



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Supporting the Development and Retention of a World Class Workforce

Jeffrey S. Swartz, Executive Director

Matthew Verney, Chair

**BUSINESS SERVICES AND OUTREACH TEAM MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2023, 2:00 PM (ZOOM CONFERENCING)
1111 MARLKRESS ROAD, SUITE 101, CHERRY HILL, NJ 08003**

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE INFORMATION AND ATTENDANCE								
Name	Organization	Trustee Member	19-Jan-23	16-Feb-23	16-Mar-23	20-Apr-23	18-May-23	15-Jun-23
Thompson Ryan	Truist Bank, BSOT Chair			X	X	X		
Askie-Rosario, Andrea	CC Commission of the Blind						X	X
Baer, Jessika	NJ DOL					X		
Cirii, Frank	CCOSCC	X		X		X	X	
Davis, Gerald	CCOSCC		X				X	X
Davis, Taylor	KIPP New Jersey		X	X	X	X		
Deitz, Jeff	DVRS					X		X
Farrar, Gary	Transportation				X			
Field, Nicole	NJDOL							X
Forman, Lois	Jewish Family & Children's Service		X	X				
Fugee, Antoinette	Cooper					X		X
Gaskins, Melanie	Camden County College							
Laguna, Connie	Truist Bank				X			
Leonetti, Mike	CCOSCC			X	X			
Lex, Jim	Camden County Improvement Authority				X			
McCormick, Carol	Camden County College		X	X	X		X	X
Moen, Bill	Camden County College		X		X	X		
O'Hara, Ricky	DOL, Veterans		X	X	X			
Page-Soncrant, Jeanne	NJ DOL, Business Rep.		X		X	X	X	
Perez, Irene	DVRS		X					X
Quinores, Cris	WAWA							
Regensburger, Robert	Lockheed Martin	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Shafer, Derena	Camden County College		X		X		X	X
Spector, David	NJDOL		X	X			X	
Urkowitz, Ronda	Cross County Connection TMA							
Weil, Robert	Connor, Strong, and Bucklew	X		X	X		X	X
Yares, Yoni			X					
Henderson, Bridget	WDB							
Levitt, Alex	WDB		X	X	X	X	X	X
Swartz, Jeffrey S.	WDB		X	X	X	X		X
Vaughn, Debra	WDB			X	X	X	X	X
Williams, Leslie	WDB							

WELCOME

Ryan Thompson, Chair, opened the meeting at 2:00 pm, and greeted the members and guests. She welcomed Carl Donato, WDB Chair, to the meeting. Carl introduced himself to the meeting attendees.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Ryan asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 15, 2023 meeting. Motion was made by Jeff Swartz and seconded by Darena Shafer. By a majority vote to the affirmative, the minutes for the June 15, 2023 meeting were approved. Ryan asked attendees to introduce themselves.

Camden County One-Stop

No update provided

Committee Member Updates

Jeffery Deitz, DVRS

Jeff explained that DVRS helps people with disabilities and also has a transition program for students. Staffing is currently approximately three-quarters filled with counselors, and there are positions open for counselors and secretaries. Job fairs are attended as part of the DVR's outreach. Jeff commented that he would like to host a resumé workshop, with Irene's assistance, for some of the veterans who attended the Abilities Committee's event on June 8th. The proposed job fair will focus on federal resumé and applications and Irene's expertise in those areas would be valuable.

Irene Perez, DVRS

Irene stated that she oversees five offices, including Cherry Hill. DVR counselors refer clients to her who have college degrees, advanced degrees and a lot of specialized experience and are qualified for federal and state employment. Irene assists these clients with creating a federal resumé, a DVR counselor completes their Schedule A letter and then Irene assists the prepared client with federal and state employment applications. DVR offers assistance for in-house recruitment with employers such as Social Security, the IRS, and the US Mint. Employers can also come to the DVR office to recruit.

