



2 South Main Street 2nd Floor Pleasantville, NJ 08232
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Workforce Development Full Board Minutes

September 12, 2023

Attendance : Jim Drew (Chair), Maryann McGhee (Vice Chair), Michael Pompei (Treasurer/Secretary), Alan Beatty, Dan Brown, Joe Calio, Michael Chait, Pat Costantino, Kelly DeCurtis, Parina Desai, Geoffrey Dorsey, Mark Ford, Sherwood Taylor (Proxy Dr. Gaba), Forrest Gilmore, Philp Guenther, Elaine Hawkes, Thomas Jennings, , Dan Konczyk, Tim Kreischer, Lisa Martinez (Proxy for McClellan), Romeo Ruddick, Jon Schleifer, Nandini Sing, Max Slusher, Michelle Soreth, Candace Titanski, Charles Wallace III

Absent: Neal Bellinger, Greg Freelon, Dan Kelly ,Raiz Rajput ,Steven Stokes, Sandra Foyil, Nancy Vekios, and Roy Foster

The meeting was called to order by the new Chair Jim Drew at 9:00 am at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino. Mr. Kuhn thanked Ms. Soreth and Ms. McGhee for their efforts in planning and preparing the room for the Board meeting. The Chair requested a motion to approve the minutes from the June 6th meeting, motion by A. Beatty second by J. Dorsey motion passes.

The Chair requested to yield to the meeting to allow Debra Diamond, Director Anchor Economy and Ashley Putnam, Director, Economic Growth & Mobility Project from the Philadelphia Reserve Bank, Anchors for Equity Research Lab to make a presentation. They discussed the following:

- What is the economic impact of eds and meds on regional economies
- The reliance Index as it relates to jobs in the region
- Review of comparable regions that are similar to Atlantic City
- Asset mapping review for the next meeting

There were several questions about Rutgers and Rowan being a part of the Anchors. What year did data come from? What was the referenced material? Ashley concluded the presentation with inviting all board members to the Anchors meeting in September and participating in the process of data collection and service identification for the Atlantic County community. That concluded the presentation.

Mr. Fata presented the budget for review and consideration. He discussed PY21, PY22 including information on revue of the prior year, expenditures, cuts from the state and ACWDB ability to carryover funds. He continued with contracts and enrollment numbers. Please see attached budget. One question on the floor regarding zeros in certain areas of the budget. Mr. Fata explained that all reporting happens 10 business days after the end of the month, he will receive



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the new numbers and them ready for the next Full Board meeting. Mr. Kuhn explained the delay in receiving the budget until the program year began. The Chair requested a motion to accept the financial report as is, Motion by Dan Brown second by Jeff Dorsey, motion passes.

The Chairperson Report: No Report

Mr. Kuhn Report: His report included information for the Ad Hoc Committee and a due date for the RFP response, which is September 28, 2023. The RFP had over 10 request the RFP nationwide and 3 locally on Bid Express. The state compliance report reflected the ACWDB in good standing and a follow up meeting will take place in the near future. All the required policies are posted on the ACWDB website. Mr. Kuhn shared information regarding the three NGO's that are out in the county, **1)** Justice Involved awarded to Stockton University, **2)** LILA Grant which was awarded to Atlantic Community College and **3)** Pathways to Recovery Grant awarded to the City of Pleasantville. Mr. Kuhn included the summer youth update, plus spending at 600,000 plus the spending of the Atlantic Electric summer program total expenses should be about \$900,000 for the summer.

Committee Reports:

Literacy Committee: Report provided by Pat Constantino (Chair). She welcomed new member Elaine Hawkes. She wants to make everyone aware that Mr. Kuhn has expanded a lot of effort spreading information in the community to make sure the needs are satisfied. She pointed out that the service numbers reflected the change in the GED numbers due to the change to Pearson Vue program as per the state. Mr. Kuhn confirmed that we have everything in place to begin the testing. He is hopeful that we can get a pilot test in house.

Healthcare Committee: Alan Beatty(Chair) spoke of the excitement of having the LPN program and the next cohort with Atlantic Cape Community College. CNA's are still having a difficult time to fill vacant positions, especially in the nursing homes. No issue with filling positions in the schools not a lot of people looking for jobs. He concluded with Fran is attempting to locate funding for a health advocate to work in the community and appreciates his efforts.

One Stop Oversight Committee: Mr. Kuhn reported on the performance outcomes, WFNJ contracts that were awarded and how this will assist 325 members of the public assistance population. Highlighting 2 contracts valued at \$600,00 each for a total of 1.2 million.

Business Development Committee: Max Slusher, Chair began with announcing the groundbreaking of the research and technology building at the FAA research park. He spoke of



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federal, state and county governments preparing to bid on contracts. He continued with an update on hosting a meeting at the Art's garage in Atlantic City to attract small businesses.

Disability Committee: Tim Kriescher, (Chair) began his report with an update on Christine Chickadel from the New Jersey Department of Human Services Division of Disability Services. Social Security participants can now save money with a new plan in an account tax free without jeopardizing their benefits. He discussed the "Stop the Stigma" campaign the video efforts and the commitment from ACIT to assist. This video will help business owners feel comfortable when hiring people with disabilities.

Fiscal/Membership Committee: Dan Konczyk, (Chair) began his report by explaining the revenue and finance aspect of the committee and the process this committee reviewed and how they will be working under the guise of the Executive Director. He discussed how maintaining a full membership is the goal of the committee while working to learn as much as possible in the process. He discussed plans to send a committee letter to the County Executive, Levinson regarding the absence of Neal Bellinger with the full support of the Board. He wanted to fill the seat with a new member that is willing fulfill the requirements and participate.

Youth Investment Council: No Report

Old Business: Chair reflects seeing None

New Business: Mr. Kuhn reviewed the resolution to extend the wage reimbursement from \$6,000 to \$10,000. This training assistance is for employers and to gain more traction in the program. Mr. Kuhn considered the request reasonable while calculating the LOS to be about 100, spending 1 million for the year. A motion was placed by Mr. Slusher second by Mr. Drew the motion passes.

The Chair requested a motion to dismiss, motion by Mr. Slusher second by Mr. Brown, motion passes. Meeting adjourned at 10:00am.

Next meeting December 12th

Submitted by

Sherrise A. Moten

Contract Administrator/ Board Liaison