



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, MARCH 14, 2024 (ZOOM)**

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE INFORMATION AND ATTENDANCE								
Name	Organization	Trustee Member	12-Oct-23	9-Nov-23	7-Dec-23	11-Jan-24	8-Feb-24	14-Mar-24
Askie-Rosario, Andrea	CC Commission for the Blind			X	X	X		X
Bowan, Jennifer	The Arc of Camden County					X	X	X
Cirii, Frank	Camden County One-Stop	✓	X	X		X	X	X
Donato, Carl, Chair	Wawa	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X
Forman, Lois	Jewish Family & Children's Service		X	X		X		X
Fugee, Antoinette	Cooper University Healthcare		X					X
Hoban, Colette	Lenape Regional High School Dist./Project Search				X			X
Kaur, Nimit	Camden County Health Dept.					X		
Lucas, Angela	JEVS HireAbility				X			
McClintock, Monica	Rowan University		X	X		X	X	
Page-Soncraut, Jeanne	NJDOL - Business Rep.		X	X	X		X	X
Perez, Irene	NJDVRS		X	X		X	X	
Rizzi, Stephanie	M & T Bank				X		X	
Scott, Jessica	The Arc of Camden County		X	X				
Starcher, Connie	Wawa			X				
Storm, Jeanne, Vice Chair	American Water		X	X	X		X	X
Stubbs, Andrea	Gloucester Township			X				
Tyndell, Maurice	Bestworks Industries			X				X
Weinberg, Oriol	Jewish Family & Children's Service			X				
Wikiera, Erik	Wawa			X	X			
Gutbezahl, Maayan	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

WELCOME

Carl Donato, Committee Chair, greeted the attendees. The meeting was called to order at 8:36 AM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Carl asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2024 meeting. Motion was made by Lois Forman, seconded by Antoinette Fugee. With a majority vote to the affirmative, the motion carried and the minutes for the meeting held on February 8, 2024 were approved.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Carl Donato, Chair

- Carl discussed a couple of committee goals for 2024, including ideas to generate more active participation in the committee. Members of the committee had submitted their ideas to Carl via email prior to today’s meeting. The ideas include seeking more active use of LinkedIn and other social media platforms and recruiting new members to the committee.
 - Jeanne Storm suggested that the committee needs a consistent message regarding what the committee aims to do for the population it serves.
 - Jeff Swartz suggested promoting the committees more at various job fairs and events. He reiterated that the committees need people who are passionate about serving the population that each committee pertains to.
 - Lois Forman recalled past discussions to recruit the parent of a child with a disability to give a different and richer perspective to the committee. Debra Vaughn mentioned that Andrea Stubbs was that parent in the past, but she no longer attends meetings.

- Jeanne Page-Soncrant mentioned that she herself is a parent with a child with a disability. Antoinette Fugee said that she falls into that category as well.
- Jeanne Page-Soncrant said that she has some employers in mind to join the Abilities Committee, but she wants to make sure that it would be the right person before she reaches out to them with an invitation to the meetings.
- Carl is mentoring a young man through Project Search. He is one of several interns associated with Project Search with limited abilities who work at Jefferson Hospital in Cherry Hill. This young man laid out his day for Carl as an intern during a recent meeting. One of his mentors was present at this meeting, and the mentor is a parent of a child with disabilities. Carl is waiting to hear back from him and his interest in participating in the Abilities Committee.
- Carl mentioned that one of the Project Search interns is now working full time as a greeter at Jefferson Hospital, and how gratifying it was to see someone from the program thriving.
- Collette Hoban works for the TD Bank Project Search as a skills trainer. TD Bank hired one of their Project Search interns midway through the program. On April 25th, they will be conducting a “reverse job fair” with their participants, where the interns are behind the table, and the employers come to talk to them. Jeff asked Collette to send a flyer to the WDB to circulate regarding this event, and Collette said that she would do so.
- Antoinette Fugee asked who the contact is for Project Search in Camden County. Lois Forman said that it would be Janeene Martin.
- Carl reiterated that he will draft up a message regarding what the Abilities Committee is about, send it around for approval, with the intent of it being posted on LinkedIn, in an effort to recruit the right people for the committee.

May 2nd TSHRMA Annual Conference

- Monica McClintock brought up the TSHRMA Annual Conference at the previous meeting. Carl told Monica that he will be attending the conference, representing the Abilities Committee, and that one more person should accompany him. Jeff volunteered to be there. Lois said that she will likely attend as well, separately.

May 6th Clementon Job/Resource Fair

- The event in Clementon is now called Pathways To Possibilities. This will be a youth job/community resource fair and will take place from 3:00-6:00 at the Clementon Fire Hall on May 6.
- Jeff said that Atlantic City Electric has given a cash contribution for the event, primarily for table rentals. PNC banks donated children’s activity books in English and Spanish as giveaways. Several other sponsorships for water, pretzels, etc. are still outstanding with ShopRite and Zallie’s.
- Carl said he will reach out to a contact of his through LinkedIn who helped with catering an event in the past at Cooper Hospital to see if he can help.
- Carl said he would also reach out to Wawa regional managers to donate coupons as giveaways.
- Antoinette asked about how employers go about registering for the event. Debra Vaughn said that she will reserve a table for Antoinette for Cooper to have a presence at the event. Antoinette wants to bring someone from the Talent Acquisition team with her.



