



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Supporting the Development and Retention of a World Class Workforce

Jeffrey S. Swartz, Executive Director

Carl A. Donato Jr., Chair

**Business Service Outreach Team Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 19, 2024 via Zoom**

Attendance

COMMITTEE INFORMATION AND ATTENDANCE						
Name	Trustee Member	18-Jan-24	18-Jul-24	21-Nov-24	19-Dec-24	
Thompson Ryan		X	X	X	X	
Askie-Rosario, Andrea						
Baer, Jessika				X	X	
Bass, Henry				X	X	
Burden, Lawrence						
Campbell, Gabriella		X	X	X		
Cirii, Frank	X	X				X
DeFulvio, Michelle						
Field, Nicole			X			
Fugee, Antoinette		X		X		
Lakshminarayan, Pavithra		X				
Leonetti, Mike						
Lord, Lisa		X	X			X
McCormick, Carol		X				
Moen, Bill		X				
Page-Soncrant, Jeanne		X	X	X	X	
Perez, Irene		X		X		
Randall, Angela		X	X			
Regensburger, Robert	X	X	X	X	X	
Richardson, Ryan		X		X	X	
Robinson, Terrenny						
Shafer, Derena						X
Sinclair, Nidia				X		
Spector, David						
Taylor, Kormasa						X
Weil, Robert	X	X	X	X	X	
Michelle Rohan				X	X	
Mayan		X				
Richell Hardison				X	X	
Henderson, Bridget						
Swartz, Jeffrey S.						X
Vaughn, Debra		X	X			X
Williams, Leslie						



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Quick recap

The December meeting covered regional updates, committee reports, and discussions on various employment programs and services available in New Jersey. The committee explored different funding opportunities, grants, and initiatives aimed at supporting employers and job seekers, including targeted hiring events, virtual recruitment, and On-The-Job training programs. The conversation ended with announcements of upcoming events and job opportunities, as well as discussions on connecting with local partners and the importance of understanding living wages in New Jersey.

Next steps

Ryan Richardson to call Jeffrey regarding connections to Camden Community Partnership.

Ryan Richardson to forward email to Bob Regensburger with Bob cc'd to connect with Joe Myers at Camden Community Partnership.

Lisa Lord to provide more information on CCTS job fairs planned for late March/early April.

Jeanne Page-Soncrant to send out the NLX job board link to the group.

Employers to review the living wage calculator shared by Jessika Baer for updated wage information.

Summary

December Meeting: Updates and Challenges

Ryan Thompson opened the December meeting at 2:01pm, the last for the year, and welcomed everyone. Ryan asked for a motion to approve the November 21, 2024 meeting minutes. A motion was made by Jeanne Page-Soncrant, seconded by Jeffrey Swartz. With a majority vote to the affirmative, the motion carried and the minutes for the November 21, 2024 meeting were approved. Jeffrey then provided regional updates, mentioning the successful Quarterly Board meeting and the submission of an application for the Summer Youth Work Experience Program. He also discussed the challenges faced this year, such as not receiving the Literacy Grant or the Fund My Future Grant.

Employer Registration and Targeted Hiring

Jeanne discussed the importance of employers registering and posting their job opportunities on the New Jersey Labor Department's job board, the National Labor Exchange (NLX). She emphasized that this not only helps job seekers but also aids in business planning and growth. Jeanne also introduced the concept of targeted hiring events, which are employer-specific recruitment sessions that provide brand recognition and direct interaction with potential candidates. She encouraged the team to promote these services to employers and job seekers.

Virtual Recruitment and Tax Credits

Jeanne discussed the benefits of virtual recruitment, highlighting its ability to accommodate larger numbers of participants and its flexibility. She also introduced the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) program, which provides tax credits for hiring individuals from specific groups, such as those receiving food stamps or veterans.

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Lastly, she introduced the On-the-Job Training (OJT) program, which provides monthly funding for employers who agree to hire and train individuals from specific groups. Jeanne also mentioned the Summer Youth Work Experience Program, which is an internship program.

New Jersey Grants and Programs

The meeting discussed various grants and programs available for employers in New Jersey. Jeffrey mentioned that the State was putting up information on their website about all the grants awarded for each county, allowing employers to see which ones they've been awarded. Ryan Richardson shared that the easiest way to find this information is by typing 'NJDOL Grants' into Google. The team also discussed the DVRS Paid Internship Program, which allows employers to hire individuals with disabilities for up to 8 weeks, fully funded by the state. The minimum wage for this program is the state minimum, which is set to increase to \$15.49 on January 1st. Lastly, the meeting touched on the Mature Workers Program, which allows employers to hire individuals aged 55 or older for the first month, fully funded by the state. The team agreed to discuss customized training dollars in a future meeting.

Hiring Events and Industry Collaboration

Jeanne discussed her recent targeted hiring event with DIY Media Group and a recruitment for Camden City Board of Education. She also mentioned a rapid response for an off-track betting company and a potential hiring event for Sahara Sam's. Ryan Thompson announced a full-time financial services associate position at Mid Penn Bank. Ryan Richardson discussed the formation of a business and industry leadership team focused on energy efficiency workforce needs in New Jersey, with a virtual meeting scheduled for January 15th. He also sought connections with the Camden Loop team or the Camden Community Partnership for the upcoming event. Lisa Lord announced plans for job fairs in late March to early April at CCTS, and Jeanne shared a link to the New Jersey Living Wage Calculator. Jessika emphasized the importance of understanding the cost of living in New Jersey and the need for employers to pay a living wage. The conversation ended with well-wishes for the holiday season.

Ryan Thompson asked for a motion to adjourn. Jessika Baer made the motion and Jeffrey Swartz seconded it. The meeting adjourned at 2:58pm.

The next Business Service Outreach Team meeting will be held on January 16, 2025 at 2:00pm via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Rohan, Committee Coordinator