



Joint Newark & Essex County Business and Economic Development Committee

Essex County College- Training Inc.

Thursday, April 7, 2016 at 9:00 am

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Kelli Bell-Taylor, Al Bundy, Andrae Bynum, Mitch Cahn, Apryl Caldwell, Mitra Choudhury, Evanthia Corrado, Jerrah Crowder, Elizabeth Davis, Joseph Epps, Joseph Frederick, Chip Hallock, Vann Holland, Joanne Kaiser, Jonathan Kobza, Davetta Lane, John Perry, Janine Schaeffer, Bhavna Tailor, Willie Tolbert, Chike Uzoka, Anthea Williams

Meeting Called to Order: Chairperson Mitch Cahn

Mr. Cahn called the meeting to order and introduced Co-Chairperson Willie Tolbert. He expressed that the focus of the meeting would be to draft outlines for the strategic plan and go through the framework to execute the plan before the end of the year. A roundtable roll call was conducted to introduce all meeting attendees.

Mr. Tolbert gave a brief rundown of his experience. He has been in the financial industry for over thirty years as a consultant with small, large businesses and non-profit organizations. His focus has been on helping them attract and retain quality employees. He considers himself to be a dot connector by bringing good people together and is encouraged by many of the initiatives brought forth by the BEDC and Joint Newark and Essex County Workforce Development Boards.

Mr. Cahn stated that the 2015 WIB Retreat laid the foundation for this year's BEDC Strategic Plan and this year would be about execution. He went over the mission statement and expressed that the importance of it defines what can be done within the committee. He stressed the importance of staying aligned with the statement and discussed five areas of action to reach the mission's goal.

- Content Library
- Promotion of Resources
- Work Readiness Credential
- Troubleshooting Jobs4Jersey
- Developing Mechanisms of Employer Engagement

The committee agreed to stick within the framework of these components. The remainder of the meeting fleshed out the draft of the BEDC Strategic Plan more specifically. The 2017 BEDC Strategic Plan is attached.

Next Steps

WDB Retreat would be a great opportunity to have Kirk Lew address concerns and/or questions that the committee has as it pertains to any regulatory changes that might have an impact on the committee's mission and goals.

There was no further business with the committee. Mitch thanked everyone for their participation and called motion for adjournment. Motion was seconded and adjourned. Next meeting is as follows:

Thursday, July 7, 2016
Essex County College
(Multi-Purpose Room, 4th Floor)
9:00 am- 11 am