

ABILITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES
THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2021 AT THE WDB OFFICE

ATTENDANCE – ABILITIES COMMITTEE

MEMBERS		10-Sep-20	8-Oct-20	10-Dec-20	14-Jan-21	11-Feb-21	11-Mar-21
Maggioncalda, Jim CHAIR	TFG Management Services	X		X	X	X	X
Abrams, Barbara	Jewish Family & Children Service of Southern NJ						
Cirii, Frank	Local Area Operations Director		X	X			
Deitz, Jeffery	Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services						
Donato, Carl	Wawa	X	X	X		x	
Forman, Lois	Bancroft	X	X	X	X	X	X
Freire, Edison	JEVS Human Services			X	X	X	X
Fugee, Antoinette	Center for Family Services						X
Hale, Dawn	The Arc of Camden County						X
Lucas, Angela	JEVS HireAbility	X	X	X	X		
Marks, Karen	Jewish Family & Children Service of Southern NJ		X	X	X		
McClintock, Monica	Rowan University	X	X	X	X	x	
Mills, Jay	NJ Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired						
Smith, Veda	Camden County Independent Living Center						
Taguwa, Denise	LWD-WDB Coord + Support						
Veneziani, Jennifer	Program Planning and Development Specialist, DVRS						
Swartz, Jeffrey S.	WDB	X	X	X	X	X	X
Varallo Kathleen	WDB	X	X	X	X	X	X

WELCOME

Jim Maggioncalda, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:35, welcomed attendees to the Zoom meeting and thanked them for attending. The Committee discussed personal COVID vaccine appointments and looking forward to meeting again in-person. They also discussed the likelihood of in-person events through the end of the year. The Committee reviewed the minutes from the meeting, February 11, 2021 and Jim asked if there were any corrections or changes. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Lois Forman, JFCS, made the first motion; Jim made the second motion. By unanimous vote to the affirmative, the minutes, Thursday, February 11, 2021 were approved.

Jim thanked Kathleen Varallo, Administrative Assistant, WDB, for securing the date of October 5th at the Camden County Boathouse for the Veterans and PTSD event. Jim also reported he spoke to Tim Galvin, Cooper University Healthcare, and he is on board to make his team available and offer programming for the event. Kathleen sent Tim an email that included minutes from the last meeting and calendar invite with the secured date. Jim noted the three choices for titles of the event listed on this meeting's agenda. He suggested the titles be sent again to the Cooper Team and Abilities Committee, and give everyone a week to respond or select their choice for the final event title. Kathleen said she will draft a "Save the Date" flyer. She said it is sometimes easier to make a decision when the title is visual on the flyer. Lois Forman, JFCS, noted that there is only one title listed that reflects the mention of Veterans and this has been Cooper's understanding of the main subject of the event. The Committee discussed the titles listed on the agenda and all agreed Veterans were the original premise for the Cooper Team committing to the event. They also agreed that current pandemic conditions have

exacerbated concerns about PTSD in the general workplace. All agreed the title should be more inclusive so it's not thought to be only about Veterans especially since the target audience will be HR Professionals. Edison Freire, JEVS Human Services, also brought up a valid concern about tagging all Veterans as having issues of PTSD. He said this may be sending an unintended message to the audience. He said everyone seems to know what PTSD is especially as it relates to the pandemic response and mental health is an issue as a society now. The issue of PTSD originated with a focus on Veterans but it has become a much wider concern. In some ways it helps how Veterans are accepted in the workplace. The Committee discussed and agreed with Edison's observations. Jim said approaches to helping Veterans with PTSD can be applied in the general workplace. He felt keeping PTSD in the title was still very important. All agreed on the title PTSD in the Workplace, Resources, Answers and Assistance. Veterans will be noted on the flyer. Lois asked if a speaker was lined up to speak about PTSD in general. Jim remembered that the Cooper Team will be providing a general overview and more will be discussed as the committee continues to plan the event with them.. Antoinette Fugee, Center for Family Services, suggested incorporating coping strategies for PTSD in the workplace. Dawn Hale, The Arc of Camden County, said strategies for addressing PTSD in the workplace with a focus on Veterans. The Committee discussed more titles and subtitles. Kathleen said there were four workshop titles discussed in prior meetings and they will be addressed on the flyer. Kathleen will create a draft and send it out to the committee. All were in favor of including the phrase, Answers, Resources and Assistance.

Jim addressed the agenda item of sponsorship. He noted that many businesses are not doing well in current economic conditions. He opened the floor for ideas about sponsorship. He said the committee will need at least \$1500.00 to underwrite the event. The Committee discussed some company names including JEVS and Bancroft who sponsored the event last year. Jeff said the county is already sponsoring the venue. He was not in favor of asking them for additional support. Jim mentioned some Veteran Organizations. The Committee also discussed some bank contacts. Edison said he would check to see if JEVS will agree to sponsor the event again this year. Antionette said her organization has a good relationship with Home Depot and they are very supportive of Veterans. She will forward the contact to the WDB.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Lois Forman, JFCS, said she would send an event flyer and Zoom link for a "Stepping In" event to the committee. The virtual awareness raising event will be hosted tonight, Thursday, March 11th. 7:30-8:30pm. It's a one hour event that is free and will share some poignant stories about some of the services offered by Jewish Family and Children Services to people in their tri-county area.

Antoinette Fugee, Center for Family Services, said referrals are welcomed. CFS just started another program for residents in Camden City. It's titled "Framing Fatherhood". The program is designed to teach parenting skills, re-build, and re-engage fathers who are involved in reentry. Participants are offered soft skills and workforce development training as well as parenting classes. The "Re-Start" program is still running for displaced homemakers in Camden along with "Re-Work", a work readiness program for those affected by the Opioid Crisis. She is also happy to share any information from the committee about Veterans or other programs.

Dawn Hale, Arc of Camden County announced her organization is growing to become an employment network that works with Social Security and the "Ticket to Work" Program. Arc was approved back in January and staff

is now going through all the training processes. The program works with individuals who wish to leave SS disability benefits behind and get back to great work opportunities. She will be providing more information in the months to come. Dawn will be inviting ARC's new Network Manager, Jessica Scott to the next Abilities meeting. She is from Hunterdon County so she will want to meet new local contacts.

Jeffrey S. Swartz, Executive Director, WDB, reported the One-Stop has been circulating information about virtual services by attending the food distribution and immunization sites around the county. He said the One-Stop is open for virtual and by-appointment services. He encouraged the committee to share links to the virtual services directory and let customers and clients know there are services and training grants available. Follow the link for more information. Camden County One-Stop Virtual Services Directory
<https://www.camdencounty.com/service/employment/job-training-placement/>

Jim thanked the committee for attending. Jeff announced, the next WDB Quarterly Board of Trustees Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 24th @ 8:30am via Zoom Conferencing. Kris Kolluri, Esq., Chief Executive Officer, Cooper's Ferry Partnership, will be the main speaker and will be speaking about the Camden Works Initiative. He encouraged anyone interested in attending to send an email to the WDB office.

NEXT MEETING

The next Abilities Committee meeting is scheduled on Thursday, April 8, at 8:30am. This meeting will be conducted via Zoom Conferencing. A notice will be sent with the link and dial-in information.

Submitted by

Kathleen Varallo

Administrative Assistant