



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, JUNE 13, 2024 (IN-PERSON)
1111 MARLKRESS RD. STE. 101
CHERRY HILL, NJ 08003**

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE INFORMATION AND ATTENDANCE								
Name	Organization	Trustee Member	11-Jan-24	8-Feb-24	14-Mar-24	11-Apr-24	9-May-24	13-Jun-24
Donato, Carl, Chair	An Affair To Remember	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X
Askie-Rosario, Andrea	CC Commission for the Blind		X		X			X
Aston, Arthur	Build Jake's Place					X		X
Bowan, Jennifer	The Arc of Camden County		X	X	X			
Cirii, Frank	Camden County One-Stop	✓	X	X	X	X	X	
Forman, Lois	Jewish Family & Children's Service		X		X		X	
Fugee, Antoinette	Cooper University Healthcare				X		X	X
Hoban, Colette	Lenape Regional High School Dist./Project Search				X	X		
Kaur, Nimit	Camden County Health Dept.		X					
Lavarin, Esther	CC Commission for the Blind					X		
McClintock, Monica	Rowan University		X	X		X	X	
Page-Soncraant, Jeanne	NJDOL - Business Rep.			X	X	X	X	
Perez, Irene	NJDVRS		X	X		X	X	
Quigley, Kimberly	St. John of God Community Services							X
Quinones, Cris	Wawa							
Rizzi, Stephanie	M & T Bank			X				
Starcher, Connie	Wawa							
Storm, Jeanne, Vice Chair	American Water			X	X	X		
Tyndell, Maurice	Bestworks Industries				X	X		
Weinberg, Oriel	Jewish Family & Children's Service						X	
Wikiera, Erik	Wawa							
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	X

WELCOME

Carl Donato, WDB Chair, greeted the attendees and called the meeting to order at 8:47 AM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Carl asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2024 meeting. Motion was made by Antoinette Fugee, seconded by Kimberly Quigley. With a majority vote to the affirmative, the motion carried and the minutes for the meeting held on May 9, 2024 were approved.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

The goal of the committee is to bring awareness to employers of the positive aspects of hiring people who have physical and intellectual challenges and create employment opportunities for them.

- National Night Out is August 6th. WDB staff will be attending several community events and committee members are welcome to attend or provide materials for distribution.
- Funding for apprenticeships and incumbent worker training is available to employers to hire and upskill their employers.
- The Center for Independent Living, which serves Camden and Gloucester Counties, is relocating into Camden County on July 1st. The facility is moving from Westville to Blackwood.
- October is National Disability Awareness/National Disability Employment Awareness Month. American Water started making plans to hold an event but the details are not finalized. As events are publicized, the WDB staff and committees can decide which events to support.



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- Adding individuals with intellectual or physical disabilities to the committee would add an authentic perspective to discussions about services needed.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Antoinette Fugee, Cooper University Healthcare

- Cooper Hospital continues to strive for improvement as an inclusive workplace. Antoinette commented that she has found that individuals, particularly youth, do not self-identify and will not communicate that they are neuro-divergent or have challenges that are not physically apparent. She is looking for recommendations for training tools for leadership upskilling and development.
 - Maayan provided the Adaptability in the Workplace and Emotional Intelligence modules from the WDB work-readiness training materials.
 - It was suggested Antoinette contact The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities/Rutgers University, which has archived resources available there.

Jennifer Bowen, ARC of Camden County

- The Project Search graduation ceremony took place last night.
- Benefits counseling service is being expanded to every county throughout the State.

Andrea Askie-Rosario, Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired

- For National Disability Awareness Month, a “Dining in the Dark” event will be held on October 24th at The Joseph Kohn Training Center in New Brunswick. Additional details will be provided when they are finalized.
- The justice-impacted employment and resource event scheduled at Rutgers on June 14th has been moved to Camden County College’s technology center at 601 Cooper Street in Camden. There will be 30 employers and 10 resource tables in attendance.

Kimberly Quigley, St. John of God Community Services

- The agency, with an office in Cherry Hill, is expected to become a pilot program with the State for a new DVR service called “Career Pathway Evaluation.”
- Community-based work evaluation service will be expanded to 3 sites from Wendy’s, with the addition of Animal Welfare Association in Voorhees and Grocery Outlet in Sicklerville.

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

- The quarterly meeting will be in-person at Camden County College, held on Tuesday, June 18th. Breakfast will be served. Board members are asked to RSVP as soon as possible, as WDB business matters, including elections of WDB Chairman, Vice-Chair and Treasurer, will be on the agenda.
 - Kristi Connors, NJDOL Employment Services Manager, will provide a presentation which demonstrates how customer check-in data is collected and used at the One-Stop.

ADJOURNMENT

Carl asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Kimberly Quigley and seconded by Antoinette Fugee. The motion carried with a majority vote to the affirmative and the meeting was adjourned at 10:02 AM.

NEXT MEETING

The Abilities Committee will recess in July. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, August 8, 2024 at 8:30 AM on Zoom.

Submitted by,

Debra Vaughn, Assistant to the Executive Director