

## FULL WDB MEMBERSHIP CONFERENCE

March 13, 2019

### Members Present

Les Vail, WDB Chair  
Michelle Shirey, WDB Executive Director  
Lisa Cerny, GC Disability & Human Services  
Tom Fletcher, Business  
Jim Robinson, Business  
Wanda Rogers, DWD  
JaNea Wilson, NJLWD  
Patty Claghorn, RCGC  
John Mondelli, GCIT  
Denise Taguwa, NJLWD  
Salem Banner, CILSJ  
Dwana White, St. John of God  
Susan Perron, Abilities Solutions  
Melissa Eckstein, Gateway High School  
Marie Rafter, Gloucester County Probation  
Brigitte Satchell, RCGC  
Kristen Wilson, RCGC  
Anthony Bellia, Business  
Michelle Mullen, DWD  
Anthony DiFabio, Robin's Nest  
Peter Kaprielyan, Business  
Eileen Gallo, WDB Staff

Michael Girone, WDB Co-Chair  
Katie Doyle, Div. Social Services  
Cleve Bryan, Business  
Mike Dicken, GCIT/GCSSSD  
Thomas Brown, MASCEC  
Karen Speiker, The Arc Gloucester  
Robert DeMarco, NJLWD  
Jeffrey Berger, Union  
Andrea Rivera, DVRS  
Theresa Roling, CILSJ  
Kathy Farinaccio, Business  
Jen Macchione, St. John of God  
Bryan Miller, Abilities Solutions  
Stephen Hart, DWD  
Dyanna Dessino, GCIT  
Danny Sulpizio, South Jersey Federal Credit Union  
Kim Gober, GC Housing Authority  
Chris McKelvey, NJLWD  
Kim Alexander, GCIT  
Randee Davidson, RCGC  
Christina Velazquez, GC Planning  
Bridget DiGiambattista, WDB Staff

Les opened the meeting at 8:15 am.

Salute the Flag

Verification of quorum was made.

Reading of the Opening Public Meetings Act

A motion to approve December 3, 2018 meeting minutes was made by M. Girone, seconded by D. Sulpizio.

### Oath of Office-New/Reappointed WDB Members

Freeholder Heather Simmons administered Oath of Office to newly appointed and reappointed WDB members present.

### Special Remarks

Freeholder Simmons offered thanks to Tom, Michelle, & Les for all they do in keeping the WDB members engaged. We recently applied to the State Department of Labor & Workforce Development for the GAINS grant which is the alternative apprenticeship program grant. MASCEC, partnering with Economic Development/WDB, RCGC, GCIT, Gateway High School & Rowan University is submitting a grant application for an apprenticeship program in advanced manufacturing working with a company as a pilot program. We recently met with Wedgewood Pharmacy, regarding apprenticeship tracks for pharmacy technicians. Wedgewood is working with RCGC, GCIT, & Rowan University on everything from internships, coop programs, customer service training and they are currently doing 3 separate research projects at Rowan University/College of Engineering. A meeting is scheduled with DeMountable Concepts to tour their facility. Michelle attended Food Manufacturing conference recently and make connection with Food Manufacturing company looking to fill 30 positions. Inspira construction is moving towards completion on a new state of the art hospital and advanced cancer center. Inspira will be participating in the job fair. The MEGA Job Fair is scheduled for Fri. March 29, 2019 and we are at capacity. We are partnering with RCGC and Mid-Atlantic Career & Education Center holding job fair workshops to ensure the job seekers are

prepared for the job fair. She extended thank you to Bellia Print & Design for participating in our job fair for the first time.

### **Presentation**

Mike Dicken, Superintendent GCIT/GCSSSD provided presentation on Securing Our Children's Future Bond Act. The Bond ACT passed resulting in 500 million dollar bond act which will only be allowed for expansion of county vocational schools. Mike stated they will be applying for the grant. They are proposing a new building be built on RCGC campus with a cost estimate of \$15-20 million project with a 25% match from Gloucester County Board of Freeholders. They will have an advisory committee of employers meet in April at GCIT to hear what their needs are, what training needs they have, etc. They are looking at career cluster of 5 different types of manufacturing: innovative design & electronics technology; mechatronics; programmable logistic controllers; health technologies; & logistics & distribution. A copy of Mike's presentation is attached.

### **WDB Update**

Michelle offered thank you to our State partners, we couldn't do everything without working as a team with them. Michelle stated the first thing a business asks when either expanding or relocating is about workforce, so when we are able to talk with companies early we are able to make all the necessary connections. Plans for our new building are moving along, contracts are complete with Rowan University, as they will be on the Eds & Meds corridor on RCGC campus. Michelle invited WDB members to volunteer to assist the job seekers at the MEGA Job Fair & Resource Event on Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. Michelle attended the Reverse job fair at RCGC/Adult Center for Transition on March 11<sup>th</sup>. She stated what a wonderful experience it was.

### **Announcements**

GC Chamber - Les reported the Best of Gloucester County will begin on March 18, 2019. The Best of Ceremony will be held June 3, 2019 at Auletto's. The GC Chamber Board recently approved partnership with Thomas Edison where any member or their employees will receive 5% discount on tuition, this is in addition to same relationship they have with RCGC where Chamber members and their employees receive a 1/3rd discount off in-county tuition rate

RCGC – Brigitte reported a job reverse job fair was held March 11 at the Adult Center for Transition. Eleven students and 17 employers participated. The reverse job fair allows the students with disabilities who are being prepared for employment or to attend college, showcase their strengths to participating businesses.

GCDHS –Lisa offered thanks to the WDB & MASCEC for hosting a job readiness workshop on March 21, 2019 for individuals in recovering and or in sober living homes.

Habitat for Humanity - Danny announced Habitat for Humanity will be hosting a comedy event on March 27, 2019 at Washington Twp. High School.

Inspira - Peter announced Inspira anticipates grand opening in November of their new hospital. They will continue to have a satellite emergency department in Woodbury. They are working with City of Woodbury on the existing building in Woodbury.

Gateway - Melissa thanked Freeholder Simmons for being moderator at recent Women's Empowerment event at Gateway High School on March 5. The South Jersey Volunteer Center is holding Taste of the Community on April 8, 2019. On April 28, the construction students will participate in unveiling of tiny houses they helped build. They will also have a tour of Camden and Camden Art works so the students gain an understanding of social initiatives. On May 30, 2019, a breakfast mentors for interns will be held at Gateway High School.

RCGC – Patty announced they will be forging partnership with Cumberland County College Rowan College South Jersey. They are waiting on approval from MiddleStates approval and hope to be effective July 1, 2019. Suit a Student ward robing event will be held April 11 at RCGC/Fine Arts Center.

AJC – Stephen offered thanks to our partners and in working with Div. Social Services, they are showing steady increase in TANF participation rate. On average, clients that go through AJC programs make an average of \$18 per hour. DWD & ES are working with judicial partners by attending drug court. They attend to work with individuals to inform them of services offered at the AJC and let them know of businesses that hire individuals with records. For the ACE program, they tested over 40 individuals and recommended to RCGC for ACE program. The Youth Education & Career Center currently has 27 enrolled to earn their HSE.

A motion for adjournment was made by D. Sulpizio, seconded by T. Fletcher.

The next meeting will be held June 12, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridget A. DiGiambattista, WDB Staff