



**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, MAY 9, 2024 (ZOOM)**

**ATTENDANCE**

COMMITTEE INFORMATION AND ATTENDANCE								
Name	Organization	Trustee Member	7-Dec-23	11-Jan-24	8-Feb-24	14-Mar-24	11-Apr-24	9-May-24
Askie-Rosario, Andrea	CC Commission for the Blind		X	X		X		
Aston, Arthur	Build Jake's Place						X	
Bowan, Jennifer	The Arc of Camden County			X	X	X		
Cirii, Frank	Camden County One-Stop	✓		X	X	X	X	X
<b>Donato, Carl, Chair</b>	Wawa	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X
Forman, Lois	Jewish Family & Children's Service			X		X		X
Fugee, Antoinette	Cooper University Healthcare					X		X
Hoban, Colette	Lenape Regional High School Dist./Project Search		X			X	X	
Kaur, Nimit	Camden County Health Dept.			X				
Lavarin, Esther	CC Commission for the Blind						X	
Lucas, Angela	JEVS HireAbility		X					
McClintock, Monica	Rowan University			X	X		X	X
Page-Soncrant, Jeanne	NJDOL - Business Rep.		X		X	X	X	X
Perez, Irene	NJDVRS			X	X		X	X
Rizzi, Stephanie	M & T Bank		X		X			
Storm, Jeanne, Vice Chair	American Water		X		X	X	X	
Stubbs, Andrea	Gloucester Township							
Tyndell, Maurice	Bestworks Industries					X	X	
Weinberg, Oriel	Jewish Family & Children's Service							X
Wikiera, Erik	Wawa		X					
Gutbezah, Maayan	WDB Staff		X	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, WDB Chair, greeted the attendees and called the meeting to order at 8:35 AM.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Carl asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2024 meeting. Motion was made Irene Perez, seconded by Jeanne Storm. With a majority vote to the affirmative, the motion carried and the minutes for the meeting held on April 11, 2024 were approved.

**COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

Jeff Swartz

- The Pathways To Possibilities event on May 6<sup>th</sup> exceeded expectations. Well over 100 young people and some parents attended. There was a steady stream of visitors throughout the event. The room offered services of resource agencies, technical education, and employment opportunities. There were visitors who were hired during the event.
  - Snacks and refreshments were donated by the Wawa Foundation (pretzels) and M&T Bank (water).
  - PNC Bank donated bilingual activity books for children.
  - Frank noted that he and Jyi attended the event and that they received some referrals for services at the One Stop.
  - Lois commented it was good to see parents at the event and there were a number of special education students attending the event.
- Jeff thanked Clementon Councilman, Chris McKelvey, Heidi Daunoras and Jeanne Page-Soncrant for promoting the event through email blasts, Lois Forman and Monica McClintock for providing resumé



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assistance, and all of the vendors who participated in the event. He noted that 3 trustees from the Clementon Library attended the event and an additional 5 or 6 new volunteers signed up that afternoon.

- Chris mentioned that he met with Clementon's mayor and they have budgeted funds for a stipend to pay for equipment and basic tools for the library.
- The WDB has a standing invitation to use Clementon Fire Hall for events.
- Michael Willman suggested a volunteer to provide resumé assistance services at Clementon Library. Marlyn suggested that a resume writing workshop could be helpful and said the suggestions would be made to the trustees.

**COMMITTEE UPDATES**

Carl announced that he and his wife will be planning an event for International Overdose Awareness Day on August 31<sup>st</sup>. Frank noted that the County has an addiction awareness task force and is very committed to the issue of addiction. There is a monument where an annual event is held (The Camden County Remembrance and Hope Memorial at Timber Creek Park in Gloucester Township). One-Stop staff member, Patty DiRenzo is a member of the Addiction Awareness Task Force.

Lois Forman, Jewish Family and Children's Services

- The JFCS Family Assistance Program is considering hosting another workshop, possibly for the 55+ population.
  - Lois thanked everyone for being great partners that she can share resources with whenever possible.

Antoinette Fugee, Cooper University Healthcare

- Cooper is working with 7 students (age 18) from Brimm Medical Arts Academy. The students completed their didactic education at RCSJ and are now completing their clinical rotations for the Patient Care Tech Program and will receive their certifications at graduation. If they meet all of the requirements and sit for their NHA certification exam, they will be eligible for employment at Cooper Hospital. Cooper expects to work with Kipp and Mastery High Schools in a different format next year.
- In addition to the Patient Care Tech Program, the hospital is striving to create training opportunities for employees that provide pathways to professional growth within their healthcare system.

