

Jeffrey S. Swartz, Executive Director

Matthew Verney, Chair

**ABILITIES COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 2022 (ZOOM)**

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE INFORMATION AND ATTENDANCE							
Name	Organization	Trustee Member	13-Jan-22	10-Feb-22	10-Mar-22	14-Apr-22	9-Jun-22
Cirii, Frank	Camden County One-Stop	✓	X	X	X	X	X
Coleman, Ardella	Cooper University Healthcare						X
Deitz, Jeffery	Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services	✓					
Donato, Carl, Interim Chair	Wawa	✓	X	X		X	X
Forman, Lois	Jewish Family & Children's Service		X	X	X	X	X
Freire, Edison	JEVS Human Services			X	X		X
Fugee, Antoinette	Center for Family Services						
Galvin, Tim	Cooper University Healthcare				X		
Hale, Dawn	The Arc of Camden County				X		
Lucas, Angela	JEVS HireAbility		X				X
Marks, Karen	Jewish Family & Children Service of Southern NJ			X			
McClintock, Monica	Rowan University		X	X	X	X	X
Quinones, Cris	Wawa					X	
Scott, Jessica	The Arc of Camden County		X	X	X	X	X
Taguwa, Denise	LWD-WDB Coord + Support						
Tyndell, Maurice	BestWorks			X			X
Turnage, Shay	Cooper University Healthcare						X
Weinberg, Oriel	Jewish Family & Children's Service						X
Levitt, Alex	WDB Staff		X	X	X	X	X
Swartz, Jeffrey S.	WDB Staff		X	X	X	X	X
Vaughn, Debra	WDB Staff			X	X	X	X

WELCOME

Carl Donato Jr., Interim Committee Chair, greeted all those in attendance and the meeting was called to order at 8:38am.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

For the first order of business, Carl asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 9, 2022, meeting. Lois Forman made the motion, seconded by Jeff Swartz. The motion carried with a unanimous vote to the affirmative and the minutes for June 9, 2022, were approved.

WELCOME

Introductions

Ardella Coleman, MHR, MBA, CDE, CMP, Vice President, Diversity and Talent Acquisition at Cooper Health Care

Shay Turnage, Director of Talent Acquisition at Cooper Health Care

Oriel Weinberg, Director of Disability Services at JCFS

Carl, Lois Forman, Jeff Swartz and the rest of the meeting attendees introduced themselves to newcomers to the committee.

OPEN FORUM, DISCUSSION OF FUTURE EVENTS/COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Carl thanked Ardella Coleman for Cooper Health Care's partnership with the "PTSD in the Workplace" event. He shared ideas for events for future events focused on Veterans and asked for suggestions from meeting attendees. Carl expressed interest in participation in the Stand Down 2022 event in September at the Armory in Cherry Hill and posed the question of participation to the meeting attendees. Ardella Coleman stated she was excited about the Stand

Down event, which offers services and assistance to meet the needs of homeless veterans. The WDB has registered for a table at the STAND DOWN event on September 23, 2022.

- Ardella Coleman, VP - Diversity and Talent Acquisition, Cooper Health Care
Ardella shared that her intention is to offer Cooper's support, including hiring and other initiatives, to things that the Abilities Committee might have on their agenda and that Cooper has a facility and resources to partner with the committee for hiring events and career fairs that support diversity in their workforce for veterans and people with limited abilities. She noted that Cooper is in the process of revamping its Veteran of the Year Award and is focused on veterans as well. She offered that a hiring event may be planned in the future for veterans and people with limited abilities for opportunities at Cooper. Ardella shared that she is in the beginning stages of creating an employee resource group for Cooper's employees with disabilities, to provide resources for people with limited abilities in their own workforce.
- Angel Lucas, Employment Manager, JEVS/HireAbility
JEVS is recognizing National Disability Employment Awareness Month in October with a special event. Angel stated that JEVS will be hosting a job fair and employment recognition event on October 26th at Camden County College. The recognition event, for employers and individuals, will follow the job fair. The marketing department is putting together the Save-the-Date flyer which will include a link for registration and she will share the flyer as soon as it's available.
- Carl Donato, Committee Chair
Carl thanked Cooper Health Care for partnering on his veterans-centered agenda this year, as he is passionate about issues relevant to veterans and people of limited abilities. Lois Forman expressed an interest in a job fair in the Spring for Veterans and people with challenges. Spring 2023 is being considered for the career fair, and an educational event will be considered for the Fall. Ardella Coleman shared that Cooper has the facility resources to host the job fair but would be open to supporting the event at another site.
- Shay Turnage, Director of Talent Acquisition, Cooper Health Care
Shay commented that Cooper is creating strategic partnerships that will also build diversity partnerships and support the community in a meaningful way. She noted Cooper would be interested in hosting such an event where perhaps there would be hiring opportunities at Cooper.
- Lois Forman, Job Bank Coordinator, JFCS
Lois shared that the JFCS serves individuals in Burlington, Camden and Gloucester counties. through the division of Oak Rehab and Developmental Disabilities, they also provide family assistance (food, counseling, school supplies, support services, etc.) and a job bank. A grant through The Jewish Women's Foundation will provide funds for a workshop in March (tentatively) for women in career transition or returning to the workforce. Ardella Coleman asked for the flyer about the JFCS backpack drive so Cooper can support their efforts.
- Oriel Weinberg, Director of Disability Services, JFCS
Oriel stated that the JFCS took on a contract with the Haddonfield School District to assist them with pre-vocational training and they're looking for job sites where the students can work and develop their skills and to develop. An event will be held for the Burlington County school system as part of the JFCS's big drive to get more involved with the schools and child study teams. JFCS has had phenomenal experiences with Project Search and its Soups and Sweets Culinary Program. They are developing a living skills room in one of their sites where there is an opportunity to help those who are in the day habilitation program and those also

