

Burlington County Workforce Development Board (WDB) Minutes

Location: Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Meeting Date: Friday, February 4, 2022

Scheduled Time: 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

Attendees:

Jon Sharp (Chair) - HIG (VM)

Anna Payanzo Cotton – RCBC/WDI (VM)

Anthony Phillips – RCBC/WDI/ABE (NVM)

Bryon Blum – SMWI Local #19 (VM)

Carl Donato – Wawa

Cheryl Casciano – NJDVRS

Curtis Myers – Aspire Youth (VM)

Danielle Fithian- Goodwill of Philadelphia

Dr. Michael Cioce – RCBC (VM)

Jennifer Mauro – Goodwill of Philadelphia

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

Kent Pipes – Member of the Public

Kristi Howell – BCRCC (VM)

Leslie Reis - CVS (VM)

Lindsay Aquino – NJDOL (VM)

Mark Boyd – Goodwill NJ (VM)

Martin Nock – WDB, Staff

Meredith Brown – WDB, Staff

Patti Beach – Goodwill of Philadelphia

Randy Brolo – Laborer’s Eastern

Region (VM)

Randy Hamilton – Smith & Solomon (VM)

Rhona Jordan – Virtua (VM)

Rich Temple – Deborah Heart and Lung (VM)

Shirla Simpson – Burlco Dept. of Human

Services (VM)

Stacey Smith – NJDVRS (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 8:05 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.”

Introduction of New Members:

- **Jennifer Mauro**
- **Danielle Fithian**
- **Patti Beach**

Approving of Minutes – Jon Sharp

Motion (to approve with changes): Randy Hamilton

2nd: Leslie Reis

Motion passed

Committee Updates

Business Committee Engagement – Rich Temple

- Last meeting was January 27, 2022
- Reflected on unemployment rate as 4.4% with the market plummeting
 - Return and Earn
 - Established a program designed for hired employees and the company would acquire a \$500 incentive, up to \$10K per employee after six months.
- Announced Engage by Cell's biggest accomplishments with impressive statistics: 2021 Recap
 - 300 new subscribers
 - Over 40,000 texts
- Discussed WITC
 - Workforce Innovation and Talent Center
 - Located In Lumberton, NJ
 - Received immense attention and provoked A LOT of potential partnerships.
 - Enabled secure funding, but at a standstill currently to seize partnerships.
- Committed to reaching out to the world and connect with businesses.

Youth Investment Board – Zahirah Sabir

- Last meeting was February 1, 2022
- Vacant Chair opening still available
- Partnering with Juvenile Destination Career in assisting with employment and education
 - Two-day event scheduled for February 16-17th
 - Presenters include: DVRS, RCBC, and Aspire Youth
- BCSSD
 - Partnering in March with Burlington County Special Services
- Announced receipt of an allocation for on-the-job training as well as apprenticeships

Burlington County Workforce System Oversight – Jesus Arestirado

- Last meeting was October 26, 2021
- Provided Career Coach Presentation and Career Coach Guide via email to American Job Center
 - Discussed Metrix Learning/Skill Up NJ
 - Launched by NJDOL on March 22, 2021 and accessible to NJ residents 18 years or older.
 - NJ residents registered obtain a 6-month license to take as many free online courses as they desire in specified areas:
 1. Business Certifications
 2. Desktop Certifications
 3. IT Certifications
- Reported Analytics of NJ Metrix Learning activities (State-Wide) from March 22nd- September 15th, 2021

- 940,934 emails: delivered to NJ UI claimants (Subject: Metrix Learning Platform Awareness) were sent
- 20,370 NJ residents active email respondents: registering in Metrix Learning
- 24,403 online courses launched
- 15,724 completed online courses
- 1,017 BC residents registered in Metrix Learning
- 1,470 BC residents completed online courses
- Shared YTD Stats for July 1st- September 30th. 2021
 - BC AJC provided services to 1,456 customers
 - 257 customers requests for Training Services

Adult Literacy- Anthony Phillips

- Reported 65 individuals receiving high school diplomas since November 1, 2021.
 - Reformed High Set
 - 4-5 testers
 - Registration is remote
 - Goal: A smoother transition alleviating role of testing coordinator
- Zahirah Sabir announced looking for WDB Literacy Board members
State is looking for more implementation for Adult Literacy

PY20 Annual Report/Highlights – Zahirah Sabir

- Implemented WDB Engage by Cell
 - Over 40,000 texts were sent to over 300 subscribers
- Recognized WDB mobile site
 - Over 4,000 views
 - 342 total users
- Reported AJC analytics
 - 45 referrals to the Learning Link
 - 197 customers to CASAS testing
 - 733 individuals referred to DVRS
- Statistics for Metrix Learning Soft Skills resource
 - 679 registrations
 - 722 courses completed
- Rolled out Destination Career Program
 - Approximately 40 youth involved with the juvenile justice commission
- Zahirah announced a new tool: Air Slate Sign Now
 - Convenient, paperless transition for contracts to be signed electronically

Burlington County UI Update – Zahirah Sabir

- Reflected on the astonishing highest unemployment rate since 2008 recession
- Reported 113,104 total UI claims March 2021- Jan 2022
- Analyzed UI demographic breakdown for March 2021- Jan 2022
 - Gender: Female: 59,670 (53%)
Male: 53,434 (47%)
 - Race: White: 72,005 (64%)
Black: 22,635 (20%)

Asian: 4,470 (4%)
Other: 752 (1%)
No Answer: 13,242 (12%)

Age: Less than 25: 15%
25-34: 21%
35-44: 18%
45-54: 18%
55-64: 18%
65+: 9%
Chose not to answer: 0%

- Experiencing a “Great Resignation”
 - This is due to many factors, including individuals seeking higher wages and exiting “service” industries.

General Discussion/ Questions/Announcements – General Membership

BRCC

Kristi Howell announced BRCC is hosting a program at RCBC’s Mount Holly campus to educate hospitality members on training and services. The date is to be announced (tentatively in March).

Affordable Housing

Ken Pipes acquired over a \$1,000,000 grant to develop supportive housing in Westampton, NJ from substance abuse. Launching a project was discussed and is actively seeking Social Services members for assistance.

Engage by Cell

Rich Temple mentioned utilization of the universal tool: Engage by Cell to reach out to DVRS and partnership.

NJDVRS

Cheryl Casciano announced conducting zoom meetings for youth who are transitioning to college. Seeking for an hour to talk to students preferably training providers or employers.

RCBC

Anna Payanzo Cotton from RCBC insisted on Business Experts to join Program Pod Podcast.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:01 AM

Next Meeting: May 13, 2022