

**ABILITIES COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2023 (ZOOM)**

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE INFORMATION AND ATTENDANCE									
Name	Organization	Trustee Member	13-Oct-22	10-Nov-22	8-Dec-22	12-Jan-23	9-Feb-23	16-Mar-23	
Cirii, Frank	Camden County One-Stop	✓	X	X		X	X		
Coleman, Ardella	Cooper University Healthcare							X	
Deltz, Jeffery	Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services	✓							
Donato, Carl, Chair	Wawa	✓	x	X	X		X	X	
Forman, Lois	Jewish Family & Children's Service		X	X		X	X	X	
Freire, Edison	JEVS Human Services				X			X	
Fugee, Antoinette	Center for Family Services								
Galvin, Tim	Cooper University Healthcare								
Hale, Dawn	The Arc of Camden County								
Lucas, Angela	JEVS HireAbility				X				
Marks, Karen	Jewish Family & Children Service of Southern NJ								
McClintock, Monica	Rowan University		x	X	X			X	
Metzger, Frances	Cooper University Healthcare							X	
Quinones, Cris	Wawa								
Scott, Jessica	The Arc of Camden County		X		X	X		X	
Spinelli, Allison	Gloucester County							X	
Taguwa, Denise	LWD-WDB Coord + Support								
Tyndell, Maurice	BestWorks								
Turnage, Shay	Cooper University Healthcare								
Weinberg, Oriol	Jewish Family & Children's Service					X	X	X	
Henderson, Bridget	WDB Staff		X						
Levitt, Alex	WDB Staff		X	X			X	X	
Swartz, Jeffrey S.	WDB Staff		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Vaughn, Debra	WDB Staff		X	X	X	X	X	X	

WELCOME

Carl Donato Jr., Committee Chair, greeted the attendees and the meeting was called to order at 8:33 am.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Carl asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 9, 2023, meeting. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Lois Forman, seconded by Jeff Swartz. Christine Hentisz abstained. The motion carried, with a majority vote to the affirmative and the minutes for February 9, 2023, were approved.

JEVS Human Services

Edison Friere

- JEVS has been working with Jobs for the Future through an H1-B Visa to do Rapid IT Training to Employment. This project was piloted in PA and will be expanding the area of service into NJ this coming year. The program is a relationship by Comp-TIA, Jobs for the Future and the national workforce boards to identify talent that would ordinarily miss the opportunity to gain rapid training into entry-level tech skills and support to gain employment. This grant provides access to Comp-TIA Academy (the industry standard for entry level tech support) at no cost to the participants (generally costs approximately \$4000). The PA program offers hybrid training for 14 weeks with live instructor-led classes for COMP-TIA A+ certification. An in-person weekly meeting is offered to support candidates. Edison noted his particular interest in his request to expand the program was to extend this training resource to clients in the neurodiverse spectrum. JEVS is looking for home bound candidates for remote tech jobs and would like to offer this opportunity in partnership with social services agencies. The program is called RITEI and Edison welcomed an opportunity to set up

meetings to discuss the program further and will send information about the plan as requested. Jessica Scott expressed interest in getting more information for a potential partnership for the training opportunity he discussed.

Arc of Camden County

Jessica Scott, Director of Supported Employment

- An Assistant Director has been hired. The newly hired staff has almost completed the training period.
- The professional clothing drive with SHRM has been completed, with donations going to VOA.
- The organization's auditing season is underway.

Camden County College/Tri-State HRMA

Monica McClintock

- Monica welcomed leads for graduating students in the business sector who are looking for employment or internships.
- Tri-State HRMA will hold its second breakfast meeting on April 6th at the Westin Hotel/Mt. Laurel. Among the topics for discussion by Tri-State and members of the National; Speakers Association:
 - Stand Tall With Integrity!!
 - Creating Optimal Performance Through Positivity, Effective Communication And Respectful Relationships
 - Stories That Work – Energizing Your Brand And Business
 - Command The Chaos – What If You Could Take Control Of Your To-Do List And Have More Time To Lead
 - How To Navigate Mental Health Challenges And Rediscover The Resilience Within Yourself
- On April 5th, Tri-State HRMA will host a free virtual event, “Closing The Deal – Compensation Package Negotiations – Knowing Your Market Value”.

