



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, FEBRUARY 13, 2025 (ZOOM)

ATTENDANCE

Name	Organization	Trustee Member	9-Jan	13-Feb
Donato, Carl, Chair	An Affair To Remember	✓	X	X
Askie-Rosario, Andrea	CC Commission for the Blind		X	
Aston, Arthur	Build Jake's Place			
Bowan, Jennifer	The Arc of Camden County			
Cirii, Frank	Camden County One-Stop	✓	X	X
Coleman, Ardella	Cooper University Healthcare			
Deissroth, Rob				
Deitz, Jeffery	Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services	✓		
Farber, Dan				
Fiore, Daniel				
Floyd, Kwame			X	
Forman, Lois	Jewish Family & Children's Service		X	X
Fugee, Antoinette	Cooper University Healthcare			
Galvin, Tim	Cooper University Healthcare			
Gregory, GERALYN	Wawa			
Hoban, Colette	Lenape Regional High School Dist./Project Search			
Lavarin, Esther	CC Commission for the Blind			
Legge, Patti				
Lynn, Meghan	ARC of Camden County		X	X
McClintock, Monica	Rowan University		X	
Metzger, Frances	Cooper University Healthcare			
Page-Soncrant, Jeanne	NJDOL - Business Rep.		X	X
Perez, Irene	NJDVRS		X	X
Quiqley, Kimberly	St. John of God Community Services		X	X
Scott, Jessica	The Arc of Camden County			
Snow, Colleen	Dept of Health & Human Services			X
Storm, Jeanne, Vice Chair	American Water	✓		
Tyndell, Maurice	Bestworks Industries			
Weinberg, Oriol	Jewish Family & Children's Service			X
Marlyn Kalitan		✓	X	
Rohan, Michelle	WDB Staff		X	X
Swartz, Jeffrey S.	WDB Staff		X	X
Vaughn, Debra	WDB Staff		X	X

WELCOME

Carl Donato, WDB Chair, greeted the attendees and called the meeting to order at 8:34 AM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Carl asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2025 meeting. Motion was made by Frank Cirii and seconded by Irene Perez. With a majority vote to the affirmative, the motion carried, and the minutes were approved.

Next steps

Colleen to send the PowerPoint presentation to Michelle for distribution to the committee.

Committee members to email Colleen to introduce themselves and their services for potential collaboration.

Jewish Family and Children's Services to host the March meeting at the Jonathan Sinay Building.

Megan and Jeanne to finalize their presentation for the SHRM Conference on May 1st.

Irene to propose a date in July for the targeted hiring event.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Supporting the Development and Retention of a World Class Workforce

Jeffrey S. Swartz, Executive Director

Carl A. Donato Jr., Chair

Carl and the committee to determine a date for the spring virtual event, potentially in mid-April.

Lois to finalize details and create flyers for "The Seasoned Professional" workshop on May 14th.

Jeffrey and the committee to seek sponsorship for refreshments for the targeted hiring event.

Summary

Colleen's Presentation on Mental Health

The committee welcomed Colleen Snow, the new director of the Office of Mental Health and Addiction for Camden County. Colleen shared her slides and began her presentation, expressing her gratitude for the opportunity to join the meeting.

Camden County Mental Health Funding

Colleen discussed the office's role in receiving funding and monitoring grants. She emphasized the importance of accessibility for all, especially in youth mental health and substance use. Colleen also highlighted the challenges faced by individuals with disabilities in accessing mental health and substance use services. She mentioned the office's goal to tackle these issues and increase funding for mental health services. Colleen also discussed numerous services provided by the office, including the Mental Health County Fund, the Wraparound Program, and the Payee Financial Program. She expressed a desire to expand partnerships and provide more workshops for professionals in Camden County.

Camden County Partnerships and Resources

Colleen provided an overview of resources and partnerships in Camden County, highlighting the significant decrease in overdose fatalities by 40% in 2024 compared to 2023. She emphasized the importance of cultural competence training and the role of partnerships in achieving this success. Colleen also shared resources for mental health, substance use, and developmental disabilities. Jeffrey thanked Colleen for her presentation and encouraged her to continue participating in their committee.

Addressing Multiple Needs in Assistance

The meeting discussed assorted services and challenges related to assisting individuals with multiple needs, including substance abuse, mental health issues, homelessness, and food insecurity. Lois Forman shared her experience with clients facing these challenges, while Colleen provided information about upcoming initiatives such as the Multi-Agency Center (MAC) in Camden County and a new supportive housing project.

Addressing Drug Abuse with Collaboration

Carl expressed his appreciation for Colleen's presentation on the holistic approach to addressing drug abuse, emphasizing the importance of a 1-stop shop for support. Colleen agreed, highlighting the need for prevention and education, and the importance of having skilled individuals to guide those in need. She also offered her assistance to anyone on the call, regardless of their service, and expressed her



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Supporting the Development and Retention of a World Class Workforce

Jeffrey S. Swartz, Executive Director

Carl A. Donato Jr., Chair

willingness to learn more about employment opportunities for those with substance use and mental health issues. Carl and Colleen agreed on the potential for further collaboration between their teams.

Upcoming Meeting and SHRM Conference

Jeffrey announced that the next meeting will be held at the Jonathan Sinay Building, courtesy of Oriel Weinberg, and will include coffee and sweets. He also mentioned that several committee members will participate in the upcoming SHRM Conference in May. Meghan and Jeannie are working on a presentation for the conference, like one Meghan did for the group.

Targeted Hiring Event and Logistics

The group discussed organizing a targeted hiring event. Irene expressed hesitation about focusing on Federal Government jobs due to a current hiring freeze, suggesting a shift towards private sector employers. Jeffrey offered to secure a venue and mentioned the need for employers and clients to participate. Jeanne raised concerns about timing, noting another job fair for justice-impacted individuals at the end of July, and suggested further offline discussions to hash out the details and structure of the event.

Virtual Event and Committee Updates

The committee discussed the possibility of a virtual event in the spring, with Carl suggesting they could reuse the same event for a different audience. They agreed to discuss this further with Megan.

Expanding 10-Month Program and JSVIP

Oriel discussed the changes and improvements made to the 10-month program, which now includes 8 to 10 students in each morning and afternoon group. The program, initially a 6-month rotation, has been expanded to accommodate the new spaces in the building, such as a cafe, market, and game room. To utilize these spaces, the Jonathan Sinay Volunteer, and Internship Program (JSVIP) was created to provide employability skills and transitional services to individuals from various backgrounds. The program includes high school students and those from DVRS and DDD and involves floating staff to assist in running the cafe, market, and kitchen. The JSVIP program also includes learning opportunities such as using a POS system, making coffee, and understanding marketing skills and inventory.

Program Update and Upcoming Workshops

Lois announced a workshop targeting seasoned professionals, scheduled for May 14th. Irene asked about the spring virtual event, which Carl clarified was a repeat of the



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Supporting the Development and Retention of a World Class Workforce

Jeffrey S. Swartz, Executive Director

Carl A. Donato Jr., Chair

successful November event. The team also discussed a potential justice-impacted job fair and a summer youth work experience program.

ADJOURNMENT

Carl asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Irene Perez and seconded by Jeffrey Swartz. The motion carried with a majority vote to the affirmative and the meeting was adjourned at 9:46 AM.

NEXT MEETING

The next Abilities Committee meeting will be held on Thursday March 13, 2025 at 8:30am in the Jonathan Sinay Building: 1721 Springdale Road Cherry Hill, NJ 08003

Respectfully submitted by,
Michelle Rohan, Committee Coordinator