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- Collette asked if she would be able to get a list of employers who have confirmed they will have a table. Debra said that she has the list, but it is not yet finalized. She will send that list to Collette.
- Antoinette also wanted the flyer to circulate internally while the flyer is being finalized. Debra confirmed that this would not be a problem.
- Jeff confirmed that Lois and Monica McClintock volunteered to provide career counseling and guidance on resume writing at the event. Lois said she was fine with that, but she also intends to represent Jewish Family Services and their resources.
- Jeff said that representatives from the One-Stop will be there as well, so they can set up appointments for customers who want additional training.
- Debra listed the resources that have confirmed they will be attending: The WDB, Board of Social Services, One-Stop, Volunteer Up, Camden County Technical Schools, Arc of Camden County (waiting on their response), Irene Perez from DVRS, Hopeworks, Truist Bank, Building Bridges to Family Success Center, CPAC, Diggerland, Adventure Aquarium, the Funplex, Adidas at the Gloucester outlets, CamCare, Camden County Dept. of Corrections, Cooper Hospital, Wonderful Citrus (waiting on their response), United Methodist Communities. In addition, we are awaiting responses from Goodwill, Fathers Read 365, the Hispanic Family Center, Camden County College, Wawa, Shoprite, South Jersey Glass and Door, Big Kahuna, Clementon Park, Center For Healing Arts, and DFX.
- Andrea Askie-Rosario asked to add the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired to the list.
- Jennifer Bowen confirmed that Arc of Camden will be there.
- Lois offered to put the flyers into food deliveries that Jewish Family Services conducts in the community.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Jennifer Bowen, Arc of Camden

- As a part of Project Search for Washington Township, Arc of Camden is planning its graduation and end of year items.

Antoinette Fugee, Cooper Hospital

- Cooper has brought back Bring Your Child to Work Day, which was suspended during the Covid19 pandemic. This will take place on April 25th.

Lois Forman, Jewish Family and Children's Services

- Jewish Family and Children's Services is having their Stepping Out fundraising event on April 11th at Congregation Beth El in Voorhees. The flyer has been posted on the WDB website, as well as JFCS's website.
- On May 10th, there will be a vocational breakfast for JFCS's supported employment clients who have been successfully employed. The employers and employees will be recognized for their work. Location is TBD. It will be 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM. Lois will send out the flyer for this event as well.
- The Soups and Sweets culinary training program is going well, and they will be looking for new participants in April.

Jeanne Storm, American Water

- American Water has also been working with Project Search in Gloucester County. Participants will be put through a simulation of what an applicant would do to apply at American Water, step by step. This will take place in April.

Frank Cirii, One-Stop

- May 17th the One-Stop will sponsor a Job Fair at the Cherry Hill Mall.
- The One-Stop GED testing is averaging 45 people/per month. Over 90% are getting their high school diplomas.
- Bridget from the WDB has gotten a new RFP out for the One-Stop's Work Experience Program. The new clothing program with the Father Center will commence within the first quarter (3-6 months). The Father Center is a new vendor for the One-Stop.
- Participation in the Work First population is on the rise. There were 84 referrals last month for the G-Jobs program, and 22 have been retained. This is historically a high retention rate.
- In the next 2-3 weeks, the One-Stop will be launching a new outreach program through social media ads, Patco ads, a bilingual radio ad for a Spanish speaking radio station in Camden, and others.

Maurice Tyndell, Bestworks

- Bestworks has recently started a documents scanning/imaging line, completely run by the blind and visually impaired. Jeanne asked for a document with that information to share with her colleagues and Maurice agreed to send that to her.

Andrea Askie-Rosario, CC Commission for the Blind

- The Commission for the Blind has been working on their Job Club, which is intended to help job seekers get ready for their job search.
- The Commission for the Blind is also planning a Dining in the Dark event, where employers will be blindfolded during a meal to give them an idea of what the experience of being blind is like. It will include a blindness etiquette training and debriefing at the end.

Jeanne Page-Soncrant, NJDOL

- Business Services have been busy, averaging about three recruitments a month and attending local job fairs.
- A new on the job training writer has been hired to be dedicated solely to Camden County. This person started her position last week.

Jeff Swartz, WDB

- The WDB has applied once again for the Summer Youth Work Experience Program and is waiting to hear back from the State that the application has been accepted.



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- Partners in the WDB's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and IFA are sending in their signature pages, which are required to send to the State at the end of the month.
- Bids for the One-Stop Operator Procurement have been coming in and are due at the end of March.
- The WDB is also working on their own certification with the State.
- The One-Stop certification is also being worked on, which goes with the WDB certification.
- Felix James, the Executive Director of the Camden Center For Youth Development and founder of the Restorative & Transformative Justice HUB will be the guest speaker for the upcoming Quarterly Board meeting on March 20th.

ADJOURNMENT

Carl asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Lois and seconded by Antoinette. The motion was carried with a majority vote to the affirmative and the meeting was adjourned at 9:41AM.

NEXT MEETING

The next Abilities Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 8:30 AM. The meeting will be conducted via Zoom.

Submitted by,

Maayan Gutbezahl, Committee Coordinator