



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, AUGUST 13, 2026 VIA ZOOM

ATTENDEES

Name	Organization	Trustee Member	8-Jan-26	12-Feb-26	5-Mar-26	9-Apr-26	14-May-26	11-Jun-26	Jul-2026	13-Aug-26
Donato, Carl, Chair	An Affair To Remember	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Askie-Rosario, Andrea	CC Commission for the Blind			X						X
Banner, Salema	Center for Independent Living, So Jersey			X						
Cirii, Frank	Camden County One-Stop	✓		X	X	X				
Cole, Samuel	High Focus Centers			X						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				
Fugee, Antoinette	Cooper University Healthcare				X	X				
Kotsakis, Janet	Food Bank of NJ									X
Lynn, Meghan	ARC of Camden County		X		X	X		X		X
Martin, Janeene	Jewish Family & Children's Service			X	X	X	X	X		X
McClelland, Stacy	Enterprise									
McClintock, Monica	Rowan University			X		X	X			
McKelvey, Chris	Borough of Clementon				X					
McKinney, Janine	Rutgers University - Camden									X
Newman, Jason	NJ DOL - Veteran Services				X	X	X			
Perez, Irene	NJDVRS			X	X	X	X	X		
Quigley, 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				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	X		X
Vaughn, Debra	WDB Staff		X	X	X	X	X	X		X

WELCOME

The meeting was called to order and participants were welcomed. Carl clarified that the minutes being approved were from May, as June was an event rather than a regular meeting, and there was no July meeting. Motion to approve the May meeting minutes was made by Jeffrey S. Swartz, seconded by Meghan Lynn. All present voted in favor; no abstentions or objections were raised and the May meeting minutes were approved.

Carl introduced Jonathan Swisa as the newest member of the Camden County Workforce Development Board team. Jonathan joined on July 13th and came through the Arc's services under Megan Lynn. Each committee member introduced themselves to Jonathan.

- Johnathan's hiring was highlighted as a direct example of the Abilities Committee's mission in action.

Recap of June 11th Event

Carl recapped the June 11th event held at Camden County College, which focused on hiring individuals with abilities. The event was described as small, intimate, and highly successful.



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- Three individuals shared success stories, including one through Megan Lynn, one through Irene, and Carl's daughter Ashley. He emphasized that even helping one person think differently makes an event a success. Janet Kotsakis (food Bank of South Jersey) noted she is now in her second committee meeting.
- The event was deemed a success, resulting in new ongoing committee members, Janet Kotsakis and Janine McKinney.

Recap of Quarterly Board of Trustees Meeting

Carl shared highlights from the full board meeting at Camden County College, including a presentation by Vietnam War veteran Bob Smyth.

- Bob Smyth, a decorated Vietnam War veteran, was invited to speak. He spoke about his career, his work supporting veterans and their families, and the significance of the country's 250th birthday. His presentation was entirely unscripted and captivated the audience.

COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES

Carl facilitated a round-robin of updates from each attendee covering both personal and professional activities over the summer.

- Andrea Askie-Rosario, Commission for the Blind & Visually Impaired: No updates; personally, busy touring colleges with her oldest child.
- Janine McKinney, Rutgers University: Working on completing her doctorate at the University of Wilmington, focused on ADA, accommodation-seeking behavior, and psychosocial/demographic factors in the workplace.
- Janeene Martin, Jewish Family & Children's Services: The organization is recruiting for the Soups and Sweets program (nearly full, a few slots remaining for September).
 - Project SEARCH participants starting at Jefferson Health Cherry Hill and Jefferson Stratford;
 - JFCS continues to expand transition programming and is actively seeking passionate employment specialists.
- Janet Kotsakis, Food Bank of South Jersey: Has an upcoming meeting with Megan Lynn to explore deeper involvement in workforce development at the Food Bank of South Jersey.
- Meghan Lynn: Arc of Camden has launched a new program called "Mission in Motion," aimed at community partnerships, school supply drives, food drives, and event participation.
- Johnathan Swisa: Shared that getting the job at the WDB this summer was a major milestone.

CCWDB - UPCOMING EVENTS & BUSINESS UPDATES

Jeffrey Swartz provided a detailed update on recent activities and upcoming events for the Workforce Development Board:

- WDB staff attended National Night Outs in Cherry Hill and Pine Hill and accompanied 90 summer youth work experience interns to Atlantic City Electric's corporate headquarters in Mays Landing for an interactive educational day.
- Upcoming events include:
 - County Job Fair – September 11th (Friday), Nordstrom section of Cherry Hill Mall. Tables available; volunteers and materials welcome.



