



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, MAY 14, 2026 VIA ZOOM

ATTENDEES

Name	Organization	Trustee Member	8-Jan-26	12-Feb-26	5-Mar-26	9-Apr-26	14-May-26
Donato, Carl, Chair	An Affair To Remember	✓	X	X	X	X	X
Askie-Rosario, Andrea	CC Commission for the Blind			X			
Banner, Salema	Center for Independent Living, So Jersey			X			
Cirii, Frank	Camden County One-Stop	✓		X	X	X	
Cole, Samuel	High Fcus Centers			X			
De Feo, Marcello	ARC of Camden County			X		X	
Floyd, Kwame	Teacher Apprenticeship Network						
Forman, Lois	Jewish Family & Children's Service		X		X	X	
Fuguee, Antoinette	Cooper University Healthcare				X	X	
Lynn, Meghan	ARC of Camden County		X		X	X	
Martin, Janeene	Jewish Family & Children's Service			X	X	X	X
McClelland, Stacy	Enterprise						
McClintock, Monica	Rowan University			X		X	X
McKelvey, Chris	Borough of Clementon				X		
Newman, Jason	NJ DOL - Veteran Services				X	X	X
Perez, Irene	NJDVRS			X	X	X	X
Quiqley, Kimberly	St. John of God Community Services		X	X		X	
Rohlfing, Theresa	Center for Independent Living, So Jersey			X	X	X	
Rosado, Joeliza	Truist Bank						
Santana, Theresa	Popcorn for the People		X	X	X	X	
David Square	JEVS						
Storm, Jeanne, Vice Chair	American Water	✓		X			
Taylor-Walls, Corinne	Weisman Children's Rehabilitation Hospital					X	
Thompson, Ryan	MidPenn Bank					X	
Weinberg, Oriel	Jewish Family & Children's Service						
Marlyn Kalitan	Pathways to Literacy Chair	✓					
Watson, Jess	MidPenn Bank						
Waxman, Nicole	Enterprise						
Hardison, Richelle	WDB Staff				X		
Swartz, Jeffrey S.	WDB Staff		X	X	X	X	X
Vaughn, Debra	WDB Staff		X	X	X	X	X

WELCOME

Carl Donato, Chair, opened the meeting at 9:07 AM. Motion to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2025 was made by Monica McClintock, seconded by Jeff Swartz. The motion carried with a majority vote to the affirmative and the minutes from April 9, 2026 were approved.

DISCUSSION

Attendees opened with informal conversation about a recent Tri-State HR conference, praising the lunch keynote speaker (the "Philly Fanatic") for his engaging message about fun in the workplace. Carl and Jeff attended and networked with employers, including Jana from a local food bank, who expressed interest but is unavailable for the next few years.

- Carl: Described the keynote's opening premise "What if your only job were to have fun?" as impactful and relatable.



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- Jeff: Noted that many employers at the event were unaware of the committee's services, making the networking opportunity highly valuable.
- Monica: Confirmed that attendees, including Jana, spoke positively about interactions with Carl and Jeff.

EVENT PLANNING

The group reviewed the draft agenda and flyer for the upcoming employer informational session titled "Successfully Employing Uniquely Able Associates," focused on dispelling myths about hiring individuals with disabilities.

- Carl outlined the event structure — vendor interaction (8:30 - 9:00 AM), presentations and success stories (9:00–10:30 AM), and breakdown/cleanup afterward. Building access confirmed at 8:00 AM.
- Debra confirmed the venue is the Rohrer Center in Cherry Hill (not the Blackwood campus); setup can begin at 8:00 AM; room has stadium seating and full AV capability.
- Jeff noted the lobby can accommodate 4 tables (6-foot), with up to 8 vendors if tables are shared.
- Irene confirmed attendance and will bring an employer who was formerly a DVR client and is now hiring DVR clients as a success story.
- Janeene will be traveling to Africa on June 11th; will arrange a colleague to present or staff a vendor table. Expressed interest in bringing Soups and Sweets products as a live demonstration of abilities.
- Jeff suggested Soups and Sweets baked goods be displayed with a flyer in a plexi holder to serve as a tangible testimonial.
- Monica suggested distributing flyers at the upcoming Tri-State HR meeting (the week before June 11th).
- Irene confirmed she will present on DVR hiring incentives.
- Jeff recommended changing "panel discussion" on the flyer to "interactive discussion" to better reflect the intended format.
- Debra presented two flyer versions; the puzzle-themed design was selected by group consensus. Contact information will be added to the flyer, including a QR code for registration.
- Monica flagged a title correction "Uniquely Abled" should replace the current wording.
- Carl noted the event is for employers only; clients may attend only as success story speakers.
- The venue time extension for June 11th (to 11:00 or 11:30 AM) has been requested but not yet confirmed by Camden County College.

• Conclusion

- Puzzle-themed flyer selected; Debra will finalize with corrected title, updated time (8:30 - 10:30 AM), QR code/RSVP, and "interactive discussion" language.
- Final flyer to be distributed to all members for dissemination via their networks and social media.
- Lois is listed as a placeholder speaker; Carl has not received a response and will continue to follow up.



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- Janeene will check with Lois and/or arrange a JFCS colleague as a speaker or vendor representative.
- Target attendance: 30 to 40 employers.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Monica McClintock, Tri State HRMA

Monica provided upcoming event information for the Tri-State HR community.

