



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Supporting the Development and Retention of a World Class Workforce

Jeffrey S. Swartz, Executive Director

Carl A. Donato Jr., Chair

Business Service and Outreach Minutes for August 21, 2025 via Zoom

ATTENDANCE

	Organization	Trustee Member	16-Jan-25	20-Feb-25	20-Mar-25	17-Apr-25	15-May-25	17-Jul-25	21-Aug-25
Thompson Ryan	Mid Penn Bank, BSOT Chair	X	X		X	X			X
Askie-Rosario, Andrea	CC Commission of the Blind							X	X
Baer, Jessica	NJ DOL			X			X		
Bass, Henry	NJ DOL				X				
Michael Butler	The Fountain Fund				X				
Campbell, Gabriella	NJ DOL		X	X	X	X	X		
Cirli, Frank	CCOSCC	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Deitz, Jeff	DVRS			X					
Fugee, Antoinette	Cooper		X	X	X	X			X
Lakshminarayan, Pavithra	NJ DOL								X
Lord, Lisa	CCTS							X	X
Moen, Bill	Camden County College		X	X			X	X	
Perez, Irene	DVRS		X		X	X		X	
Pomales, Nicole	Camden County College							X	
Regensburger, Robert	Lockheed Martin	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Shafer, Derena	Camden County College			X		X	X	X	
Sinclair, Nidia	Camden County One-Stop				X				
Weil, Robert	Conner, Strong, and Buckelew	X		X	X	X		X	X
Susan McShane	Npower					X			
Carelina Vieira-Ruiz	NPower					X			
Richelle Hardison	WDB				X			X	X
Michelle Rohan	WDB			X	X	X	X	X	X
Swartz, Jeffrey S.	WDB		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Vaughn, Debra	WDB		X	X		X		X	X

Welcome and Approval of Minutes

Ryan Thompson opened the meeting at 2:04PM. Ryan asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the July 17, 2025 meeting. A motion was made by Bob Weil and seconded by Jeff Swartz. With majority vote to the affirmative, the motion carried, and the minutes were approved.

SUMMARY

Justice-Impacted Webinar Planning Discussion

The meeting began with introductions, including Pavithra, a sector strategist from the New Jersey Department of Labor, and other attendees. Ryan proposed scheduling a justice-impacted webinar for October but noted the conflict with the GSETA Conference. The group agreed to explore alternative dates.

Empowerment Expo and Regional Events

The meeting covered updates on two main events: an upcoming Empowerment Expo on October 8th at the Clementon Fire Hall, and various regional activities. The Empowerment Expo will feature multiple service providers including Arc of Camden County, CAMcare Health, and various veterans' services, with Deb leading the coordination. Jeffrey and Deb also discussed upcoming regional events including a Job Fair at Cherry Hill Mall, a Unity Fun Day at Cooper River Park, and participation in the 2025 Stand Down for South Jersey, with Jeffrey noting that materials from community partners are welcome at these events.

Work First Funding and Extensions

Jeffrey reported that WorkFirst New Jersey numbers are pending in Washington, and they received a 30-day extension for the workforce of customers to spend down balances, with no new contracts possible after September 30. Jessica, filling in for Gabriela, shared that they received dislocated worker funding of \$500,000 for OJTs, significantly less than the previous \$10 million, and discussed an upcoming September 11th job fair at Rowan



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College of Gloucester for laid-off workers from various companies, requiring participants to earn at least \$17.50/hour with pathways to \$26/hour.

Manufacturing Alliance Updates and Initiatives

Pavithra provided updates on the Manufacturing Alliance of South Jersey, including an upcoming quarterly meeting on August 27th featuring presentations on tax incentives for manufacturers and energy efficiency programs. Pavithra concluded by sharing that the South Jersey manufacturing partnership was selected as a champion for the GSETA Conference, where they will present on industry-led collaboration success stories.

Team Updates and Upcoming Events

The meeting focused on updates and achievements, including the success of the Puratos Corporation initiative and the onboarding of new team members, Dora and Mr. Young, at Cooper. Jeffrey and the Camden County WDB were thanked for their contributions in referring candidates. Ryan announced upcoming events, including the Quarterly Meeting on September 17 and the BSOT Committee meeting on September 18.

Summer Internship Program Success

The meeting focused on the successful completion of a summer internship program that hosted 100 interns across 36 worksites, with a 97% success rate. Michelle and Richelle discussed the positive feedback received from worksites and supervisors, highlighting the interns' professional demeanor and skill development. Some interns received new roles at their companies, and several worksites expressed interest in hiring returning interns. The program was divided into two cohorts with staggered start dates, and the first group's internships concluded on Friday, with the second group ending the following Friday.

Camden County Student Development Success

Antoinette highlighted plans for next year's program, including integrating professional development components and coordinating job shadowing opportunities with various departments, while Jeffrey and others expressed gratitude to the staff for their dedication and hard work.

Next steps

- Ryan to schedule the justice impacted webinar for a time that doesn't conflict with the GSETA Conference in mid-October.
- Deb to send the Empowerment Expo flyer to committee members when it's posted to the website.
- Jessica to email the Customer Service Career Pathway Job Fair flyer to Deb.
- Pavithra to send links for the Manufacturing Alliance of South Jersey quarterly meeting to the committee.
- Committee members promote the October 8th Empowerment Expo at Clementon Fire Hall to their networks.

ADJOURNMENT

Ryan asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Antoinette Fugee and seconded by Bob Weil. By majority vote to the affirmative, the motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 2:44PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Michelle Rohan, Committee Coordinator.