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- Stand Down for South Jersey – 8:30am to 12:30pm on Friday, September 25, 2026 at the Cherry Hill Armory, Grove & Park Blvd, Cherry Hill, NJ. The event is dedicated to veterans; services include clothing, job readiness, and vaccines. Wawa will be supplying hoagies. Setup at 7:00 AM, event runs 8:30 AM–12:30 PM.
- Unity Day – September 19th, Camden County on the Cooper River (Camden County Prosecutor's event).
- Winslow Township Job Fair – September 26, 2026.
- The next quarterly board meeting is a Zoom meeting on September 16th. Board members must register to ensure quorum, as several business items require a vote.
- Local and regional plans have been submitted. WDB certification is pending signatures for the MOU/IFA extension from partner agencies awaiting board approval.
- Three new board trustees appointed at the June meeting have completed orientation.:
 - Heidi Daunoras (Multiplicity Consulting and LLC)
 - Joeliza Rosado (Mid Penn Bank)
 - Rachele Dorsey (Atlantic City Electric)

PLANNING A PARENT-FOCUSED OPEN FORUM EVENT

Carl proposed organizing an event or open forum specifically for parents of individuals with limited abilities, to gather input on what the Abilities Committee can do to better support them. The group discussed feasibility, format, and timing.

- Carl proposed the idea of inviting parents to share their experiences and needs, presenting himself both as committee chair and as a parent of children with challenges, to create a relatable message.
- Janeene suggested framing it as an open forum; noted that attendance at similar events varies but it is always worth trying. JFCS holds quarterly disability services family meetings with mixed attendance.
- Jeff asked Megan, Janeene, and Andrea whether parents of their clients would feel comfortable sharing in such a setting.
- Meghan Lynn noted that parents frequently report feeling lost and overwhelmed; suggested focusing on transition support to help parents navigate available resources.
- Janeene agreed that transition is a critical area; noted that many families, even with adult children, are unaware of available services. Some school districts are better than others at informing parents.
- Jeff acknowledged both sides — some parents would welcome the forum, while others may prefer privacy. Encouraged taking the "Hail Mary" approach and trying it.
- Janine McKinney expressed alignment between her doctoral research on ADA accommodation-seeking and the committee's goals.
- Jeffrey Swartz suggested timing the event with National Disability Month in October, preferably in-person toward the end of the month to allow planning time.
- Carl is open to hybrid or online formats. He proposed making this event a formal agenda item for the September 10th meeting. The committee expressed general support for the idea. The parent open forum concept will be added as a formal agenda item for the September 10th meeting.



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October (National Disability Month) was identified as a target timeframe for the event, with an in-person format preferred.

CHALLENGES

- **WDB Certification:** Still pending signatures from several partner agencies that require board approval before signing. Progress is dependent on external board timelines.
- **Recruiting Employment Specialists:** Janeene noted ongoing difficulty finding committed and passionate employment specialists to serve individuals with disabilities in the JFCS population.
- **Parent Awareness and Engagement:** Many families of individuals with disabilities remain unaware of available services, even when their children are adults. Reaching and engaging this population for the proposed open forum may present outreach challenges.

ACTION ITEMS

Jeffrey Swartz

- Follow up with partner agencies to obtain remaining signatures for WDB certification
- Encouraged board members register for the September 16th quarterly board meeting on Zoom to ensure quorum
- Explore venue options for a potential in-person parent open forum event in October (National Disability Month)

Carl

- Add the parent open forum proposal as a formal agenda item for the September 10th Abilities Committee meeting
- Draft outreach messaging for the parent forum, framing it from both a committee chair and personal parent perspective

Meghan Lynn

- Attend upcoming meeting with Janet Kotsakis to explore the Food Bank of South Jersey's involvement in workforce development
- Provide input at the September 10th meeting on parent engagement strategies for the proposed open forum

Janeene Martin

- Continue recruitment for the Soups and Sweets Program (remaining slots to be filled before September start)
- Continue search for qualified employment specialists at JFCS

All Board Members

- Consider volunteering or bringing materials to the September 11th County Job Fair and/or the Stand Down for South Jersey event on September 25th

The next Abilities Committee meeting will be held on Zoom on Thursday, September 10, 2026 at 9:00 AM.

The next quarterly Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at 9:00AM on ZOOM.

Respectfully submitted by Debra Vaughn, Executive Assistant