Adams, Darrel	Camden County 55+ Program				X		
Askie-Rosario, Andrea	CC Commission of the Blind		X		X		
Baer, Jessika	NJ DOL						X
Bass, Henry	NJ DOL			X			
Burden, Lawrence	Hopeworks						
Campbell, Gabriella	NJ DOL						
Cirii, Frank	CCOSCC	X				X	X
Davis, Gerald	CCOSCC		X			X	
Davis, Taylor	KIPP New Jersey						
Deitz, Jeff	DVRS		X				
Farrar, Gary	Transportation						
Field, Nicole	NJDOL		X	X			
Forman, Lois	Jewish Family & Children's Service				X		
Fugee, Antoinette	Cooper		X			X	
Gaskins, Melanie	Camden County College						
Kaur, Nimit	Camden County Health and Human Services						X
Laguna, Connie	Truist Bank						
Langhorne, Riscee	Hopeworks						X
Lakshminarayan, Pavithra	NJ Dept. of Labor & Workforce Dev.						X
Law, Quinton	Camden Community Partnership			X			
Leonetti, Mike	CCOSCC						
Lex, Jim	Camden County Improvement Authority						
Lord, Lisa	CCTS				X	X	X
McCormick, Carol	Camden County College		X		X	X	
Moen, Bill	Camden County College				X	X	X
Page-Soncrant, Jeanne	NJ DOL, Business Rep.				X		X
Perez, Irene	DVRS		X	X	X	X	
Quinones, Cris	WAWA						
Regensburger, Robert	Lockheed Martin	X	X		X		
Richardson, Ryan	NJDOL						
Robinson, Terrenny	Net America						
Serrano, Angel	Hopeworks						
Shafer, Derena	Camden County College		X	X		X	X
Sinclair, Nidia	Camden County One-Stop			X			
Spector, David	NJDOL			X			
Urkowitz, Ronda	Cross County Connection TMA						
Weil, Robert	Conner, Strong, and Bucklew	X	X	X		X	X
Yares, Yoni							
Gutbezahl, Maayan	WDB						X
Henderson, Bridget	WDB				X		
Levitt, Alex	WDB		X	X	X	X	
Swartz, Jeffrey S.	WDB		X	X	X		X
Vaughn, Debra	WDB		X	X	X		X
Williams, Leslie	WDB						

WELCOME & APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Ryan Thompson, Chair, opened the meeting at 2:00 p.m.
- As the first order of business, Ryan asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the November 16, 2023 committee meeting. The motion was made by Derena Shafer and seconded by Jeff Swartz. By majority vote to the affirmative, the motion carried and the meeting minutes for November 16, 2023 were approved.



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COMMITTEE UPDATES

Ryan Thompson, Truist Bank

- Ryan opened up the discussion from the previous BSOT meeting on building bridges with other WDB committees and sharing BSOT's resources. Ryan asked the committee for three ideas for resource-sharing that BSOT can commit to for the first quarter of 2024.
 - Jeff Swartz discussed the youth job/resource fair in Clementon that is tentatively scheduled for May 6, 2024. The Abilities Committee, BSOT Committee, Literacy Committee, and Youth Committee could all collectively participate to provide and share community resources.
 - Ryan is developing an entrepreneurship series with Irene Perez from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS). The three-part series will cover business finance basics and more. Jessika Baer from the New Jersey Department of Labor offered to put Ryan and Irene in touch with the Small Businesses Administration because they offer information and courses for start-ups, which would be a good resource for the entrepreneurship series.
 - Pavithra Lakshminarayan from the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development spoke about USPTO resources to patent an idea. Pavithra will send her contacts to Ryan as the entrepreneurship series is developed.
 - Lisa Lord from Camden County Technical Schools (CCTS) mentioned that on March 6, there will be a job fair at the high school in Sicklerville. Lisa will send a flyer out regarding the event when it is ready. In addition, on March 1st, there will be a job fair specifically for CCTS students in Pennsauken. Derena Shafer offered to share contacts with Lisa for recruiters, especially those looking for young workers.

