



2 South Main Street 2nd Floor Pleasantville, NJ 08232
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Business Development Committee Minutes

June 2, 2023

Attendance : Max Slusher (Chair), Fran Kuhn, Jon Schleifer, Paul McClellan, Michael Pompei, Sherwood Taylor, Steven Stokes, Samuel Ware, Jim Drew, Alan Beatty

Absent: Sherrise A. Moten , Michael Chait, Neal Bellinger, Joe Calio, Romeo Ruddick

The meeting came to order at 9:05am. The minutes were discussed and reviewed by the committee prior to the meeting. The Chair cancelled the August meeting.

Mr. Kuhn requested to table the minutes from the previous meeting.

Executive's Director's Report: Mr. Kuhn reported to the committee that the RFP is in its final draft period. The plan is to have it completed and released to the public in August for a 45-day period. The ACWDB should have the responses ready for the Ad Hoc committee to review and score sometime in early October and the contract should be executed by January 2024.

He continued sharing with the committee his efforts to work with Stockton University , but no date has been set for a follow up meeting and no one has been confirmed to replace Professor Lamour. He will keep the committee posted on the progress.

Mr. Kuhn provided an update on the kickoff meeting with the Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank, Anchors for Equity Initiative for Atlantic County. The Anchors are as follows Atlanticare, Atlantic Cape Community College, Stockton University and Atlantic County Office of Workforce Development. This is a research project that will assess the services within the community that may or may not be working .

The Chairman's Report: Mr. Slusher discussed the summer season referring to the AAA's recommendation that this will be the busiest travel season ever. He mentioned the Water Park at Showboat adding to the employment numbers and the increase in lifeguards throughout the county.

Mr. Slusher provided an update on the employment and unemployment numbers in Atlantic County. He is concerned about the millennials moving out of the area after high school. He is very aware that this particular group in larger numbers may not attend college, possibly a trade school or look to entrepreneurial opportunities. These numbers would not increase the Labor Force



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percentages. He reviewed the current labor issues and spoke of the New Jersey labor market remaining resilient in June. Nonfarm employment in New Jersey increased by 600 more jobs in the state. May employment estimates were revised upward by 1,900 to show a gain of 11,700 jobs. The discussion moved to job growth and how that can evolve.

The Chair's report concluded with information on the debt ceiling package that would require certain adult Medicaid recipients to work, perform community service, or participate in an employment program for at least 80 hours per month or earn a certain minimum income. These issues were discussed among the members. More information to follow.

Mr. Slusher discussed the upcoming new development on the FAA site. They are looking to attract new businesses to complete the available office spaces.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by the Chair second by A. Beatty.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10am

Next Meeting October 20th