

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, December 5, 2017

Scheduled Time: 8:00-9:30 am

Attendees:

Tony Mahon – Assured Partners Insurance

Jeff Keller – Bureau of Prisons

John Miller – RCBC

Linda Bobo – RCBC

Randy Hamilton – Smith & Solomon

June Sernak – RCBC

Dan Ruotolo – Ruotolo, Spewak & Company

Carl Donato, Wawa

Leah Arter – RCBC

Tom Howell – Taylor, Wiseman & Taylor

Donna Vandergrift – RCBC

Anna Payanzo-Cotton – RCBC

Rhonda Jordan – Virtua

Curtis Myers – Aspire Youth

John Emge – United Way

Zahirah Sabir – RCBC

Felice Tietz – RCBC

Dr. Christopher Nagy – BCIT/BCSSSD

Kelly West – Workforce Development Board

- **Call to Order – Tony Mahon**

Tony Mahon called the Workforce Development Board Meeting to order at 8:05 am and thanked attendees for coming.

- **Reading of the Sunshine Law – Stephanie Rudd**

- **Approval of October 3, 2017 Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes from the October 3, 2017 Workforce Development Board meeting was moved by Jeff Keller, seconded by Curtis Myers and approved.

- **Introductions**

Introductions were made by all in attendance.

- **Welcomes**

Tony Mahon welcomes Rhonda Jordan, Senior Vice President for Virtua Health, Dr. Christopher Nagy, Superintendent of BCIT and BCSSSD, and Stephanie Rudd, Secretary for the Workforce Development Board.

- **Business and Industry Leaders Updates**

Wawa

Carl Donato stated Wawa is facing some challenges with high employee turnover. It has been a challenge getting the “right people” to stay. Wawa’s reorganization plan goes into effect January 1, 2018, including regional and New Jersey state restructuring. Carl recently hired an RCBC graduate as a team leader. He thanked Anna Payanzo-Cotton for keeping the job postings active.

Smith & Solomon

Randy Hamilton said there are many jobs available in the transportation industry. Smith & Solomon have formed corporate alliances with companies such as UPS, Amazon and FedEx by offering training to their employees. Randy discussed the stigma attached with jobs in transportation; i.e. truck driver, as being “dirty jobs”. College graduates don’t want to pursue them and their parents don’t want them to either. However, Randy pointed out how the industry has changed. Today’s truck drivers make a good salary and are often home every night with their families. He also mentioned that many companies are switching from manual fleet to automatic fleet, which offers better career options. Curtis Myers asked how long it takes to get CDL certified. Randy replied that if an individual trains full-time, it takes 6-8 weeks and part-time approximately 3 months. Jeff Keller inquired about the ratio of men to women in this field, and Randy replied that 90% are men and 10% are women. It was pointed out since many CDL jobs no longer require overnight travel, the industry may become more attractive to women in the future. Curtis Myers asked if there was a minimum age requirement for their CDL. Randy answered it is 18 for CDL and 21 before they can drive interstate routes.

Virtua Health

Rhonda Jordan stated there was a new CEO for Virtua, Dennis Pullin, as of December 2017. Virtua is focusing on controlling costs and assessing the roles of Virtua staff. There was some “right-sizing” of staff, however, it was small and didn’t even make the news. They are still in the process of replacing medical record files with electronic

records. Virtua is interested in establishing a stronger partnership with RCBC through program development. Rhonda discussed the high turnover with entry level employees, i.e. CNA's, registrars, etc. Transportation to and from work is often an issue for these individuals. Rhonda said both nursing and lab technicians have an aging workforce with an average age of 54. Virtua began a program this year for nurses, which offers specialized internships in the O.R. and E.R. Virtua will begin an externship program for nurses in spring of 2018. Approximately eight nurses will be hired and trained for one year in specialized fields. Virtua wants to continue to support and benefit the community.

BCIT

Anna welcomed Dr. Nagy, Superintendent of Schools for BCIT and BCSSSD. Dr. Nagy commented that technology is changing the way we live and it impacts almost everything we do.

- **WDB Committees**

An outline of committee members and their assignments was handed out. In 2018 the Workforce Development Board will begin reporting from the committees that have been established. Tony suggests that members get together either in person or via a conference call.

- **2018 Meeting Dates**

Tony Mahon established that the WDB would meet on the second Tuesday of every other month in 2018. A listing of these dates was given to all in attendance.

- **June Sernak – WDI Lifelong Learning Update**

June stated that they have been working with Veteran Affairs to match individual skills with civilian opportunities. BCVAC toured RCBC recently. There are several RCBC classes being held at the MDL Joint Base. The Career Pathways series for this year ends on 12/5/17. This series was held at RCBC's Willingboro campus and included CEO guest speakers. Anna encouraged members of WDB to present for this series.

Gateway to College Program

June discussed the Gateway to College program, which is currently in its first phase. This program offers an alternative path than a traditional H.S.E. As a participant in this program, individuals would receive dual credit for high school and college. There will be an upcoming open house for this program. High schools that are interested in participating in this program include Willingboro, Burlington City, and Burlington Township.

- **Leah Arter Presentation – Talent Development Center for TLD**

Leah gave a presentation on the \$1.2 million grant Rowan College received from New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development for a new Talent Development Center for Transportation, Logistics and Distribution. The first component is building career pathways and the second component is delivering career pathway programs. Both components focus on strengthening partnerships with public high schools, community colleges, four year colleges, industry partners, etc. Curtis Myers suggested inviting students to come and tour the TLD Center. This would give students and their parents a chance see what TLD is about and address any misconceptions.

Zahira Sabir handed out the American Job Center monthly events calendar and the Education Programs Information Session schedule for December.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 am.