- Flyers have been distributed for a targeted hiring event June 28th at the Job Corps in Edison, NJ. The event is both in-person and virtual. The target audience for the upcoming job fair are veterans, DevOps, all DVR's and the Commission for the Blind. While the job fair is not located in the Camden County, there are employers attending with opportunities in the Camden County area, such as Loomis. Loomis is seeking cash teller and guards to transport and count money.
- DVR is currently trying to promote its paid internship to employers. Interested candidates would meet with their DVR counselor who would provide a referral and a vetted employer would offer a qualified candidate a six-to-eight-week internship, paid 100% by DVR. This internship would serve to enhance the resumé of the candidates who may have gaps in their employment, while improving their soft skills to get back into the workforce.

TRANSPORTATION

Jeff commented that transportation accessibility is a long-standing issue in Camden County and the previous BSOT Chair, Bob Weil, wants this item to remain on the committee's agenda. Recently, the Camden Community Partnership (formerly known as Coopers Ferry) in Camden, has been working with a transportation provider to bring individuals from the city neighborhoods to jobs that are located only in the City of Camden. Jeff stated that he has asked Brian Bauerle and Quinton Law from Camden Community Partnership to attend a committee meeting, which they have agreed to do, after the contract has been finalized with the transportation vendor. The vendor's van will pick up Camden residents at a designated spot and transport them to designated areas where the jobs are in other areas of the city. Jeff suggested that Bob's idea was to expand transportation services for city residents to get them to jobs in suburban areas, particularly where the industrial and commercial parks are. Bob responded that opportunities are still being sought to provide transportation for city youth to jobs in the suburbs like ShopRite and others and that Ryan is working on this with some of her contacts. Jeff commented that transportation will stay on the BSOT agenda, as it remains one of the top two barriers to gaining employment that many of our customers struggle with, the other being childcare.

Jeffrey Swartz, Regional Updates/WDB

- Atlantic City Electric (ACE) Program – the WDB is assisting ACE with their summer “SPARK,” which is an internship for young people, as well as an externship for teachers that want to participate in the program. ACE identified the companies and the WDB referred some young people from the applicants to its own summer youth employment program.
- The WDB's summer youth employment program will start June 26th. There are 50 intern slots for approximately 26 employers. The first week will be work-readiness training. Volunteers will deliver the provided curriculum to prepare the interns to work. Weeks 2 through 7, the interns will work at their assigned work-learn sites in the city, as well as the southern part of the county. Effort was made to assign the interns with consideration to transportation access to their work sites.

- Garden State Employment and Training Association (GSETA) will be having its annual conference on October 18th & 19th at the Hard Rock Hotel in Atlantic City. Registration can be done online at www.gseta.org (follow the prompts for the conference registration). The event offers national and regional presenters, during two full days of workforce learning and networking opportunities.
- Bi-weekly meetings with Camden Works continue. They continue to provide Camden residents with jobs in the city. As previously discussed, they are working on the transportation initiative to provide “curb to curb” transportation for residents to get to their jobs throughout the city.

Carol McCormack, Camden County College (CCC)

- Information sessions will be held on July 12th and August 14th for a manufacturing boot camp that will start on August 31st. The bootcamp is available for high school graduates, incumbent and dislocated workers.
- Through its NJSIAA Basic Skills Grant, CCC offers free training classes for private sector New Jersey employers. Among the training offered is all the Microsoft Office classes, Supervisory Customer Service, and Leadership, Time Management and Project Management, to name a few. The dedicated classes for employers for minimum of 10 people are available at the employer’s site, at CCC or virtually. Open enrollment classes are offered during the weekdays from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm for people to attend classes with people from other employers.

Andrea Askie-Rosario, DHS/NJ Commission for the Blind & Visually Impaired

- The NJ Commission for the Blind & Visually Impaired recently attended the Civil Service’s second job fair. It was a successful, well-attended event and they will host another job fair at an undetermined date this summer.

Nicole Field, NJDOL/Office of Apprenticeship

- Nicole stated that she has been in contact with Jack O’Byrne regarding the Camden Shipyard Museum starting an apprenticeship program. They appear to be starting off with great recruitment, working with a couple nonprofit organizations and employer partners, with funding coming through various organizations. If there is some type of signing ceremony, Nicole will share it with the committee.
- Nicole started the first teacher apprenticeship program in the State of New Jersey out of Camden City. The program will be run through “Camden U,” which is a nonprofit organization that works with various school districts in the State (from Newark, Trenton and south to Cumberland County). There will be a signing ceremony at Camden City Hall on July 6th. Nicole will share the information when the guest list is finalized.

