



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Supporting the Development and Retention of a World Class Workforce

Jeffrey S. Swartz, Executive Director

Carl A. Donato Jr., Chair

Business Service Outreach Team Meeting Minutes Thursday, March 20, 2025 via Zoom

Attendance

	Organization	Trustee Member	16-Jan-25	20-Feb-25	20-Mar-25
Thompson Ryan	Mid Penn Bank, BSOT Chair	X	X		X
Adams, Darrel	Camden County 55+ Program				
Askie-Rosario, Andrea	CC Commission of the Blind				
Baer, Jessika	NJ DOL			X	
Bass, Henry	NJ DOL				X
Burden, Lawrence	Hopeworks				
Michael Butler	The Fountain Fund				X
Campbell, Gabriella	NJ DOL		X	X	X
Cirii, Frank	CCOSCC	X	X	X	X
Davis, Gerald	CCOSCC				
Davis, Taylor	KIPP New Jersey				
DeFulvio, Michelle	Camden County College				
Deitz, Jeff	DVRS			X	
Farrar, Gary	Transportation				
Field, Nicole	NJDOL				
Forman, Lois	Jewish Family & Children's Service				
Fugee, Antoinette	Cooper		X	X	X
Gaskins, Melanie	Camden County College				
Kaur, Nimit	Camden County Health and Human Services				
Laguna, Connie	Truist Bank				
Langhorne, Risce	Hopeworks				
Lakshminarayan, Pavithra	NJ Dept. of Labor & Workforce Dev.				
Law, Quinton	Camden Community Partnership				
Legge, Patty	Volunteer Up				
Leonetti, Mike	CCOSCC				
Lex, Jim	Camden County Improvement Authority				
Lord, Lisa	CCTS		X	X	
McCormick, Carol	Camden County College				X
Moen, Bill	Camden County College		X	X	
Page-Soncrant, Jeanne	NJ DOL, Business Rep.		X	X	X
Perez, Irene	DVRS		X		X
Quinores, Cris	WAWA				
Randall, Angela	Community Planning & Advocacy Council (CPAC)				
Regensburger, Robert	Lockheed Martin	X	X	X	X
Richardson, Ryan	NJDOL				
Robinson, Terrenny	Net America				
Scott, Karen (for Angela Randall)	Community Planning & Advocacy Council (CPAC)				
Serrano, Angel	Hopeworks				
Shafer, Derena	Camden County College			X	
Sinclair, Nidia	Camden County One-Stop				X
Spector, David	NJDOL				
Urkowitz, Ronda	Cross County Connection TMA				
Walton, Ruth					
Taylor, Kormasa					
Weil, Robert	Conner, Strong, and Buckelew	X		X	X
Richelle Hardison	WDB				X
Michelle Rohan	WDB			X	X
Swartz, Jeffrey S.	WDB		X	X	X
Vaughn, Debra	WDB		X	X	



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Quick Recap

The meeting covered various topics including updates on youth programs, job fairs, and community initiatives. A new entrepreneurship workshop for justice-impacted individuals was proposed, and the team discussed potential partnerships and upcoming events. The group also heard from Michael Butler about the Fountain Fund, a non-profit organization providing loans to individuals re-entering society after incarceration and explored possibilities for collaboration.

Next steps

Ryan to look for dates and check availability for hosting the entrepreneurship workshop.

Michelle to send out the save-the-date flyer for the July 30th Job Fair at Wiggins Park.

Jeannie to connect Ryan with Dr. Charles Atkins from EMR Group for potential involvement in the entrepreneurship initiative.

Ryan to discuss with Mid Penn about sponsoring the entrepreneurship workshop.

Gabriella to explore posting OJT flyers on LinkedIn.

Michelle to send Cooper Health's worksite agreement and applications to Antoinette.

Jeannie to provide Ryan with contact information for Jeff Gellas from VOA.

Michael Butler to connect with Nidia Sinclair regarding potential collaboration with The One Stop.

