

Joint Burlington County Workforce Development Board and EAP Meeting Minutes

Location: Rowan College at Burlington County

Votta Hall, Room 248

900 College Circle

Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

Meeting Date: Tuesday, October 03, 2017

Scheduled Time: 8:00-9:30 am

Attendees:

Tony Mahon – Assured Partners Insurance	Jeff Keller – Bureau of Prisons
John Taggart –NJIT	Traci Spell – RCBC
Nick Burdick – U.S. Department of Labor	June Sernak – RCBC
Craig Jez – NJLWD	Leah Arter – RCBC
Jesus Arestirado – America Works	Dave Wyche – BC Bridge Commission
Sereena Singh – Rutgers	Marwa Elgendy –Rutgers
Mark Remsa – BC Bridge Commission	Stacey Smith – NJDVRS
Lesley Jack – NJDVRS	Dan Ruotolo – Ruotolo, Spewak & Company
John Emge – United Way	Zahirah Sabir – RCBC
Sally Nadler – NJIT	Felice Tietz – RCBC
Pat Cruet – BCIT	Alison DeJoseph –RCBC
Rick Carpenter – BC Human Services	Dr. Edem Tetteh – RCBC
Curtis Myers – Aspire Youth	Kelly West – Workforce Development Board
Anna Payanzo-Cotton – RCBC	

- **Call to Order – Tony Mahon**

Tony Mahon called the Workforce Development Board Meeting to order at 8:00 am and thanked attendees for coming.

- **Reading of the Sunshine Law – Felice Tietz**

- **Approval of July 11, 2017 Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes from the April 4, 2017 Workforce Development Board meeting was moved by Jeff Keller, seconded by Dan Routolo and approved.

- **Introductions**

Introductions were made by all in attendance.

- **Business and Industry Leaders Updates**

Ruotolo, Spewak & Company

Dan Ruotolo mentioned that many businesses are getting in touch for available work. In the Student Working Professionals (SWP) program they have 12 autistic children engaged in their work experience program who are flourishing. Since many partner companies are in the process of converting from a paper-based to a digital accounting program the interns are busy learning and practicing the processes to convert. Dan would like to meet with RCBC staff to discuss the Accounting Program and address the need for digital accounting education as well as promoting the SWP internship program.

NJIT

John Taggart stated there is a marketing challenge involved with the Transportation, Logistics and Distribution industry. Most individuals think of the transportation aspect (i.e. CDL license) and not the supply chain portion. This is particularly true in the case of pharmaceutical companies.

John said there is a difference in displaced workers in the three areas of northern, central and southern New Jersey. In northern New Jersey, individuals are involved in internships. In central and southern New Jersey, he sees many workers who are coming out of the retail business. He is attempting to move them into E-commerce (i.e. Amazon) in addition to the aviation and maintenance repair industries as these organizations increase their presence in South Jersey.

Sally Nadler discussed a regulated intermediary training program model which integrates apprenticeships. Individuals would learn job skills which would support their classroom education. This could possibly produce long-term solutions for the Advanced Manufacturing industry by building skills for both the existing workforce and the next generation of workers.

Department of Labor

Nick Burdick stated there is federal involvement in the apprenticeship program and more interest in the Advanced Manufacturing industry. He suggested linking Career and Technical Education (CTE) as part of the high school to college pathway. Nick also suggested Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselors as a program option.

Federal Bureau of Prisons

Jeff Keller addressed the growing need of healthcare professionals in the federal prisons. Increased medical staff is required, particularly since the prison population is aging and there is more need for medical prevention and treatment.

United Way

John Emge stated the United Way is busy with fundraising events, particularly raising money for the country's recent hurricanes, Harvey and Irma.

Virtua

Tony Mahon stated Rhonda Jordan will be taking Al Campanella's place as the new Virtua representative for the Workforce Development Board.

BCIT

Pat Cruet stated more home health aides are needed. A plan to reach out to businesses offering a 10 hour CNA certification for home health aides was mentioned.

RCBC

- Zahirah Sabir introduced the inaugural copy of the RCBC Workforce Development Institute newsletter.
- Career Services will be hosting a series of "Road Trip to the Real World" events for students to network with employers and learn about possible internships.
- Career Services will also be hosting an Internship Fair and Seasonal Hiring Event on October 13, 2017 in Votta Hall.
- There will be an Advanced Manufacturing, Transportation, Logistics, Distribution, and Construction Industry Career Fair on October 20, 2017 at John F. Kennedy Center in Willingboro.
- Classroom to Career certificate programs are being offered at RCBC's Willingboro campus. This program structures classes together to offer students a quicker pathway to finding employment or advancing in their current job.
- October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. The Burlington County Disabilities Issues Committee will honor individuals with disabilities and their success in the workplace on October 27th from 9:30-11:30am at the Human Services Building in Westampton.

- **Mark Remsa Presentation**

Mark Remsa from BCBC gave an update on Burlington County's economic development with a PowerPoint presentation.

- Burlington County's unemployment rate peaked in 2007 while the State of New Jersey and the United States peaked in 2008. The losses in Burlington County were less severe than in New Jersey and the United States. Burlington County's unemployment rate has always been consistently lower than New Jersey's rate. Burlington County's rate is still lower than all other counties in New Jersey. Burlington County's participation rate is much higher.
- The rate varies by industry. Construction is declining. Manufacturing is still relatively high in New Jersey; however, there is a low value in manufacturing and a high value in advanced manufacturing.
- Wholesale industry rates are declining. Companies, such as Amazon, are pushing out the middleman.
- The retail industry is declining.
- The transportation and distribution industry is relatively stable.
- The need for administrative services is growing.
- Healthcare has grown from 23,000 to 26,000.
- The financial and insurance industry employs 10% of the population. However, the rates fluctuate with the mortgage rate. It is up in 2017.
- The demand for professional, scientific and technical services varies. The need for lawyers, architects, and engineers is down, but the need for computer services is up.
- The Top 5 Industry Leaders in Burlington County are the following:
 1. Healthcare
 2. Retail
 3. Professional, Scientific and Technical Services
 4. Finance and Insurance
 5. Manufacturing

Dan Ruotolo inquired what the wage increase was, and Mark Remsa responded that it has been stagnant. Mark commented that the poverty level in Burlington County is 5%, which is the lowest in NJ.

- **Budget**

Kelly West presented the Program Year 2017 Local Workforce Development Area budget for comment and approval. She also outlined the WDB Board and Committee structure and the need to select committee members. Volunteers for committees do not have to be WDB board members. Mark Remsa proposed a Business Engagement Committee.

- **America Works**

America Works was awarded the contract for the One Stop Operator. Jesus Arestirado was introduced as the One Stop Operator for the American Job Center in Westampton. Tony Mahon suggested to Jesus that we get in touch with Raza Gilani to follow up on the Strength Finder assessment program

- At 9:10 AM, Tony Mahon invited everyone to tour the new Student Success Center. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 AM.