

FULL WDB MEMBERSHIP CONFERENCE

January 7, 2026

Members Present

Danny Sulpizio, WDB Chair
Heather Faulkner, GC Housing Authority
Michael Girone, Resource Analysis & Budget
Fran Harwell, Community Needs Assessment
Dylan Coates, RCSJ
Rudolph Aikens, GC Div. Human & Special Svcs.
Judith Pissano, GC Library System
Stacey Smith, DVRS
Maria Schaffner, Business
Cody Miller, RCSJ
Lisa Cerny, GC Div. Human & Special Svcs.
Greg Davis, Apprenticeship & Industry Develop.
Joann Gattinelli, Commissioner Liaison
Heather Simmons, RCSJ
Allison Spinelli, WDB Staff
Bridget DiGiambattista, WDB Staff

Anthony Bellia, WDB Vice Chair
Joseph Spencer, RCSJ
Karen Rodriguez, NJDOL
Stephen Hart, DWD/Interim OS Operator
Alisha Thompson, DWD
Carolyn Oldt, GC Library System
Allen Magid, RCSJ
Krista Lope, DVRS
Brenden Rickards, RCSJ
Fred Keating, Rowan University
Susan Heiken, GCIT
Jenn Macchione, St. John of God Comm. Svcs.
Alicia Battaglia, Commissioner Aide
Christine Arpino, GC Probation
Shannon O'Brien, WDB Staff

Teams

Jenn Shaw-Knab, DVRS
Nicole Fields, USDOL
Henry Bass, NJDOL
Ida Stewart, NJDOL
Natalie Fortunato, SJ Dream Center
Lita Abele, Business

Christina Velazquez, GC Housing & Community Dev.
Ed Ferrari, GCIT
JaNea Wilson, NJDOL
Andrea Rivera, DVRS
Amanda Terpstra, Business

Visitor

Shauna Nilenberg, St. John of God Comm. Svcs.
Emerald Williams, Business Interface
Giovanna Clifton, Greater Woodbury Chamber of Commerce

Jodi Green, Greater Woodbury Chamber of Commerce
RaVel Hutchinson, Business Interface

Danny opened the meeting at 8:40 am. He read Open Public Meetings Act, lead membership in Saluting the American Flag, and verified a quorum was present.

Swearing in of WDB Board Members

The oath of office was administered to re-appointed / newly appointed WDB voting members in attendance by Commissioner Gattinelli to the following: Stephen Hart, Susan Heiken, Frederick Keating, Brenden Rickards, Stacey Smith, JaNea Wilson

Commissioner Gattinelli welcomed everyone stating each year brings challenges and with the dedicated people on this board and great outreach that allows us to help many people. She thanked everyone for their dedication.

New Business

A motion to approve October 1, 2025 Full WDB Membership minutes with name correction 'Fran Harwell' was made by A. Bellia, seconded by S. Hart.

A motion to approve 2026 WDB Committee meeting schedule was made by S. Hart, seconded by G. Davis.

A motion to approve establishment of ad hoc committees as needed was made by F. Harwell, seconded by M. Girone.

Allison reported the WDB Plan Update was prepared and posted for public comment to the WDB website for 30-day review and we received no comments. A motion to approve WDB Plan Update was made by M. Girone, seconded by A. Bellia.

Rowan College of South Jersey Update

Brenden Rickards reported the college is working on 3 initiatives.

- 1) Newest partnership is with First Harvest Credit Union where they have established new financial literacy lab – the First Harvest Financial Innovation Lab in the Rastelli Business & Corporate Center. This lab will allow students to analyze financial data, explore budgeting and personal finance scenarios, work with hands-on banking technology.
- 2) Hands on training trades program. The college is looking to develop trades programs on Gloucester & Cumberland campuses. Construction began on expansion of the CTE building on Gloucester. For the students that are interested in trades but are not accepted into GCIT we are offering them training opportunities in the trades-short term for specific trade; credit bearing certificate programs that will stack directly into degree programs not only at RCSJ but also Rowan University. Through RCSJ's Flagship Partner, Rowan University, construction trades programs will have an opportunity for those looking to take the next step on the ladder to management in their respective field. Students can earn up to 24 technical credits for their work experience and apprenticeship programs. The credits will apply to the Technical Studies associate degree, thus beginning their Pathway to Construction Trades and Management. Another trades gap is advanced manufacturing and in partnering with GCIT, CC Tech as well as other tech schools throughout south jersey, an advanced manufacturing program has been developed that will be offered beginning this fall semester on both RCSJ campuses.
- 3) The college will be infusing AI in coursework and programs so the student has an understanding of use of AI. N. Field offered assistance reviewing an AI curriculum to ensure it meets industry needs.

