

Burlington County Disability Issues Employment Sub-Committee Minutes

June 21, 2022

Attendees (Zoom Meeting): Kinder Kaur, Iris DeVaughn, Lindsey Aquino, Emilyann Colbert, Peter Ruffini, Ann Marie Harrison, Katie Donnellon, Lois Forman, Frank Gorman, Joe Zesski, and Barbara Weir

Meeting Called to Order 3:02 PM /Recorded

★ Welcome, Introductions made

★ Action Plan Development

- a) Burlington Beacon – Spring Edition was issued in May. Consensus was positive. Barbara will continue with the same format and will need 2 – 3 success stories and resources. Discussion around future Beacons; should only be a Spring and Fall – with Fall containing NDEAM event.
- b) NDEAM Event – Will be held on **Thursday, October 27** from **10 AM to NOON** via Zoom. This year's theme is ***America's Recovery: Powered by Inclusion***. The theme was released much earlier than previous years, but it is great the committee does not need to scramble.

ACTION Required – NDEAM Event

Kinder and **Barbara** will practice with Zoom tool for August discussion on how this event will look for speaks, employers, awardees, and guests. May reach out to Emilyann for her expertise since JEVS HireAbility has held events via Zoom that included breakout rooms for resources.

Barbara has consent release waiver and nomination forms. **Barbara** will update and send to the group.

Barbara will keep an eye out on when the NDEAM posters might be available (ODEP site). It may be possible to use as a backdrop on ZOOM. **Barbara** to look into.

The **Committee** will continue look for a Keynote speaker (a Burlington County business, as this is a Burlington County Event). Frank has a positive connection with Wegmans and Katie with ShopRite.

The **Committee** will look for 3-5 employer/customer success stories to be recognized.

★ Around the Room

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Frank announced a new hire, who has had their fair share of struggles. Kinder stated, through American Works would be a lifeline of support should the customer need it to stay on the right track.

Lois shared an opportunity for individuals to participate in a 1-hour focus group to discuss inclusion. Lois will share a flyer.

Lois reminded the group about the Free Job Board that has produced many successful hires. Goodwill, Shop Rite, EMSL Analytical are just a few listed and recruiting www.ifcssnjjobs.org

Barbara shared a link to the Burlington County Jobs Portal <http://www.co.burlington.nj.us/Jobs.aspx>. Long list of employers hiring.

Kinder reported employment opportunities with Kohl's; she will share the flyer with the group. Kohl's seeks to fill 5,000 associate positions through massive hiring event from June 24 to June 26.

Kinder announced since the LWD is looking into WorkFirst NJ customer activities, hours, volunteer, etc. all RFPs to serve WorkFirst NJ customers through the Board of Social Services have been put on hold across NJ. Therefore, Kinder will be focusing efforts on Ticket to Work activities and serving only individuals with disabilities.

★ **Next Meeting – Tuesday, August 16, 2022** at 3:00 PM via Zoom (**Barbara** to send invites).