Michelle to distribute information about the 3D Printing Manufacturing Boot Camp.

Welcome and Approval of Minutes

Ryan Thompson opened the meeting at 2:04PM. Ryan asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the February 20, 2025, meeting. Motion was made by Jeanne Page-Soncrant and seconded by Antoinette Fugee. With majority vote to the affirmative, the motion carried, and the minutes were approved.

Summary

Pilot Workshop for Justice-Impacted Entrepreneurs

Ryan proposed organizing a pilot workshop for justice-impacted individuals to explore entrepreneurship as an alternative to traditional employment. The workshop would feature a panel of entrepreneurs, including those with justice-impacted backgrounds, to share their experiences. If successful, this could lead to creating a pipeline to organizations like the Fountain Fund for further coaching and support. Jeannie suggested potential contacts for the initiative, including Dr. Charles Atkins from EMR Group and the JOBS program. Jeffrey and Bob expressed strong support for the idea, emphasizing the need for relatable speakers and considering both in-person and virtual options for the event.



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WDB Upcoming Events & Youth Work Experience

Jeffrey reported on the quarterly meeting and upcoming events, including a job fair and a youth mental health summit. He also mentioned the Summer Youth Work Experience Program and the need for work sites and candidates. Ryan expressed appreciation for the committee's efforts and the need for more private sector involvement.

Committee Updates and Job Fair Plans

Jeannie reported a successful virtual information session for Cooper Health with 230 attendees and plans for a similar event with Virtua Health. She also mentioned an upcoming Justice Impacted Job Fair and a potential partnership with Volunteers of America. Irene introduced a new employer, Carmana Designs, seeking carpenter apprentices and encouraged the committee to refer suitable candidates. She also discussed her involvement in a Justice Impacted Job Fair in Mercer County and her efforts to secure 40 employers for the event.

Jewish Family Center Hosts Event

Irene shared that the Jewish Family Center would be the host for a Targeted Hiring Event the Abilities committee is working on, providing free food and a suitable location. She also suggested involving Jeff Dietz, for his expertise in working with justice-impacted individuals. Jeannie proposed Jeff Dietz and Charles Atkins for a potential panel discussion. Henry expressed his appreciation for Jeannie's support and mentioned his involvement in the virtual health project. He also highlighted the nomination of the veteran team for a Naswar Award for their outstanding work in both Camden and Burlington counties.

Online Advertisement and Candidate Referral

Gabriela discussed the company's online advertisement through the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, which has attracted companies like Tint Tutor. She also mentioned a successful referral to Carmana Designs. Jeannie suggested posting the advertisement on LinkedIn. Gabriela explained her role as an on-the-job training writer, helping companies qualify for reimbursement and ensuring candidates are employed permanently. She emphasized the need for qualified candidates and connections between companies and candidates.

Cherry Hill Mall Job Fair

Frank discussed the upcoming job fair at Cherry Hill Mall on May 16th and the ongoing outreach program. He also mentioned the retirement of Carol McCormick from the college and the upcoming Summer Youth Program. Frank expressed gratitude for Carol's contributions and looked forward to the job fair and outreach program.



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Fountain Fund Expands Loan Services

Michael Butler discussed the Fountain Fund, a non-profit organization he co-founded in 2017 in Virginia. The organization provides loans at a 3% interest rate to cover housing, transportation, and small business needs for individuals re-entering society after incarceration. Michael also mentioned partnerships with the University of Pennsylvania and Drexel University for financial literacy and business planning. He expressed interest in expanding the organization's services to Camden, New Jersey, and Philadelphia, and mentioned a 78% repayment rate for their loan program. Jeffrey introduced himself and discussed potential collaboration opportunities.

Adjournment

Ryan asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Frank Ciri and seconded by Bob Weil. By majority vote to the affirmative, the motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 2:56PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Michelle Rohan, Committee Coordinator