Frank Cirii, Local Area Director, Camden County One-Stop

- On Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, the One-Stop will be a gold sponsor for a job fair in the atrium at the Cherry Hill Mall from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.
- The One-Stop outreach program will be ongoing over the next 2 months through print media, social media ads, PATCO ads, a bilingual radio ad for a Spanish speaking radio station in Camden, and others.
- NJDOL is currently conducting its annual audit of the One-Stop, which appears to be going smoothly.
- The One-Stop GED testing center is averaging 45 people per month. Approximately 35 to 40 people per month have received their high school diploma since September.

Irene Perez, NJDOL DVRS

- DVRS will hold a targeted hiring event on June 12<sup>th</sup> for federal contractors who will hire people with disabilities. The event will be in Edison NJ (Middlesex County) for statewide job opportunities. The flyer will be circulated when it is completed.
- Employers are being recruited to participate as vendors for 100% DVRS paid internships. There are currently five employers participating as vendors, including The South Jersey Food Bank in Pennsauken. Interested entities can be registered as vendors to participate in the program.
  - The internships can be up to 40 hours per week for 6-8 weeks.



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- Irene welcomed referrals to DVR for people with disabilities so they may participate in the internship program.
- Jeanne Page Soncrant suggested the WDB connect the eligible Summer Youth Work Experience applicants who do not make it into the 50 available slots to the DVR for possible placement in an internship.

Jeanne Page-Soncrant, NJDOL

- Jeanne has been working on a major Business Services initiative for the reentry workforce. In a meeting with employers and county partners yesterday, including the Probation Dept., Jeanne commented they talked about a number of issues around reentry, but first and foremost, was to try to remove the scarlet letters of ex-offender and even reentry. The term they will try to use going forward is justice-involved or justice-impacted.
- NJDOL Business Services, in partnership with Camden County College, will host an event on June 14<sup>th</sup> at Rutgers Camden, from 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM. The event will be a community job fair and resources event. Resource agencies for people with disabilities and mental health issues will be also invited to participate in the event since they make up a large number of the justice-impacted population.

Monica McClintock, Rowan University/Tri-State HRMA

- Rutgers and Rowan have closed out the semester and graduations have started.
- Approximately 275 people attended the Tri-State HRMA Annual Conference.
- The final dinner meeting for the business year will be held on June 6<sup>th</sup> at the Westin Hotel/Mt. Laurel from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM. Several members of the National Speakers Association will attend and contribute to the meeting with talks on speaking skills. One topic of discussion will be “Polished Professional Speaking Skills to Elevate Your Career.” Anyone who is interested in attending can register at [tristatehr.org](http://tristatehr.org).
- A virtual diversity, equity and inclusion lecture, “Leading with Cultural Competency and Humanity,” will take place on June 11<sup>th</sup>, from noon to 1:00 PM. The featured speaker will be Dr. June DePonte Sernak.
- Tri-State will hold its summer social/mixer at Kaminski’s in Cherry Hill on June 17<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM.
- Monica mentioned that she volunteers at the South Jersey Food Bank and the organization would be a great place for a summer intern to work (The SJ Food Bank did not submit a work-learn site agreement this year).

Jeffrey S. Swartz, Executive Director, Camden County Workforce Development Board

- The WDB received over 120 applications for the Summer Youth Work Experience Program (formerly the Summer Youth Employment Program) for 50 internship slots. The applicants are now in the interview phase to pare the number down to fill the available positions.
- Jeff commented that he will participate in the Work Group’s Community Day in Pennsauken on May 17<sup>th</sup>.
- The quarterly meeting will be in-person at Camden County College, held on Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> because of the Juneteenth holiday. Breakfast will be served. Suggestions are welcome for a Success Story or guest speaker. A quorum is needed to conduct WDB business. Board members are asked to rsvp as soon as possible

**ADJOURNMENT**

Carl asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Antoinette Fugee and seconded by Monica McClintock. The motion carried with a majority vote to the affirmative and the meeting was adjourned at

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9:23 AM.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next Abilities Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 13, 2024 at 8:30 AM. The meeting will be held in person at the Workforce Development Board office in Cherry Hill.

Submitted by,

Debra Vaughn

Assistant to the Executive Director