

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD***Supporting the Development and Retention of a World Class Workforce**Jeffrey S. Swartz, Executive Director**Carl A. Donato Jr., Chair***ABILITIES COMMITTEE**
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2025 VIA ZOOM

Name	Organization	Trustee Member	9-Jan-25	13-Feb-25	13-Mar-25	10-Apr-25	8-May-25	12-Jun-25	10-Jul-25	14-Aug-25	11-Sep-25	9-Oct-25	13-Nov-25	11-Dec-25
Donato, Carl, Chair	An Affair To Remember	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Askie-Rosario, Andrea	CC Commission for the Blind		X		X	X	X	X		X				
Banner, Salema	Center for Independent Living, So Jersey									X	X	X	X	
Cirii, Frank	Camden County One-Stop	✓	X	X		X	X				X		X	X
Cole, Samuel														X
Floyd, Kwarne	Teacher Apprenticeship Network		X											
Forman, Lois	Jewish Family & Children's Service		X	X		X	X	X	X		X			
Fugee, Antoinette	Cooper University Healthcare				X		X					X		X
Lynn, Meghan	ARC of Camden County		X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X		X
McClintock, Monica	Rowan University		X		X	X	X		X		X	X		
McKelvey, Chris	NJDOL													X
Perez, Irene	NJDVRS		X	X	X	X		X	X	X				
Quigley, Kimberly	St. John of God Community Services		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X			
Rohlfing, Theresa	Center for Independent Living, So Jersey													X
Rosado, Joeliza	Truist Bank									X				
Santana, Theresa	Popcorn for the People											X	X	X
David Square														X
Storm, Jeanne, Vice Chair	American Water	✓								X				X
Weinberg, Oriel	Jewish Family & Children's Service			X	X	X	X							
Marilyn Kalitan	Pathways to Literacy Chair	✓	X							X	X			
McClelland, Stacy	Enterprise								X					
Watson, Jess	MidPenn Bank													X
Waxman, Nicole	Enterprise							X						
Hardison, Richelle	WDB Staff										X	X	X	X
Rohan, Michelle	WDB Staff		X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X		
Swartz, Jeffrey S.	WDB Staff		X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Vaughn, Debra	WDB Staff			X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X

Welcome

Carl Donato, Chair, opened the meeting at 8:39 AM. Motion to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2025 was made by Frank Cirii, seconded by Jeanne Storm. The motion was carried with a majority vote to the affirmative and the minutes were approved.

Empowerment Expo

The committee evaluated the recent Empowerment Expo, noting that while successful overall, community attendance was lower than anticipated. The timing and location for next year's event will be reassessed to improve attendance and impact.

Workforce Development Board

Jeffrey S. Swartz, Executive Director

Jeff is working to see the following programs through to implementation:

- EMT Training Program - New initiative facing challenges with state approval for the eligible training provider list (ETPL)
- Aircraft Maintenance Technician Apprenticeship Program - Working through ETPL listing challenges



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- A UI Concierge Pilot Program has been proposed for the One Stop to improve service and reduce wait times

One Stop Career Center

Frank Cirii, Local Area Operations Director

The One Stop has served 13,143 customers over the past four months, averaging:

- 152 people per day
- 80 GED tests administered monthly

Work-First Requirement Changes

Frank highlighted significant changes to work-first requirements that will impact clients:

- Mandatory participation in educational or work experience programs for 20 hours weekly
- Severe penalties for non-compliance, including a three-year ban on assistance for those missing three consecutive months
- Increased demand is anticipated in coming months. There will be ongoing collaboration with Board of Social Services to address these changes

Committee Updates

Arc of Camden County

Meghan Lynne

- Arc of Camden County hired two new team members and expanded services to Delaware, with plans to open in more states by year-end

Popcorn for the People

Theresa Santana

- Popcorn for the People added remote sales staff in Tennessee
- Pre-vocational training programs will be launching in Philadelphia and New Jersey

American Water

Jeanne Storm, Talent Acquisition Partner

- Jeanne discussed about the Water Up program and potential expansion to New Jersey, with plans for her to connect with American Water leadership. The company's merger with Essential was also addressed, confirming that headquarters will remain in Camden and operations will continue under the American Water name.

Upcoming Events

January (Date TBD)	Department of Labor meeting in Trenton regarding inclusive hiring
May (Date TBD)	SHRM annual conference - potential presentation opportunity
May 15, 2024	Spring County Job Fair at Cherry Hill Mall
September 11, 2024	Fall County Job Fair at Cherry Hill Mall
December 17, 2023	Quarterly Board Meeting at Camden County College



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Collaborative Efforts

The committee emphasized cross-committee collaboration:

- Potential synergies with Sean Clark's veterans' programs at Penn Medicine
- Collaboration between Youth and Pathways to Literacy committees
- Partnership with Camden County College for summer initiatives
- Healthcare coalition efforts to improve employment opportunities

Committee Focus Areas for 2026

Workforce Development

- EMT and aircraft maintenance training
- UI service improvements
- Work-first requirement support
- Veteran hiring initiatives

Community Engagement

- Empowerment Expo improvements
- Job fairs (spring and fall)
- Financial literacy programs
- Youth outreach initiatives

Organizational Growth

- Cross-committee collaboration
- Regional member recruitment
- Service expansion to new states
- Training program development

Action Items

Meghan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Send Carl the date of the Department of Labor meeting in Trenton
Carl	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Send email requesting suggestions for new committee events/activities
Jeffrey	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue SHRM outreach for May conference participation• Meet with Assistant Commissioner Julie Diaz about UI pilot program and update Carl on meeting outcome• Work on getting training providers onto state's eligible list
Jeanne	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explore bringing Water Up program to New Jersey

Carl asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Frank Cirii, seconded by Antoinette Fugee. and The motion was carried with a majority vote to the affirmative and the meeting was adjourned at 9:28 AM.

The next Abilities Committee meeting will be held on Zoom on Thursday, January 8, 2026 at 8:30 AM.

The quarterly Board of Trustees meeting will be held at Camden County College/Blackwood Campus at Roosevelt Hall/Room 102 at 8:30 AM. Breakfast will be provided. **Board members are asked to RVSP to ensure quorum.**

Respectfully submitted by Debra Vaughn, Executive Assistant