Antoinette Fugee, Cooper University Hospital/Workforce Development

- Antoinette announced Cooper will be launching its first IT apprenticeship in partnership with Camden Dream Center and Keith Davis. The process of putting the program together started in December and it will be launching in June. She commented that the first apprentice will hopefully be on board at the beginning of July.
- Camden Community Partners(CCP) and Camden Works were awarded a grant for a youth employment internship program. Instead of doing an internship program, Antoinette and Quinton Law(CCP) worked together to launch a critical care tech training program on June 26th that will educate, train and hopefully place 5 to 12 students to be trained for phlebotomy and EKG through Cooper and qualifying them to be certified in both. These students will be also simultaneously receiving Workforce Readiness Programming. An outside vendor has been contracted to provide students with professional development training on the days that they are not training with Cooper. They will be trained to take the patient care tech certification test through the National Hospital Association(NHA) and hopefully gain employment at Cooper.
- In conjunction with Tom Levy, from the Camden school district, Cooper is working with Brim Medical Academy. Cooper has partnered with Rowan College of South Jersey and will be hosting the clinical side of their patient care tech program that Rowan will offer in September. To qualify for this program, students must be 18 years of age as of December 1, 2023. Curriculum training will take place from September to

December and then all students who are qualified will go right to Cooper and complete their clinical training starting in January, 2024. This program is timely because Cooper is in desperate need of critical care techs and the qualified candidates would fill its hiring gap. Successful critical care techs will have a steppingstone into nursing. As a critical care tech, a high school graduate can start at \$16.00 an hour in the hospital, qualify for tuition assistance and continue into nursing in no more than two years.

- Nicole asked Antoinette if the IT apprenticeship is registered through the US or NJ DOL. She stated that the program must be required to be federally recognized before it can be recognized by the State of NJ, and she would like to discuss it further with Antoinette. Jeff commented that the Dream Center did receive a US DOL grant, and Antoinette clarified that Cooper will be the employer working in partnership with the Dream Center. Nicole noted that the Rowan patient care tech program has already been federally recognized and the students would be earning a credential from the US DOL as well.

55+/Gerald Davis

- Gerald stated that he covers seven counties for 55+ but in Camden and Gloucester alone, there are 74 senior participants seeking employment in good locations. The 55+ program puts senior individuals into non-profit host agencies, where candidates can experience productivity, training and preparation for getting back into workforce, while 55+ is looking for employment for them based on their skill sets.
- Starting on Monday, one person will be assisting Jeff at DVR on a regular basis. Two people will work at the One-Stop front desk, providing navigation assistance for Kristi and ES staff or BSS counselors,

Bob Weil, Connor, Strong & Buckelew

There are jobs available at Connor Strong and Buckelew, which can be found on the company's website.

Bob Regensburger, Lockheed Martin

- Lockheed Martin was recently awarded a follow-on contract for one of their major franchise efforts at the Moorestown site.
- There is still a great demand for engineers and other STEM-related professionals. Lockheed-Martin has operations located in Moorestown, Camden and the King of Prussia/Valley Forge PA areas. Open positions are listed by location on the company's website.

Jeffrey Swartz, Workforce Development Board

- The Quarterly Board Meeting will be held on June 21, 2024 via Zoom at 8:30 am. A quorum is needed to settle important items on the agenda, so board members are asked to confirm attendance.
 - Among the items on the agenda for the Quarter Board Meeting in June are officer elections and a Success Story from the One-Stop.
 - The guest speaker will be Samantha Pfeiffer, Executive Director of GSETA. She will speak about the upcoming conference and GSETA's statewide and national activities.
 - Camden Community Partnership will be invited to the next BSOT meeting to provide an update on the roll-out of the transportation program for city residents

THE NEXT MEETING

The next Business Services and Outreach Team meeting is scheduled on Thursday, July 20, 2024, at 2:00 pm via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT

Jeff asked for the motion to adjourn. Bob Weil made the motion, seconded by Irene Perez. By majority vote to the affirmative, the motion was carried, and the meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.

SUBMITTED BY:

Debra Vaughn
Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director