- Free online event — "Closing the Deal: Compensation Package Negotiations, Knowing Your Market Value" — June 3, 2026 at 5:30 PM (register at TriStateHR.org).
- Last meeting of the business year on June 4, 2026 — topic: Change Management.
- Summer Social networking event at Kaminski's, Cherry Hill, July 15, 2026 at 5:30 PM.
- 25th Anniversary HR Strategies for Nonprofit Organizations event, July 22, 2026 at Rowan College of South Jersey, Sewell — half-day starting at 8:00 AM; breakfast and lunch included; low cost.

• Conclusion

- Members encouraged to register and spread the word, especially for the nonprofit event.

Janeene Martin, JFCS (Jewish Family and Children's Service)

Janeene provided updates on two active programs.

- Janeene: Soups and Sweets culinary training program (cohort 2026–2027) is actively recruiting; currently has 6 viable candidates, seeking 14 more for AM and PM sessions; age range 18 - 40+; participants are trained in a state-of-the-art Kosher kitchen and the majority go on to employment in South Jersey.
- Janeene: Project SEARCH adult program at Jefferson Stratford is also recruiting; participants ages 21 - 32; focused on internship training, professionalism, and work readiness.

• Conclusion

- Members encouraged to refer eligible candidates for both programs.
- Janeene will send recruitment flyers to Debra for posting.

Carl Donato, Committee Chair

Carl outlined ongoing and upcoming internal and external recruitment efforts.

- Carl: Working with Megan on the June 11th event agenda and logistics.
- Carl: After June 11th, plans to organize an internal recruitment session for current committee members interested in becoming board members or taking on leadership roles (chair, vice chair).
- Carl: Following the internal session, an external recruitment effort will be launched to attract new community members to committees.

• Conclusion

- Internal recruitment event to be planned after June 11th in coordination with Jeffrey and Pat.

WDB UPDATES

Jeffrey S. Swartz, Executive Director

Jeff provided an update on board activities.



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- Quarterly board meeting scheduled for June 17, 2026 — in-person at Camden County College, Blackwood (Roosevelt Room); agenda includes election of new officers, approval of resolutions, regional plan, WIB certification, and other policies.
 - Attempting to secure Congressman Norcross as keynote speaker for the June 17th board meeting; open to other suggestions for an inspirational/motivational speaker.
 - Program monitoring recently completed; Office of Internal Audit review starting in June.
 - Regional plan submitted to the state; WIB certification in progress (required every 2 years).
 - Summer Youth Work Experience Program underway — two employer orientations held at Camden County College with 50+ employer work sites; approximately 150 - 270 applications received; over 600 expressions of interest submitted. Program manager Aspire Youth is managing the process.
 - Job fair at Cherry Hill Mall (Nordstrom area) the following day, starting at 10:00 AM; materials from members can be placed on the committee's table if delivered to the office that day.
 - Shared that Irene's employer list from her recent event will be used to invite employers to the June 11th event.
 - Announced the expected arrival of his second granddaughter within two weeks.
- **Conclusion**
 - Members encouraged to attend the June 17th quarterly board meeting.
 - Speaker suggestions for the June 17th keynote are welcome.
 - Members with materials for the Cherry Hill Mall job fair should deliver them to the office immediately.

MEETING SCHEDULE CHANGE

Carl reminded members of the upcoming schedule change.

- The committee will be in recess for July. The next meeting will be held on August 13, 2026.

ACTION ITEMS

- **Carl**
 - Follow up with Jana (food bank) via email to schedule a detailed call about the committee's work.
 - Continue outreach to Lois to confirm her availability as a speaker for the June 11th event.
 - Coordinate with Jeffrey and Pat to plan the internal board/committee recruitment session (after June 11th).
 - Begin planning external recruitment outreach following the internal session.
- **Debra**
 - Finalize the puzzle-themed flyer with the following changes: correct title to "Uniquely Able~~d~~," update event time to 8:30 - 10:30 AM, add QR code and RSVP information, and change "panel discussion" to "interactive discussion."
 - Send the finalized flyer to all committee members for distribution.
 - Confirm with Camden County College whether the venue reservation can be extended to 11:00 or 11:30 AM on June 11th.



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- **Janeene**
 - Contact Lois to ask her to reach out to Carl regarding the speaking opportunity on June 11th.
 - Arrange a JFCS colleague to speak or staff a vendor table at the June 11th event in her absence.
 - Explore the possibility of bringing Soups and Sweets products and a flyer/plexi holder display to the June 11th event.
 - Send JFCS recruitment flyers to Debra for posting/distribution.
- **Irene**
 - Confirm attendance at the June 11th event and bring the employer success story (former DVR client now hiring DVR clients).
 - Prepare presentation on DVR hiring incentives for the June 11th event.
- **Jeff**
 - Continue efforts to reach Congressman Norcross's office for the June 17th board meeting keynote; solicit alternative speaker suggestions from members.
 - Use Irene's employer contact list (and contacts from Janeene and others) to invite 30 - 40 employers to the June 11th event.
 - Ensure materials from committee members are collected at the office for the Cherry Hill Mall job fair (same day).

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Irene Peres, seconded by Janeene Martin. The motion carried with a majority vote to the affirmative and the meeting adjourned at 9:55 AM.

The next Abilities Committee meeting will be held on Zoom on Thursday, August 13, 2026 at 9:00 AM.

The next quarterly Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 17, 2026, in person at Camden County College, Roosevelt Hall/Room 102 at 8:30 AM on ZOOM.

Respectfully submitted by Debra Vaughn, Executive Assistant