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Atlantic County Workforce Development Full Board September 16, 2021

Attendance

Pat Constantino	Jim Drew	Torrie Garvin	Dr. Philip Guenther	Dan Kelly	Rick Lovering
Theresa Lutz	Paul McClellan	Maryann McGhee	Claire Millar	Riaz Rajput	
Candace Titanski	Tim Kreisler	Dan Konczyk	Max Slusher	Carol Spina	
Raul Ludizaca	Greg Freelon				

Full Board minutes

This meeting was called to order at 9:04am by the Board Chair Riaz R. A motion was given by Rick Lovering, to approve the minutes from the previous meeting and seconded by Jim Drew. There was no discussion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

**Financial Report**

The current budget is \$7 million with 10% expenditures actual expenditures with two months of the program year completed. Training services for PY21 include the following:  
 28 Enrolled 0 Completed 0 Employed 0 related Training 20 OJT Contracts  
 While current activity levels are low, they compare favorably to PY2020, as we are early in the program year. A motion was given by Torrie G. to approve the financial report and seconded by Pat C. with no objections, the report was unanimously approved.

**Riaz R. Board Chair Report**

The board chair introduced Greg Freelon, who has agreed to take on the role as Chair of the Youth Committee. The Chair stated that “there are a lot of issues relative to the youth now and especially going forward that I think he will be extremely influential on.” The Chair also stated that the Disabilities Committee is still in need of a chairperson. He asked if any board members are interested, they should please contact Fran Kuhn.

**Fran K. Executive Director Report**

Unemployment has ended on 9/4/2021 for approximately 10,000 residents. At this point in time, those people that have received a pandemic unemployment extension will no cease receiving it. This means that they will not only lose the three hundred dollars per week stimulus, they will also lose their unemployment. He stated that there are many job opportunities currently that job seekers should be pursuing. Workforce development needs to get them to those job opportunities because many customers are unsure as to what to do, where to go and how to do it. Jim D. added that the Borgata had a job fair of which approximately 200 people attended. Fran K. continued that the One Stop is working with the Tropicana to possibly direct and or refer our customers for employment.

Resolutions

**Addendum #4 Adult Eligibility-** There seemed to be a little bit of confusion about this whole issue of removing the income guidelines from the adult eligibility. The latest clarification on this is that those income standards are priorities for services. The agency’s priority for service must be the low income, underserved minority populations. The federal expectation is that 75% of training services should be

connected to the priority population. The focus needs to be on those lower income levels. It does not preclude us working with other eligible populations, such as the underemployed, as defined in the resolution. This needed to be added in the policy; we're learning more and more as we have conversations with Trenton and with USDOL. Everything pivots around local policy.

A motion was given by Dan K. seconded by Pat C. to approve this addendum Established 9/16/2021 all in favor.

**Resolution #5 Registered Apprenticeship-** To establish a policy to waive the restriction on occupational grant award limits for WIOA eligible customers when they are participation in a registered apprenticeship program.

A motion was given by Pat C. seconded by Theresa L. to approve this policy Established 9/16/2021 all in favor.

**Resolution #6 OJT/Apprenticeship-** To establish policy and procedure for the utilization of paid work experience and training designed to allow the employers direct input and oversight of the training candidate.

A motion was given by Theresa L. seconded by Richard L. to approve this policy Established 9/16/2021 all in favor.

#### OJT Presentation

Michael H. discussed the process of on the job training for our customers and the benefits to the employer. The Job Developers are working with employers to fill their needs with candidates who earn while they learn. As stated the program also allows for employers to receive a 70% wage reimbursement for the duration of the training, or capped at \$6,000.

#### Marketing

We have no allotted funds for marketing therefore we are utilizing all social media outlets as well as word of mouth.

#### Community Based Organizations

One of the training resources that was discussed at a recent Oversight Committee meeting was looking at finding ways to engage community-based organizations in the development and provision of training services for the workforce. In conversation with Trenton regarding a pilot to get the community-based organizations, who have their connections to the communities, to be considered for a pool of providers that could deliver basic job search/ job readiness services to members of their community, the agency has engaged in several on-line meetings with representatives of those organizations. Qualified candidates for this program must be receiving public assistance. The agency proposes creating a fee for service process that would allow services to be provided by the community-based organizations and enhance our connection to the community. Plans are in the works to develop an RFP for these purposes. The agency has a significant amount of funding allotted for these services and is looking at new and innovative ways to deliver these services to qualified members of the communities.

#### Performance

Current agency performance reflects that there are three areas that require additional attention. Those are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr for Dislocated Workers and the 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr for Adults. These performance numbers reflect the beginning of the pandemic impact. Director Kuhn indicated that the performance numbers will get worse before they get better..

#### Committee Reports

Literacy Pat C.- the committee had a meeting on 8/24/21; services are slowly moving towards a pre-pandemic pace. CASAS testing has increased to five days a week due to the demand for testing. TASC testing is ending in November 2021 and will be replaced with HYSED.

Youth- Fran K. reports that Greg F. is the new chair for this committee. It is our goal to connect the youth with reliable services and resources.

Healthcare- Fran K. reports that there is a great need for CNA and Medical Assistant. These needs have been identified at AtlantiCare and Shore Hospital.

Oversight- Fran K. once again referenced the discussion that this committee discussed Community Based Organization as a potential resource for providing services to local members of each community.

Business- Fran K. reports that Max S. is the new chair for this committee. The main concern is the cut off of unemployment and a plan moving forward.

Disabilities- Fran K. reports that they are working on getting those individual hired with their disability as well as employers that are willing to hire.

Membership- Fran K. reports that there is poor attendance to Board/Committee meetings, therefore a formal process is being developed for Board member attendance. Riaz. R. added that all members are valuable, and we want to effectively serve our community.

No Old Business

No New Business

Next meeting is scheduled for December 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. Meeting will be virtual.

Adjourned 10:20am