

**ABILITIES COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2023 (ZOOM)**

**ATTENDANCE**

COMMITTEE INFORMATION AND ATTENDANCE								
Name	Organization	Trustee Member	9-Feb-23	16-Mar-23	13-Apr-23	11-May-23	13-Jul-23	
Askie-Rosario, Andrea	CC Commission for the Blind					X	X	
Cirii, Frank	Camden County One-Stop	✓	X					
Coleman, Ardella	Cooper University Healthcare			X		X		
Deitz, Jeffery	Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services	✓						
<b>Donato, Carl, Chair</b>	Wawa	✓	X	X	X	X	X	
Forman, Lois	Jewish Family & Children's Service		X	X	X		X	
Freire, Edison	JEVS Human Services			X	X		X	
Fugee, Antoinette	Cooper University Healthcare				X		X	
Galvin, Tim	Cooper University Healthcare							
Lucas, Angela	JEVS HireAbility							
Marks, Karen	Jewish Family & Children Service of Southern NJ							
McClintock, Monica	Rowan University			X	X	X	X	
Metzger, Francess	Cooper University Healthcare			X				
Quinones, Cris	Wawa					X		
Scott, Jessica	The Arc of Camden County			X	X	X	X	
Spinelli, Allison	Gloucester County			X	X	X	X	
Weinberg, Oriel	Jewish Family & Children's Service		X	X			X	
Henderson, Bridget	WDB Staff							
Levitt, Alex	WDB Staff		X	X	X	X	X	
Swartz, Jeffrey S.	WDB Staff		X	X	X	X	X	
Vaughn, Debra	WDB Staff		X	X	X	X	X	
Williams, Leslie	WDB Staff					X		

**WELCOME**

Carl Donato, Committee Chair, greeted the attendees and the meeting was called to order at 8:34 am.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Carl asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 11, 2023, meeting. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Antoinette Fugee, seconded by Jeffrey Swartz. The motion carried, with a majority vote to the affirmative and the minutes for May 11, 2023, were approved.

**Discussion – Veterans Hiring & Resources Event**

Carl Donato, Committee Chair

- Carl commented on the June 8<sup>th</sup> event at Cooper Hospital that, while there were complaints about parking, the overall feedback on the event was positive.
  - Jeff acknowledged Cooper Hospital for their generosity for providing space for the event. He commented that Carl secured great speakers and he very pleased with the event. He commented that the conference center staff was very accommodating and did a great job, and overall, it was a great event.
  - Antoinette Fugee stated the Cooper Hospital VP's were very pleased with the turnout and the program and are excited to make it an annual event. She commented that adjustments and ideas would be implemented to improve the event.
  - Jeanne Page-Soncrant added that one veteran mentioned they had an in-person interview with a second one scheduled with an employer, and another veteran called to inquire about DVR services and was provided with information.

- Lois Forman commented that she received a follow up call with a veteran, who shared his resume. She shared it with two employers that did not attend the event but does not know the outcome.
- Monica McClintock noted that one veteran, whose resume she worked on, did reach out to tell her that he gained employment.
- Jeff thanked Carl and Wawa for providing lunch for the event. Carl commented that the leftover lunches were given to veterans working in the hospital.
- In response to questions posed about attendance and feedback on the June 8<sup>th</sup> event, a Google Forms survey was shared. Of 14 employers who attended the event, only 4 completed the survey. Of 27 veterans registered, 12 attended.

Survey Question	Response
Date and time of event	1 – Poor, 3 – Excellent
Parking Arrangements	2 – Good, 1 – Very Good, 1 – Excellent
Registration Process	4 – Excellent
Workshop Information Packet	1 – Very Good, 3 – Excellent
Content and Format of Veteran Resumés	3 – Good, 1 – Excellent
Veterans - Communication Skills, Enthusiasm, Professionalism	3 – Good, 1 – Excellent
Professionalism of Staff	1 – Good, 1 – Very Good, 2 – Excellent
Event Rating Overall	3 – Very Good, 5 – Excellent
How Many Veterans Did You Meet?	Two employers met 1, Two employers met 2
Did You Meet Any Veteran You Intend to Hire?	Emp 1 – NO, Emp 2 – NO, Emp 3 – 2 Vets, Emp 4 – If they want job, absolutely
Would You Consider Returning to This Event Next Year?	YES (4)
Comments and Suggestions About This Event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The workshop before meeting the Veterans was very informative. Take home info great!</li> <li>○ Host the event earlier in the day to address parking and potential afternoon traffic.</li> </ul>

- Carl acknowledged Kerry Will, the Conference Center Coordinator, for her assistance during the event.
- Carl commented that the events going forward should be inclusive of people with limited abilities and veterans.