WDB Update

Allison reported WIOA career services contracts were awarded which will supplement career services provided by One Stop Career Center and to offer opportunity to specialize and individualize these services. The contracts are effective January 1, 2026 and expect to be up and running in the coming weeks. One contract was awarded to Business Interface and the other to RCSJ/CTE Division. Allison provided update on what WDB will be working on the coming months.

- We will begin working on SJ Regional Plan update;
- Procurements for both in-school youth program services and additional WFNJ program services;
- Fiscal monitoring begins at the end of January
- Program monitoring updates: Updating WDB required policies and preparing responses for PY24 WIOA Compliance Monitoring
- Annual reports for PY23-24 and PY24-25
- GSETA offering virtual training summit in March using AI tools and technology in the workplace

Lisa Cerny reported under transportation they must follow DOJ ADA implementation for read scanners offered shared services to work to become compliant. Shannon stated she will reach out the Lisa for further discussion.

General Membership Announcements

C. Arpino, GC Probation announced in December they held 1st job readiness and computer skills training for justice impacted individuals at RCSJ. GC Probation is currently working with 5 NJDOL grants. She stated the feedback from the participants has been positive. She is extremely appreciative of the partnerships and thanked them for continued support.

L. Cerny, Div. Human & Special Services reported under Addiction unit they have the WOW (Wellness on Wheels) van and they have partnership with Rowan School of Osteopathic Medicine and stated the van is available for any events and to reach out to her office. The Point in Time Survey which is snapshot of homeless population in Gloucester County will take place the end of January and are asking for volunteers to assist. The Project Search program will offer a virtual open house on January 22, 6pm. The current program year graduation will be held June 10 at Jefferson Health-Washington Township Hospital.

N. Field, USDOL Apprenticeship & Training reported she is required to provide 4 weeks' notice for approval to travel. She reported GCIT is interested in some teacher apprenticeship programs; Rowan University is moving forward with their teacher apprenticeship program; & Delsea Regional School district is interested in teacher apprenticeship programs. In order to meet her goal for 2026, she will review all federal workforce development programs to identify opportunities; want to provide more affordable pathways to secure high paying jobs; ease the regulatory burden on programs and eliminate tax payer support for ineffective workforce development programs.

National Apprenticeship week is end of April and if anyone is interested in her coming out to speak, please let her know.

H. Bass, NJDOL Veterans reported on Jan. 13 there will be a virtual info session with Evolution Gaming and are looking to hire for games presenters. On Jan. 16 there will be a Skillsup workshop and currently have 5 employers participating however, there is no confirmed location. McLane Foods is looking to hire truck drivers and warehouse workers. Henry is working with veterans who are transitioning to civilian careers through the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) at Joint Base-Dix-Lakehurst and is looking for employers to participate and hire veterans. The Hire a Hero affair has continued to grow, the program helps with assisting veterans and their families gain employment.

F. Keating stated in hearing today about veterans and re-entry, Rowan University is in second phase of application to work with the VA to establish a micro hospital for veterans in partnership with School of Osteopathic Medicine on the RCSJ campus. There will be a meeting with the VA Director next week and hope good news for Gloucester County comes from that meeting.

Heather thanked Dan for his continued service as Chair of the Workforce Development Board and thanked new and re-appointed WDB members sworn in today and thanked Allison for stepping in in Michelle's temporary absence to ensure everything is getting done in addition to her existing job responsibilities. She also thanked Interim RCSJ President Brenden Rickards and previous RCSJ President Fred Keating for their support of education and labor in Gloucester County.

A motion for adjournment was made by M. Girone, seconded by S. Hart.

The next meeting will be April 1, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridget A. DiGiambattista, WDB Staff