

ABILITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020 AT THE WDB OFFICE

ATTENDANCE – ABILITIES COMMITTEE

MEMBERS		20-Mar-19	23-Apr-19	5-May-19	11-Jun-19	9-Jul-19	27-Aug-19	17-Sep-19	8-Oct-19	26-Nov-19	14-Jan-20	13-Feb-20
Maggioncalda, Jim CHAIR	TFG Management Services	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Abrams, Barbara	Jewish Family & Children Service of Southern NJ					X	X					
Cirii, Frank	Camden County One Stop	X		X		X	X		X	X	X	
Deitz, Jeffery	Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services											
Donato, Carl	Wawa		X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X
Forman, Lois	Bancroft	X	X	X	X		X			X	X	X
Fugee, Antoinette	Center for Family Services											X
Hale, Dawn	The Arc of Camden County	X			X	X					X	
Lucas, Angela	HireAbility	X		X				X	X	X		X
McClintock, Monica	Independent									X		X
Smith, Veda	Camden County Independent Living Center								X			X
Taguwa, Denise	LWD-WDB Coord + Support							X		X		
Veneziani, Jennifer	DVRS											
Swartz, Jeffrey S.	WDB Executive Director	X	X	X		X			X	X	X	X
Varallo Kathleen	WDB Administrative Assistant	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

WELCOME

Jim Maggioncalda, Abilities Chair, welcomed attendees. Carl Donato, Wawa, Angela Luas, JEVS HireAbility and Lois Forman, Bancroft, phoned into the meeting. Jim asked for roundtable introductions. He welcomed Veda Smith, Camden County Independent Living Center, and Antoinette Fugee, Center for Family Services.

ABILITIES COMMITTEE UPDATES

Jim thanked the committee for attending by phone and in person. He updated the committee on the CEU credits. He met some of the upper management of Tri-State SHRM at a recent retreat he attended in Philadelphia. They gave him a name of a contact that he knew for many years. He will be contacting this person to see how the Abilities Committee proposal, submitted back in August of 2019, can be moved along for approval. The Committee discussed some ideas for future approval of re-certification credits for attendees to the Abilities Events. Jeff Swartz, Executive Director, WDB, suggested that committee members who are Tri-State SHRM members keep on working with contacts to get this approval. It is a big draw to the event.

The Committee discussed survey questions they might send out to keep in touch with attendees of the Strategies event. It was suggested that a brief survey be developed and sent to attendees to get their opinion about improvements to the event and ideas for future topics. Monica McClintock, Rowan University, said she sent in some ideas for questions to be included on the survey. Carl suggested sending a note along with the CEU credit letter that would address future events. Since the last event took place in October, four months ago, it makes more sense to address future topics. All agreed that correspondence to attendees should address future topics.

Jim led the committee toward discussions about the Abilities Committee 2020 event. Kathleen asked the committee to look at dates so she could lock in the booking of the Camden County Boathouse. She wants to contact them as early as possible because they book up fast. Carl suggested that if the committee was going to address the PTSD and Veterans topic, discussed at the last meeting, that we would look at dates closer to Veteran's Day, November 11th. He said the

event could end with some type of tribute or reminder to honor Veteran's Day. The Committee reviewed the calendar, Jewish holidays and other possible conflicts. Angela reminded the committee that October is Disabilities Awareness Month. Lois said the schools are closed in the beginning of November for teachers' conventions. Lois also reviewed the Jewish holidays which are earlier in the month of October. She said any date after October 11th would be totally clear. The Committee discussed availability and decided the WDB should check on Tuesday, October 20 or October 27th at the CC Boathouse.

Jim made the committee aware that Matt Verney, Vice Chair WDB, is a former Veteran and is very involved with Veteran Associations. The WDB could contact him for a speaker to talk about Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Jeff suggested keeping this year's topic centered around the Veterans. Lois cautioned about competing with other events honoring veterans. She could provide a speaker from the Neurology Department at Bancroft. Carl said his experience with Veterans events have usually started at the beginning of November and run into Veterans Day on the 11th. Carl felt that picking the dates in later October would put the committee at the forefront of Veteran's Day remembrance, parades and other activities.

