



Business Development Minutes

February 4, 2022

Attendees: Max Slusher, Karen McCormick, Paul McClellan, Michael Chait, Fran Kuhn, Candace Titanski, Sherrise A. Moten, Michael Hall, Jim Drew, Alan Beatty, Jean Marie McAllister, Erik Ditzio

Absent: Jon Schleifer, Stephanie Koch, Charles Wimberg

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Kuhn at 9:40am.

Motion to approve minutes by Paul M. second by J. Drew.

Mr. Slusher welcomed everyone.

J. Drew shared information about job fair from 4-8pm at Borgata Casino .

During a SETC discussion regarding the 'Big Quit', Mr. Kuhn related that most small businesses have less than nine employees with no incentives to hire. They are struggling to keep the business open because they are unable to meet many of the demands that workers are currently looking for, i.e., higher wages, flexible childcare.

Several committee members commented that the community's understanding that the One Stop is closed currently could be contributing to the lack of activity within. Director Kuhn also stated that the Department of Labor adds to the frustration because they have not informed the public that the One Stop's are opened, even by appointment.

The discussion continued with the acknowledgement that many candidates for jobs register, but never show up. Paul McClellan stated that there are no consequences for not attending a job interview and documenting your efforts to find work for those currently on unemployment.

The conversation shifted to the skill needs required for many businesses, Jean McAlister of Atlantic Cape stated that anyone could receive three credits for free and if they added three more credits, they would receive a laptop to work with. They can keep it as long as they are in school and could keep it if they graduate. She also discussed the Higher Education Relief Fund HERF, that provided a check to students who have been impacted by the pandemic.

Another recent event that is slowing the return to work for some individuals is the announcement of the MEUC stimulus payment. This is a payment of \$100 per week from January 2021 to September 2021 for all eligible unemployment recipients.

Mr. Kuhn stated the Adult Probation in Atlantic County has been working on job matching and placement as a pilot program.



In a separate matter related to the public assistance population, the state has indicated that they are resuming the TANF and GA work activity requirement for all work-ready recipients. This may be a labor pool that could provide additional relief for the employers if they are truly work-ready.

The committee had a brief discussion on the Harbor Beach Grant associated with Atlantic City Electric. This program took residents of Atlantic City and provided remediation and training to prepare them for the utility industry.

Paul. M requested information from Jim D. about current planned interviews for Borgata. fair information to share with staff, the frequency has increased to Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights.

The committee discussed RESEA a work search verification program.

Jim D. shared the casino will be increasing starting salaries for entry level positions to \$15.00 per hour. He mentioned his concern over reduced inventory in affordable housing for the J-1 students coming from overseas. He requested a list of rooming housing in Atlantic City/County for summer student workers.

Mr. Slusher discussed the AC Rail line and increasing participation. Mr. Chait confirmed working with a focus group to work on changes to increase rail line use.

Mr. Beatty requested meeting bi-monthly instead of quarterly meetings, the committee agreed.

Discussing current Incumbent Worker Training activities, Mr. Kuhn confirmed 5 in cohort for the CDL program. Further discussion of registered apprenticeship opportunities for Specialty Nursing positions will be presented by USDOL Office of Apprenticeship at the next Healthcare Subcommittee meeting on the 15th.

Mr. Kuhn provided a Summer Youth update for TANF youth and young adults, 16 to 24, and included information that he intends to extend the program from 10 weeks to 12 weeks. He also stated that the paid stipend will not affect household TANF benefits.

Motion to conclude meeting by Jean McAllister.

Second by Jim Drew.

Meeting concluded at 10:37am.