

**ABILITIES COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2023 (ZOOM)**

**ATTENDANCE**

COMMITTEE INFORMATION AND ATTENDANCE									
Name	Organization	Trustee Member	11-Aug-22	8-Sep-22	13-Oct-22	10-Nov-22	8-Dec-22	12-Jan-23	9-Feb-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	✓							
<b>Donato, Carl, Interim Chair</b>	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		
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		
Quinones, Cris	Wawa								
Scott, Jessica	The Arc of Camden County			X	X		X	X	
Taguwa, Denise	LWD-WDB Coord + Support								
Tyndell, Maurice	BestWorks								
Turnage, Shay	Cooper University Healthcare		X						
Weinberg, Oriiel	Jewish Family & Children's Service		X	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	X

**WELCOME**

Carl Donato Jr., 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 January 12, 2023, meeting. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Lois Forman, seconded by Jeff Swartz. The motion carried with a majority vote to the affirmative and the minutes for January 12, 2023, were approved.

**Discussion**

- Event space has been secured at Cooper University Hospital on June 8th, using a conference room within a window of 10 am to 3 pm. The event will focus on issues pertinent to HR professionals seeking to hire veterans, and also serve as a veteran hiring event.
- After an introduction by Ardella Cooper and comments by a Cooper executive/staff member, brief presentations will be given by several panelists that speak to hiring practices and the needs of veterans returning to the workforce.
- Suggestion was made that coffee should be available during the event and a light lunch of a sandwich and beverage provided.
- The workshop panelists will include employers and HR professionals who discuss best practices, challenges and ways to break barriers down to ensure veterans can successfully navigate transition into the workforce as civilians. Further consideration for the proposed event outline includes having panelists of HR professionals and employers, as well as veterans for a Q&A session during the workshop. After the presentation, HR professionals will be available to assist veterans with translating their military experience into relevant skills for the workplace as civilians and resumé preparation.

- Charging a fee for the event is under consideration.
- The event is estimated to run from 10 am to 1:00 pm. More information is needed from Ardella regarding the time she estimates Cooper personnel will need for their participation. Content and proposed presenters will be discussed at the next meeting. The budget and funding will have to be considered to cover the event expenses. The target date to finalize the event agenda and other details is April 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Jewish Family & Children's Service (JFCS)**

Lois Forman, Job Bank Coordinator

- On March 21<sup>st</sup>, JFCS will hold a free workshop at the JCC from 7:00 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 two of her colleagues will participate in the program. The event registration link and flyer are forthcoming.
- Carl noted that the Tri-State SHRM will hold its March dinner meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 pm. The meeting will take place at the Westin Hotel in Mt. Laurel. Kristen Russell will speak about assistive technology tools for workplace inclusion. The link to the event will be shared.
- The JFCS will hold its “Stepping Out” event on March 31, 2023 at Temple Beth El in Voorhees. The event will have music, food, fun and prizes. Information will be forwarded to the committee and for posting on the WDB website.

Oriel Weinberg, Director of Disability Services

- On May 5, 2023, the JFCS will host its annual vocational breakfast at the JCC from 8:00 am to 10:00 am in the social hall at the Jewish Community Center. The event will honor employees and employers for exemplary work, including Goodwill. Breakfast will be provided by the participants of the Soups and Sweets Culinary Training Program. An invitation will be distributed to the committee members.
- The Choice Group will no longer provide services to Virginia’s Administrative Employment Network (AEN) for its “Ticket To Work Program” but will continue to assist JFCS until it finds another AEN to work with. The Choice Group has also provided JFCS with guidance on providing benefits counseling.
- JFCS is seeking students for its Soups and Sweets Culinary Program. Lenape High School has been sending students through the summer (April – June, then July – September), their students are preparing for employment. Serve Safe Certification and supportive employment are available. The program is open to anyone who needs assistance, through DVRS, DDD and private pay.
- JFCS paired up with Kelman Brown Academy, an elementary school in Voorhees, which has a STEM Lab with a 3-D printer. The students interviewed a few people at JFCS who have assistive needs and then created customized devices specifically for them. Using their 3-D printer, the students created one-handed can-openers, cutting boards and an assistive device to reach high up.

### **Camden County One-Stop Updates**

Frank Cirii, Local Area Director

- Two job fairs are being coordinated with the Cherry Hill Mall. The first event is March 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 10:00 am and 2 pm, with the second scheduled for September. Job Fair registration information will be shared among committee members and posted on the WDB social media sites.

### **Workforce Development Board**

Jeffrey Swartz, Executive Director

- The WDB has submitted its grant application to fund a Summer Youth Employment Program for Camden County youth. There are no income eligibility restrictions for the program. As part of the application process, participants are interviewed and then assigned to employer work sites in Camden County that match their interests. Participating youth, aged 16-24, will earn a stipend of \$15 per hour during the 8-week program, which includes a 1-week work-readiness training workshop.

Carl Donato, Interim Chair

- Carl noted that he is very pleased with the work of the person hired to handle special programs at Wawa. She oversees the internships for college students, the College Graduate Leadership Program, the Summer Youth Employment Program for the Jersey shore stores, military hiring and supportive employment.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Carl asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Frank Ciri and seconded by Lois Forman. The motion carried with a majority vote to the affirmative and the meeting was adjourned at 9:32 am.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next Abilities Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 16, 2023 at 8:30 am. The meeting will be conducted via Zoom.

Submitted by,

Debra Vaughn

Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director