Jim asked Lois if suicide prevention or concerns, a part of the PTSD subject, should be discussed at the event. Lois felt it could be touched upon but did not want to make it a big focus of the event. Jim felt it might be important to give HR Professionals information on where to go and who to call in such a case as suicide. Lois said clinicians from Bancroft will always include help information and emergency contacts. Bancroft is a resource for this type of trauma. Antoinette Fugee, Center for Family Services, said that her agency serves some returning Veterans who may have been over prescribed medication for PTSD. There are so many facets of this disorder that could be addressed. Jim felt the committee should take some time to think about the topic and reflect on whether we really want to tackle this subject of PTSD. Sometimes the topic is driven by the speakers. Carl will send the video he received as a re-cap to the Veterans PTSD event, hosted in Philadelphia, he mentioned at the last Abilities meeting. This will give the committee a chance to get a glimpse on the topic in order to make a clearer decision. Jim also suggested that if the topic is PTSD and Veterans, he can make a contact with Comcast. They provide a good deal of support to Veteran concerns. Kathleen Varallo, Administrative Assistant, WDB, said that brings the committee to its next item on the agenda. She said the event has grown and is now at the capacity of our current sponsorship. Bancroft and JEVS have continued to contribute generously to the event but without more sponsorship we are limited to hosting 70 attendees including the committee.

Lois said she will need advance notice from the Committee about scheduling a Neuropsychologist from Bancroft for the event. Jim said to certainly ask all contacts about speaking at the event. He felt it's a very hot topic and if we get a good response from speaker ideas over the next five days we will be far ahead of the planning. Carl asked if the speaker is typically paid for their time. Jim said that speakers have generally volunteered their time to the event. He also asked if Wawa might be able to help with some in-kind donations to the event. He asked if the Boathouse would allow that. Kathleen said the Boathouse is very specific in using their designated caterers. Kathleen said she would ask.

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITES

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS) provides counseling, training, education, transportation, job placement, assistive technology and other support services to people with disabilities. (Follow the link for more information)

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/dvrs>

Kathleen said it was discussed that the last Abilities meeting that the committee look for more ways to get out into the community and speak about the services of DVRS and present the work of the Committee. Lois suggested the committee contact Jennifer Veneziani, Program Planning and Development Specialist, NJ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services. She is great at speaking to groups and may have more ideas about including the WDB Abilities Committee at events in the community. Kathleen said the WDB has developed good relationships in the southern part of the county. We may think about hosting an employer information session for employers or a parent information session that would give parents a better idea of training and development services that are available for their child. Carl said Jennifer may be able to give us a list of her events and suggest which way to approach outreach. Monica said she would speak to the chairs of the Tri-State SHRM group to see if the WDB could speak at one of their meetings.

2020 GOALS:

- More outreach in the community-possible presentations
- Joint committee meeting with SHRM
- Promote the services of DVRS
- Promote the DVRS Summer Youth Employment Program
- Improve and expand Workplace Inclusion Event
- Attract more private sector employer participation in committee efforts
- Quarterly newsletter or communication with event participants
- Expand topics to include Aging workforce, Veterans and subjects of disabilities including aging or senior employment and PTSD

Jim thanked the committee for their input and ideas. He said the WDB will confirm the date and then we will get something out to the attendees and mailing list about the date and survey the topic to see what interest there is in the subject of PTSD. The Committee gave general updates about their organizations.

NEXT MEETING

The next Abilities Committee meeting is scheduled on Thursday, March 12, 2020 at 8:30am at the WDB office, 1111 Marlkrass Road, Suite 101, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003.

Submitted by

Kathleen Varallo

Administrative Assistant