at supported employment, to better assess where their skill levels are and enhance support to help them step up to working on their own, independently.

- Frank Cirii, Local Area Operations Director, Camden County One Stop Career Center
Frank stated people were getting help on site with unemployment issues and, since the last meeting, UI has now enhanced its website features to allow people to make their own in-person appointments to resolve issues with their benefits. The One-Stop is now a regional GED testing site in South Jersey and able to set appointments for people for GED testing. The schedule is about 2-3 weeks out due to staffing in August. The One-Stop will have resource table at the 5th Annual Congressman Donald Norcross Constituent Services Fair at Camden County College on August 18th from 10am to 4pm. Among the resources that will be available at the college during the event are veteran services, housing assistance, assistance for senior services/Medicare and immigration.
- Alex Levitt, Administrative Assistant, Workforce Development Board
Alex shared that the Summer Youth Employment Program is winding down. The Summer Youth Committee has begun circulating its Success Story Video clips for social media sharing and the Youth Sub-Committee is working on how to gain more insight from the audience they serve. The next meeting is at the end of the month.
- Jeff Swartz, Executive Director, Workforce Development Board

Summer Youth Employment Program

Close to 40 young people were placed in 21 or 22 work sites throughout the county for the Summer Youth Employment Program. To date, only candidate that was terminated from their position. A postmortem on the program will be done to see what went right, what went wrong, and get feedback from the employers. It appears that most, if not all, of the employers really enjoyed the young people for the Summer and want to participate again next year.

Atlantic City Electric Initiative (ACE)

For the ACE initiative, we are in the process of looking for our 2023 cohort. Recruiting will continue and information sessions will be held for interested parties in the Fall. If they are ready to take the next step toward the actual training classes, the next cohort will probably start in February 2023. The Line School/Physical Abilities Program is still dealing with one or two issues delaying the start. A bucket truck was secured and about 26 candidates are ready to go.

Quarterly Board Meeting

The Quarterly Board Meeting is on the 21st of September. The meeting will be virtual. Among the meeting activities will be approval of the budget for this year. Ken Brahl, Chair of the Literacy Committee will provide an update on the literacy needs assessment (LNA). The remaining work to be done is Hope Works creating maps for the updated assessment. Kevin Kurdziel, Executive Director of the Middlesex County WDB, and President of GSETA (Garden State Employment and Training Association), will discuss the upcoming conference in October, as well as some of the unique things that GSETA has done over the past year. A person conference is planned for 2023, but this year's conference again will be virtual, as the last one was in Atlantic City. Some outstanding national presenters are lined up for the conference dates October 18th and 19th. Registration should open up for this conference on Monday on the website, www.GSETA.org., where you should be able to access presentation topics and information on the event.

National Night Out

The WDB participated in National Night Out events last week. In Clementon, Cherry Hill and Pine Hill. Each event was an opportunity to meet with a lot of local residents and spread the word about the services available to county residents about county programs. Thanks to Ken Brahl and to Frank for providing a One-Stop staff member to help and participate at one of the events.

ADJOURNMENT

Carl Donato Jr. made the motion a motion for adjournment, seconded by Lois Forman. The motion carried with a unanimous vote to the affirmative and the meeting was adjourned at 9:34am.

NEXT MEETING

The next Abilities Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 8, 2022, at 8:30am. The meeting will be conducted via Zoom.

Submitted by,
Debra Vaughn
Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director