Discussion – Veterans Hiring Event Planning

- The framework for the June 8th event was discussed. The event will focus on issues pertinent to HR professionals seeking to hire veterans and will also serve as a veteran hiring event. Notes for the event were reviewed for consideration:
 - Event titles under consideration:
 - Hiring Heroes
 - Red, White and You: The Path to Employment
 - Operation Employment: From Patriots to Prospects
 - A separate flyer/title targeting veterans will be “You Served Us, Now We Serve You.”
 - Format – 20 Employers will be invited, with a panel discussion is the first part of the event.
 - A quote for lunch was provided by Wawa. Sponsorship will be sought to cover expenses or there will be a fee for employers to participate.
 - There was a discussion about charging a reasonable fee for employers to participate.
- Sponsorship – Edison (JEVS) and Carl (WAWA) will try to secure some sponsorship funds.
- Event space has been secured at Cooper University Hospital on June 8th, using a conference and breakout room within the hours of 10:00 to 3:00. The conference room will likely be set up in classroom style. The room will accommodate 75 people. There will need to be time allotted to make any necessary layout changes.
 - Room sizes and set up/ to be determined.

- A second room will be used for registration and to assist veterans (resumé help, meet with employers)
- There is a meeting scheduled in the assigned conference room until 10:00 am, so the set up cannot begin until the room is cleared.
- Event Speakers:
 - Chris Kaag, Founder/Executive Director of IM ABLE Foundation.
 - Matt Verney may speak and participate in the panel
- Agenda flow - Potential topics for employer discussion:
 - Hiring process
 - Available tools
 - Empowering TA
 - How to overcome the challenges we face in your companies hiring Senior Transitioning Military Veterans
- Ardella used the event agenda to craft a proposal but must present the project to executive sponsors and has requested a definitive list of the employers who will be invited to the event. In addition, a final employer registration list prior to the event would be needed, as well as a registration list of attending veterans.
 - Conference Room 121 will be available after 10:00 because a previously scheduled meeting will be in session. There will not be any room available for registration prior to 10:00.
 - The assigned break-out room is scheduled for event use from 12:00 to 3:00.
 - A walk-through will be scheduled for the conference room layout.
 - Valet parking will be provided for disabled attendees and veteran parking will be validated.
 - Committee members will be provided with parking passes.
 - Some Cooper executives may be present during the event.
 - Carl commented that the agenda will be distributed for input from the team on the considered event titles and requested up to 3 suggestions for topics of discussion. He would like the committee to provide feedback before the next meeting.

Jewish Family & Children's Service (JFCS)

Lois Forman, Job Bank Coordinator

- On March 21st, JFCS will hold a free workshop at the JCC from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm called “Shifting Gears, Tools for Jumpstart Your 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.
- The JFCS will hold its “Stepping Out” event on March 30, 2023 at Temple Beth El in Voorhees. The casual 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 in the social hall at the Jewish Community Center from 8:00 am to 10:00 am. An invitation will be distributed to the committee members.

Workforce Development Board

Jeffrey Swartz, Executive Director

- The WDB has been awarded a grant to fund a Summer Youth Employment Program for 50 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 worksites 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. The program information for interns and worksite prospects will be uploaded to the WDB website.
- The quarterly board meeting will be an in-person meeting at Camden County College-Blackwood on March 22, 2023, in Roosevelt Hall - Room 102. The meeting program will include committee updates and an open-mic opportunity for board members to discuss their concerns or best practices they would like to share. A “Success Story” will be provided by the One-Stop. A full breakfast will be offered at 8:30 am and the meeting will begin at 9:00 am.

ADJOURNMENT

Carl asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Jeff Swartz and seconded by Lois Forman. The motion was carried with a majority vote to the affirmative and the meeting was adjourned at 9:34 am.

NEXT MEETING

The next Abilities Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 13, 2023 at 8:30 am. The meeting will be conducted via Zoom.

Submitted by,

Debra Vaughn

Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director