Summer Youth Employment Program

Alex Levitt

- Work-Readiness training went very well for the SYEP interns. Some of the interns have already expressed how pleased they are with their work-learn assignments.
- Jill Roth-Gutman has stepped into the role of Youth Committee Vice Chair.
- The Youth Sub-committee will meet in late July to establish dates for focus group events.
- Alex announced that his title has been changed to Committee Coordinator as of July 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Jewish Family & Children's Service (JFCS)

Lois Forman, Job Bank Coordinator

- JFCS will hold a backpack giveaway on Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup> at the food pantry. People are being asked to reach out to the JFCS prior to their visit to determine if there is a need for food as well. The flyer for the event will be shared for posting as soon as it is finalized.

### Cooper University Health Care

Antoinette Fugee, Workforce Development Consultant

- Cooper Hospital has partnered with CCP and CamdenWorks' youth program to host a critical care tech internship/externship. Of 15 young people interviewed, there are 6 viable candidates in the 12-week program who will be hired by Cooper with successful completion. The program is open to newly graduated high school students in Camden.
- In conjunction with Camden Dream Center, Cooper Hospital will offer its first IT tech internship program. Currently in the final interviewing stage, a candidate will be selected by August 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Cooper Hospital has partnered with Brimm Academy and Rowan College of South Jersey for Critical Care Tech training. The college will provide a trainer from the college to teach the curriculum from September to December. With successful completion of their course work, the students will begin their clinical studies at Cooper Hospital in January, 2024. The objective of the program is to provide options and pathways for healthcare careers to members of the Camden community who do not have the funding.

### NJ DOL/Business Services

Jeanne Page-Soncrant, Business Representative

- The business representatives were assigned a project related to working papers since the administration of working papers was transferred from the Department of Education to the Department of Labor in late May. The process of obtaining working papers for youth is now done online.
- Jeanne has been training Ricky O'Hara's replacement as the new Veterans Business Representative. She noted that the new hire has previously worked at the DOL in another veteran services role.

### Rowan University/Tri-State HRMA

Monica McClintock, Adjunct Professor

- Tri-State held its informal summer mixer on July 11<sup>th</sup>, with approximately 70 people in attendance.
- An annual event, "HR Strategies for Non-Profit Organizations, will be held on July 27<sup>th</sup> at RCSJ/Gloucester from 8:00am to 3:30pm. The \$35 admission fee includes lunch, presentations by several speakers and a set of books. Among the topics of discussion will be AI and ChatGPT for HR, inclusion, retention, creativity during change and a legal update on family and disability leaves.
- In August, Tri-State HRMA will meet to begin planning for the upcoming year.

### Arc of Camden County

Jessica Scott, Director, Employment Services

- The first year of Project Search at Jefferson Hospital has closed. A signing event will be held for 7 incoming participants in the internship program.
- On October 13<sup>th</sup>, there will be two events:
  - NJ APSE (Assoc of People Supporting Employment) will hold an event called "Facing the Future" at the Hyatt in New Brunswick, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm.
  - The Arc of Camden County will hold its first annual "Night of Chance" (a casino night) at the Collingswood Grand Ballroom on October 13<sup>th</sup>. Arc is seeking sponsors and participants for the event.

Rowan College South Jersey (RCSJ)

Allison Spinelli

RCSJ will host an Abilities Job Fair on Thursday July 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am on the Gloucester campus in the gymnasium. Flyers for the event will be shared with the committee.

JEVS

Edison Freire

- Edison stated that he has been assisting his family and will be stepping away from work.
- At the next meeting, information will be provided about the online technology program he spoke about in a previous meeting and he will introduce the person who will manage the program.

Wawa, Inc.

Carl Donato, Abilities Committee Chair, Wawa Store Operations Recruiter

- During a recent 2-day power outage in Wildwood, Wawa management secured generators within 2 hours, which provided the electricity that enabled the stores to remain open to serve the public.

Workforce Development Board

Jeffrey Swartz, Executive Director

- The WDB staff will attend the following National Night Out events:
  - Aug 1<sup>st</sup> - Pine Hill and Cherry Hill
  - Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> - Gloucester City
  - Aug 7<sup>th</sup> - Clementon
- Other events on the WDB schedule to attend are:
  - Sept 16<sup>th</sup> - Unity Fun Day at Cooper River Park, sponsored by the Camden County Prosecutor's Office
  - Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> - Stand Down of South Jersey at the Cherry Hill Armory
  - Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> - Winslow Twp, Job Fair in Atco
- The Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) has 49 interns assigned at 23 work-learn sites.
- The GSETA Annual Conference will be held at the Hard Rock Hotel in Atlantic City on October 18-19, 2023. Registration is available online at [www.gseta.org](http://www.gseta.org). Overnight accommodations are available at a special rate for conference attendees.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Carl asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Lois Forman and seconded by Jessica Scott. The motion was carried with a majority vote to the affirmative and the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 am.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next Abilities Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 10, 2023 at 8:30 am. The meeting will be conducted via Zoom.

Submitted by,

Debra Vaughn

Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director