

FULL WDB MEMBERSHIP CONFERENCE

August 2, 2023

Members Present

Les Vail, WDB Chair	Michael Girone, WDB Vice Chair
Jenn Mauro, Goodwill Industries	Jeffery Shisler Abilities Solutions
Danny Sulpizio, First Harvest Credit Union	Joann Patnode, St. John of God Community Srvs.
Christina Velazquez, GC Econ. Dev./CDBG	Theresa Rohlfing, Ctr. for Indep. Living SJ
Lani Allen-Davis, MidAtlantic States Career & Edu.	Shane Stevenson, GC Div. Social Services
Nick Bidinger, Local Union 322	Jennifer Shaw-Knab, DVRS
Christine Arpino, Gloucester Probation	Ken Barnshaw, Deptford Township
Amy Charlesworth, People in Transition	Andrea Rivera, DVRS
Kimberly Gober, GC Housing Authority	Brigette Satchell, RCSJ
Julie DeLaurentis, Business	Stephen Hart, DWD
Susan Perron, Abilities Solutions	Nicole Wilson, Inspira
Michelle Baylor, GC Health Dept.	Jenn Macchione, St. John of God Community Srvs.
Tom Bianco, GC Economic Development	Kimberly Quigley, St. John of God Community Srvs.
Janet Garraty, GC Chamber of Commerce	Crystal Torres, People in Transition
Cody Miller, RCSJ	Carolyn Oldt, GC Library System
Fran Harwell, FBO	Randee Davidson, RCSJ

Visitors

Pavithra Lakshminarayan, NJ Industry Partnerships	Bill Kress, DC21 Painters Union
Frank Faiella, DC21 Painters Union	Tamu Lewis, MidAtlantic States Career & Edu.
Kristi Linksi, MidAtlantic States Career & Edu.	Helena Zangari, DVRS
Adriana Lockman, GC Probation	

Les opened the meeting at 9 am.
Salute the Flag
Verification of Quorum
Open Public Meetings Act was read.

A motion to approve April 12, 2023 meeting minutes was made by D. Sulpizio, seconded by T. Bianco.

WDB Budget Approval

Michelle presented the PY-23/24 budget summary. Our total budget for PY23 is \$3,232,326.00 which is a slight decrease from last year. We are performing in the green for WIOA with only a few areas that we will be addressing – credentialing youth and skills gains. Our unemployment rate is 3.7% and the number of people employed on a full-time basis is 159,400.

A motion to approve WIOA/WFNJ PY23/24 budget was made by M. Girone, seconded by K. Barnshaw.

Youth One Stop Provider – went out for procurement in May with 7 inquiries but only received 1 proposal.

A procurement review committee was formed, reviewed the proposal, and recommended RCSJ for the Out-of-School Youth (OSY) provider. GC Improvement Authority handled the procurement.

A motion to accept RCSJ as Youth One Stop Provider was made by J. DeLaurentis, and seconded by K. Barnshaw.

Special Presentation

Pavithra Lakshminarayan, Project Manager (southern region) from NJ Industry Partnerships (NJDOL). The Industry Partnerships recognize business leaders across different sectors and resolve workforce, educational and economic challenges that face the sector locally and in the region. A copy of her presentation is attached.

WDB Update

Les reported under the Marketing & Business Outreach Committee, a sub-committee was created to update our marketing plan. He thanked all of the sub-committee members for their help in finalizing the plan. Three objectives: Establish our brand as a source of career training programs for adult learners in our target market; choose media channels for promotion & information sharing; continue the discussion of hiring a third-party firm to execute the mission, vision, and goals. Following board approval, we will have a shared community outreach and engagement coordinator. A copy of the marketing plan is attached. A motion to accept the Marketing Plan was made by B. Satchell, seconded by K. Barnshaw.

Les recognized Susan Perron, President/CEO of Abilities Solutions who has been part of WDB for many years, will be retiring on September 1.

Announcements

- J. Garraty, GC Chamber of Commerce announced the golf outing will be held on September 11 at? The best of Gloucester County ceremony will be held Monday, September 25, 5:30-8:00 at Washington Lake Park.
- B. Satchell, RCSJ/CTE announced they will be hosting Career & Technical Education information session on August 15, 5-9 pm; GC Reentry Career & Resource Event will be held on September 15, 10 am-1 pm at RCSJ/Gymnasium; they received a grant from the Governor's office to offer a grant-funded program for NJ American Water for their water up program (utility pipeline training), there will be no cost to individuals who participate and they will get a \$1,500 stipend and employment opportunities with American Water; in partnership with Rowan University they have a federal grant for training as community health workers and peer recovery specialists, this grants go through to 2025 and covers all participants training costs and will receive \$7,500 stipend for participating. They received grant funding to develop a program to increase employees for direct support professionals as well as upskilling. The County of Gloucester will be funding individuals interested in the CNA program, they will cover the cost of training programs for employment opportunities with Shady Lane and other county nursing homes/assisted living facilities.
- N. Bidinger, Local 322 announced applications for apprenticeship in Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Division will be available starting September 11.
- N. Wilson, Inspira Health announced they are running a program with RCJS for respiratory programs beginning in the fall.
- K. Quigley, St. John of God Community Svcs. announced they are hiring part-time drivers; direct support professionals in their day habilitation program; and 2 employment specialists.
- L. Vail, WDB Chair announced the GC Mega Job Fair & Resource Event will be held Oct. 13, 2023, at RCSJ and the Veterans Job Fair & Resource Event will be held Nov. 3, 2023, at RCSJ.

A motion for adjournment was made by M. Girone, seconded by B. Satchell.

The next meeting will be on October 31, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridget A. DiGiambattista, WDB Staff