

**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 8, 2025 (ZOOM)**

Name	Organization	Trustee Member	9-Jan	13-Feb	13-Mar	10-Apr	8-May
Donato, Carl, Chair	An Affair To Remember	✓	X	X	X	X	X
Askie-Rosario, Andrea	CC Commission for the Blind		X		X	X	X
Aston, Arthur	Build Jake's Place						
Bowan, Jennifer	The Arc of Camden County						
Cirii, Frank	Camden County One-Stop	✓	X	X		X	X
Coleman, Ardella	Cooper University Healthcare						
Deissroth, Rob							
Deitz, Jeffery	Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services	✓					
Farber, Dan							
Fiore, Daniel							
Floyd, Kwame			X				
Forman, Lois	Jewish Family & Children's Service		X	X		X	X
Fugee, Antoinette	Cooper University Healthcare				X		X
Galvin, Tim	Cooper University Healthcare						
Gregory, Geralyn	Wawa						
Hoban, Colette	Lenape Regional High School Dist./Project Search						
Lavarin, Esther	CC Commission for the Blind						
Legge, Patti							
Lynn, Meghan	ARC of Camden County		X	X	X	X	X
McClintock, Monica	Rowan University		X		X	X	X
Metzger, Frances	Cooper University Healthcare						
Page-Soncrant, Jeanne	NJDOL - Business Rep.		X	X	X		X
Perez, Irene	NJDVRS		X	X	X		X
Quiqley, Kimberly	St. John of God Community Services		X	X	X		X
Scott, Jessica	The Arc of Camden County						
Snow, Colleen	Dept of Health & Human Services				X		
Storm, Jeanne, Vice Chair	American Water	✓					
Tyndell, Maurice	Bestworks Industries						
Weinberg, Oriel	Jewish Family & Children's Service				X	X	X
Marlyn Kalitan		✓	X				
Rohan, Michelle	WDB Staff		X	X	X	X	X
Swartz, Jeffrey S.	WDB Staff		X	X		X	
Vaughn, Debra	WDB Staff		X	X		X	X

**WELCOME**

Carl Donato, WDB Chair, greeted the attendees and called the meeting to order at 8:36AM.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Carl asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2025 meeting. The motion was made by Monica McClintock and seconded by Oriel Weinberg. With a majority vote to the affirmative, the motion carried, and the minutes were approved.

**SUMMARY****Conference Success and Future Plans**

The committee reflected on a successful recent conference where Jeanne and Megan delivered a well-received presentation, though attendance was limited by competing workshops offering higher recertification credits. The event raised nearly \$2,000 for the ARC, and Megan's brother's presentation received a standing ovation, leading to potential connections with Wegmans' diversity program. The committee expressed gratitude for each other's contributions, with Carl and Monica highlighting the importance of networking, while also noting that a future nonprofit organization's session is scheduled for July 23rd at RCSJ Gloucester County College.



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### **September Hiring, October Collaboration Events**

The committee discussed two upcoming events: a Targeted Hiring event at the end of September and a collaboration event in October. For the hiring event, they are exploring alternative venues after learning the Jonathan Sinai building is unavailable, with the fire hall being considered as a potential option. Carl proposed a community-focused collaboration event in October that would combine ability awareness activities with resource fair elements, including haircuts and professional clothing, while Lois suggested adding food pantry information and employment resources.

### **Enhancing Event Accessibility and Fun**

Carl shared his experience at a local gym's inclusive prom event, which inspired him to add more fun elements to their own events. Antoinette suggested inviting Cooper with their talent acquisition team and including accessibility centers from local universities. They discussed the importance of explaining job opportunities to potential applicants, particularly for roles like frontline workers at Cooper. Monica agreed that adding decorations and a theme could make their events more enjoyable.

### **Workshop on Ageism in Job Search**

Lois announced an upcoming workshop called "The Seasoned Professional" next Wednesday at 6:30 PM at the Jonathan Sinai building. The event will feature a panel of speakers including career coaches, a VP of talent acquisition, and a success story from an attorney who found employment after a 25-year career at Comcast. Lois highlighted the importance of addressing ageism in job applications and shared that the event is free but requires registration. Michelle reported that she had distributed flyers at Camden County Technical School, where many 50+ individuals with advanced degrees expressed interest in attending.

### **Cooper's Workforce Development Initiatives**

Antoinette discussed Cooper's workforce development initiatives, including a certified clinical medical assistant program in collaboration with Camden County College, which trained 10 employees (9 passed the exam) and will be expanded to include EMT training for 8-10 team members. She highlighted a success story of a high school employee who completed the MA program within two years, and Lois shared a similar story of an employee who progressed from an entry-level position to a unit secretary role. The discussion emphasized Cooper's commitment to upskilling employees and retaining them within the organization.

### **Job Fair and Budget Concerns**

Frank announced an upcoming job fair at Cherry Hill Mall on May 16th from 10 to 2, with pre-registration of 248 candidates, featuring 10 tables including employers in public safety fields and remote work opportunities. Frank noted rising SNAP/TANF numbers and expressed concern about the upcoming Federal budget cycle, with early projections indicating potential funding cuts, though he remains optimistic about maintaining current levels.

### **Community Programs and Updates**

The meeting covered several updates and initiatives. Frank discussed a computer literacy grant application for 150 clients and a new book program in partnership with Book Smiles for children in the waiting area. Oriel shared updates on building improvements, support groups, and an after-school respite program, as well as plans for utilizing the space for internships and catering. Jeffrey highlighted upcoming events, including a Quarterly Board meeting featuring Larry Abrams from



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Book Smiles and mentioned the success of the Summer Youth Work Experience Program, which received over 200 applications for 100 slots.

#### **Internship Program Expansion and Management**

The internship program has doubled in size to 100 positions this year with 208 applicants. Michelle is managing the interview process and has scheduled orientations for May 21-22 at Camden County College. The program will run for 8 weeks with two cohorts, each undergoing a week of work readiness training before being placed with host businesses. Jeffrey noted a 98% completion rate for previous years' programs, with several interns being hired after completing their internships. The conversation ended with Carl wishing everyone a happy Mother's Day and announcing the next meeting dates for June 12 and 18.

#### **NEXT STEPS**

- Carl to type up a document capturing ideas for the October community resource fair event and share with Jeff.
- Antoinette investigated Cooper providing health or nutrition services at the October community resource fair event.
- Carl to contact his friend about potentially providing food/catering for the October community resource fair event.
- Carl to inquire about insurance requirements for providing haircuts at the October community resource fair event.
- Board members to confirm attendance for the June 18th in-person Quarterly Board meeting at Camden County College.
- Workforce Development Board staff to continue conducting interviews for the Summer Youth Work Experience Program.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Carl asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Antoinette Fugee and seconded by Lois Forman. The motion carried with a majority vote to the affirmative and the meeting was adjourned at 9:35AM.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Rohan, Committee Coordinator