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Jeff Swartz, WDB

- **ACE (Atlantic City Energy) Training Initiative**
 - The Atlantic City Training Initiative has a new program called SPARK, which offers young people paid internships with Camden County companies in the STEM field, as well as scholarships for candidates going into two-year and four-year programs. The Line School program in Egg Harbor Township will continue as well, while WISE (Worker in Sustainable Energy) and the GIE (Get Into Energy) programs will be phased out, as those jobs have been sufficiently filled in the area.
- **GSETA/SETC**
 - The 2024 GSETA/SETC (Garden State Employment & Training Association/State Employment and Training Commission) Conference will be held in Atlantic City, most likely in October.
- **Camden Works Updates**
 - Camden Community Connection has come up with a solution for Camden City residents and others needing transportation to jobs and places of resources, by providing a ride service called the Camden Loop. It has so far been very successful, and there are talks of this service eventually becoming available in other areas of Camden County.



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Hopeworks

Riscee Langhorne, Hopeworks

• **EMT Training Program**

- There are five individuals who will be taking the six-month long EMT training program in partnership with Cooper Hospital and Camden County College, starting on January 8, 2024.

STATE, CAMDEN COUNTY, & REGIONAL BSR UPDATES

Jeanne Page-Soncrant, New Jersey Dept. of Labor

- In November, NJDOL had 605 registrants for Cooper Hospital and nearly 200 registrants for Inductotherm. Both companies now have new hires.
- In August, Jeanne conducted an information session for the Department of Corrections which resulted in some new hires.
- Jeanne is planning 2-3 information sessions in January with old and new employers and partners. She has already had meetings with Cooper and Wawa, where she connected them with Workforce 55+. Jeanne will meet with iHeart Media next week. She also took a tour of Citizen’s Bank, joined by Irene Perez (DVRs), Gerald Davis (Workforce 55+) and Andrea Askie-Rosario (Commission of the Blind). The bank offers an automated teller designed to assist those with disabilities.
- Jeanne, along with a member of a justice-involved program, had a meeting with Patrick Kelly Drums and took a tour of their facilities. Patrick Kelly Drums now has a new hire as a result of that connection.

VETERAN SERVICES UPDATE

- In Henry Bass’ absence, Jeanne Page-Soncrant provided an update. Cooper Hospital has a veteran new hire as a result of the November outreach event.

JCFS JOB BOARD UPDATE

Lois Forman, Jewish Family and Children’s Services

- A number of local Israelis displaced by the war in Israel are looking for work in the area. JCFS is looking for job placement for these individuals, some of whom are staying in the area temporarily, while others are staying long-term.
- Jessika suggested that Lois get in touch with the DOL’s new department called “The Division of New Americans.” Visas with refugee status come with automatic rights to work, and new DOL division assists with getting the right documentation for refugees seeking work. Lois and Jeanne will coordinate on this.

CAMDEN COUNTY ONE-STOP CAREER CENTER (CCOSCC)

Frank Cirii, CCOSCC

- On January 19, 2024, the One-Stop will co-sponsor a job fair from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the atrium (Nordstrom’s) at the Cherry Hill Mall. Frank will send out an official flyer when it is ready.



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- The One-Stop will launch an outreach campaign to the WIOA and SNAP/TANF populations utilizing its QR code on public transportation and PATCO stations as it has before. Non-traditional outreach methods using social media are being explored.

CAMDEN COUNTY COLLEGE

Bill Moen, Executive Director, Workforce Development & Innovation

- Camden County College has been approved as a recipient of the State Dept. of Labor's New Jersey Build Grant, which would be a fiscal year 2024 women and minorities in construction and trades grant of up to \$300,000. The program will be developed over the next 18 months.

Derena Shafer, Director, Career Planning & Advancement Center

- The Office of Career Services has been rebranded as The Career Planning and Advancement Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Ryan asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Derena Shafer, seconded by Lisa Lord. By majority vote to the affirmative, the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next Business Services and Outreach Team Committee meeting will be held Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom. Meeting materials and Zoom conferencing information will be distributed prior to the meeting.

Submitted by:

Maayan Gutbezahl, Committee Coordinator