

Burlington County Workforce Development Board (WDB) Minutes

Location: Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Meeting Date: Friday, May 13, 2022

Scheduled Time: 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

Attendees:

Jon Sharp (Chair) – HIG (VM)

Anna Payanzo Cotton – RCBC/WDI (NVM)

Anthony Phillips – RCBC/WDI/ABE (NVM)

Bryon Blum – SMWI Local #19 (VM)

Carl Donato – Wawa (VM)

Christen Martorano – (VM)

Curtis Myers – Aspire Youth (VM)

Dr. David Spang – RCBC (Guest)

Dr. Ni Gao – Rutgers University (Guest)

Heather Mauk - CVS

Jesus Arestirado – AJC/One-Stop Operator (VM)

Kelly West – WDB/AJC, Director

Kristi Howell – Burlco Reg Chamber of

Commerce (BCRCC) (VM)

Leslie Reis – CVS (VM)

Lila Myers – BCBSSS (VM)

Liz Verna – Burlco Econ. Dev. (VM)

Lindsey Aquino – NJDOL (VM)

Mark Boyd – Goodwill NJ (VM)

Martin Nock – AJC, Staff

Matthew Maiore – Shoprite

Melissa Fox – Amazon

Meredith Brown – AJC Staff

Nicholas D’Antonio – Lockheed Martin

Randolph (Randy) Brolo – Laborer’s Eastern
Region (VM)

Randy Hamilton – Smith & Solomon (VM)

Shirla Simpson – Burlco Dept. of Human
Services (VM)

Stacy Hunt – RCBC/WDI (NVM)

Yvonne Payton – NJDOL (VM)

Zahirah Sabir – WDB, Staff

VM= Voting Member

NVM = Non-voting Member

Call to Order – Jon Sharp, Chair

The Board Chair called the WDB meeting to order at 8:06 AM.

Reading of the Sunshine Law – Zahirah Sabir

“This virtual meeting is being held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 – 10:4-21. A public notice announcing this meeting has been posted in the Burlington County Times, the Burlington County website and the Burlington County Clerk’s office.”

Approving of Minutes – Jon Sharp

Motion (to approve with changes): Anthony Phillips

2nd: Leslie Reis

Motion passed

Introduction of Perspective Members – Jon Sharp

- Nicholas D’Antonio
- Melissa Fox
- Matthew Maiore

WIOA Youth Follow-up Policy – Vote

Motion to Approve: Bryon Blum

2nd: Anthony Phillips

Motion Passed

Executive Director Updates – Kelly West

- WIOA 2022 updates have been released with a couple of changes
 - 30% Union representation on Workforce Boards (increased from 20%)
 - Clarified Apprenticeships and Registered Apprenticeships
 - Introduction of “gig” workers as potential dislocated workers (response to the pandemic)
 - Allowable usage of funds for expansion of support service needs
 - Funding of local One-stops
- On the Job Training (OJT)
 - Our area received funding for dislocated workers
 - Burlington County will also use funding for underemployed, chronic unemployed and youth.
 - 50-90% reimbursement for employer (the smaller the employer the more reimbursement they receive)
 - Employers can reach out to WDB staff if they are interested in utilizing funding

Presentation: Rutgers Research Study – Dr. Ni Gao, Rutgers Associate Professor

- A study being completed by Rutgers for people with mental health issues to assist them with enrolling in Career and Technical Education (CTE).
- Target population: individuals with identified mental health disabilities who would like to register/apply for training. RU will aid those individuals to streamline the process with supportive services for up to 18 months. In-person and virtual services are available.
- Received federal funding to run this study. Participants also receive a \$25 weekly stipend.
- Teaching skills not just to study but to manage stress effectively. Also learning skills to advocate for what assistance they may need to succeed such as reasonable accommodations (ADA).
- Rutgers is looking to partner with CTE organizations and educational institution. Information will be shared with the WDB distribution list.

Committee Updates

Business Committee Engagement – Zahirah Sabir

- Burlington Business Engagement hosted the first in-person hiring event since the pandemic. The focus industry was trades.
- RCBC hosted a Careers in Cannabis on campus as well as an internship fair. If any employer is looking for a Fall intern, please contact Anna Payanzo Cotton or businessservices@rcbc.edu.

- High School Quick Step program has also been launched for 12th graders and recent graduates. Students will earn a recognized credential as well as college credit. Will be launching the Culinary Certification and Supply Chain.
- Clean Energy Expo to be hosted on May 18th in Atlantic City.
- BE is planning to host one of their upcoming meetings in-person.
- Engage by Cell is still going strong.
- CVS has shared free physicals until May 15th for all members and the public

Youth Investment Board – Zahirah Sabir

- Vacant Chair opening still available.
- CVS tour partnership will be hosted at Lumberton Distribution Center for 15 youth.
- Open Classrooms will present at the next YIC meeting regarding their Pharmaceutical Apprenticeship.

Burlington County Workforce System Oversight – Jesus Arestirado

- Last meeting was February 22, 2022.
- AJC YTD have served 2,023 customers (average of 389 per month).
- 39 customers have been placed into training.
- 695 residents have registered for Metrix Learning and have completed 1,084 online courses.
- 280 residents registered for Engage by Cell.
- 20 individual pages created for job seekers through job seeker tool on Engage by Cell.
- AJC service delivery being conducted both virtually and in-person by appointment only.
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Adult Literacy- Anthony Phillips

- Noted that Zoom has caused an influx of usership for ABE.
- Consortium is coming towards the end of the fiscal year (June 30th) and will be awaiting the renewal application from NJ DOL.
- Focus on career and training with upcoming funding allocation.
- Currently 84 students have received their HSEC. The goal remains at 100 by program year end.
- Planning ABE graduation and once a date has been established it will be shared with the group.
- Worked with Literacy Volunteers who assist ESL individuals applying for citizenship. Looking to highlight those participants at graduation.
- ABE will be leaving Willingboro and being relocated to Mt. Laurel campus effective July 1st. Because of this move, ABE is working hard to leverage partnerships with those along the Route 130 corridor so they will still have to the ability to serve those with transportation issues.
- Met with Zahirah on April 5th to discuss logistics of the literacy Committee.

Perkins Update – Dr. David Spang, RCBC

- Recently had two sessions with stakeholders to receive feedback concerning CTE offerings. The is a part of the requirements for the CLNA.
- Presented data on growth industries and RCBC CTE programs.
- Some questions asked of stakeholders:
 - Overall impression of CTE programs?
 - Are graduates thriving?
 - What emergent technology trends are available?

- How can we better engage community partners?
- What accommodations to explore to assist in student success?

General Discussion/ Questions/Announcements – General Membership

WDB/AJC

- Looking to host another career fair in June. Exploring whether to have a larger scale event or more specialized industry focus.
- Utilizing LinkedIn, Constant Contact and Engage by Cell to stay in contact with the public. Moving away from paper.
- Establishing a newsletter for UI recipients and the general public.
- Shared the LinkedIn Link with members.

Potential new members were also given an opportunity to introduce themselves.

WAWA

Carl Donato noted he was thankful for the Engage by Cell notifications we used to advertise Wawa hiring opportunities.

RCBC

Anna Payanzo Cotton mentioned that this would be her last official meeting because she is transitioning out of her current role and joining the Center for Family Services as COO. She thanked everyone for their partnership and noted that she hopes to continue to the work currently happening within the workforce development community.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:03 AM

Next Meeting: September 9, 2022