

Supporting the Development and Retention of a World Class Workforce

Jeffrey S. Swartz, Executive Director

Matthew Verney, Chair

ABILITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2021, AT THE WDB OFFICE

ATTENDANCE – ABILITIES COMMITTEE

MEMBERS		8-Apr-21	13-May-21	10-Jun-21	12-Aug-21	9-Sep-21	14-Oct-21
Maggioncalda, Jim CHAIR	TFG Management Services	X	X	X	X	X	
Abrams, Barbara	Jewish Family & Children Service of Southern NJ						
Cirii, Frank	Local Area Operations Director	X	X	X		X	X
Deitz, Jeffery	Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services						
Donato, Carl	Wawa	X	X	X	X		X
Forman, Lois	Jewish Family & Children's Service	X	X	X	X	X	X
Freire, Edison	JEVS Human Services	X	X	X	X	X	X
Fugee, Antoinette	Center for Family Services						X
Hale, Dawn	The Arc of Camden County	X					
Lucas, Angela	JEVS HireAbility						X
Marks, Karen	Jewish Family & Children Service of Southern NJ	X	X				
McClintock, Monica	Rowan University	X	X	X	X	X	
Mills, Jay	NJ Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired						
Scott, Jessica	The Arc of Camden County	X	X	X	X	X	X
Smith, Veda	Camden County Independent Living Center						
Taguwa, Denise	LWD-WDB Coord + Support	X		X			
Veneziani, Jennifer	Program Planning and Development Specialist, DVRS						
Levitt, Alex					X	X	X
Swartz, Jeffrey S.	WDB	X	X	X	X	X	
Varallo Kathleen	WDB	X	X	X	X	X	X

WELCOME

Kathleen Varallo, Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director, Workforce Development Board, started the meeting by asking the committee for an approval of the September 9th meeting minutes. Carl Donato, Talent Acquisition Specialist, Wawa, made the 1st motion. Edison Freire, Director of Gateway Initiatives (Youth Services), JEVS Human Services, seconded the motion. By unanimous vote to the affirmative, the minutes, September 9, 2021, were approved.

PTSD EVENT UPDATE

Kathleen reported the PTSD event, in partnership with Cooper Medical, had been postponed from its October 5th date. She said the committee has always had the goal is to hosting an in-person event. It was decided, and confirmed with the Cooper Team, to reschedule the event in the spring of 2022. She noted the committee can still be working on the content of the event, and prepare the proposal for Tri-State to be submitted for credits. Kathleen also noted that Tim Galvin, Cooper University Healthcare, has provided all the speaker names, and the information about the topics being offered. She asked the committee to assist with the program objectives for the proposal. A discussion was had amongst the committee about the law-updates presentation, for the program, and if in the proposal, it must be addressed as a “workshop”.

The discussion of the event continued as Kathleen addressed the topic of filming the presentations in advance due to Covid-19 protocols. The reason for filming would be incase the Covid-19 numbers increase, preventing in-person gatherings. Kathleen continued saying that it has been mentioned, in the previous committee meetings; other organizations have gone this route of preparation for events. The Committee agreed this is the

correct form of action to take. Carl added that the committee has the time now to make all contingency plans a viable option. He suggested that by the beginning of 2022, the presentations should be filmed. Lois Forman, Jewish Family Services, added that the factor of networking gets lost when participants are watching a filmed presentation as opposed to it being in-person. She continued, agreeing that all back up plans being discussed are necessary, but the networking would be a missing component. Carl clarified that there would be a live panel for the event, but the presenters would be the filmed component which would keep the interaction and networking opportunities intact for an in-person event. Kathleen updated the committee on the sponsorships for the event. Wawa and Truist Bank are still committed sponsors. Edison added that JEVS would also be a committed sponsor for the event.

COMMITTEE OUTREACH

The Committee discussed Disabilities Employment Awareness Month outreach opportunities. Kathleen mentioned that Dan Farber, Bright Lights, had provided pictures and promotional materials. Kathleen brought up that in lieu of the event last year, she started promoting Disabilities Employment Awareness Month on the WDB Facebook page. That effort produced some great interaction and post reach, because of sharing. She asked the committee to send any pictures for this year's social media outreach campaign. She will use the rest of October to create awareness. The Committee discussed and agreed that employers engaged in inclusive hiring practices, could be featured in this year's campaign. Carl brought up an employee with disabilities at Wawa would be celebrating 40 years on the job. Kathleen said she will look for any other information or articles that might be posted as well.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

-No additional committee updates were provided.

NEXT MEETING

The next Abilities Committee meeting is scheduled on Thursday, November 18th @8:30am. This meeting will be conducted via Zoom Conferencing.

Submitted by

Alex Levitt

Administrative Assistant