



**Joint Essex County & Newark WIB
Disability Committee/ Workforce Investment Board**

50 South Clinton Street, 4th Floor
East Orange, NJ 07018

Minutes : August 10th, 2016

Blanco, Nela	DVRS	Lane, Davetta	NWDB
Bundy, Melody	NJTIP/ Rutgers	Robertello, Joe	NECHN
Fiore, Lisa	Goodwill Ind.	Schaeffer, Janine	Essex County WDB
Fornoff, Robert	ECOD	Shulman, Rebecca	Goodwill
Kaiser, Joanne	NOD	Simmons, Lisa	JVS
LaFaso, Kristin	WFC		

Minutes from the last meeting June 30th.

Announcements

Davetta stated that the Newark WDB fundraiser is coming up on September 1st and invitations have gone out. They are doing recruitments for the construction trades. She also stated that they are finalizing the retreat report and it should be completed shortly.

Robert Fornoff stated that he has some funding and he distributed a pamphlet for the Office of the Disabled. He stated that his program is if the individual is working or going to school at least twenty (20) hours a month, where the individual is permanently physically disabled, aged 18-70 and capable of self direction. Preference is given to those disabled individuals who are employed, preparing for employment or living independently. They can get assistance for up to forty (40) hours a week. One of his requirements is that if the client is Medicaid eligible you must go through them first. One the individual does that then they can petition his program for additional services. There is a lack of providers so they are able to hire family members and neighbors.

There was a question about residency and Robert responded that he only help Essex County residents but he would be able to direct someone from another county to their office because it is a statewide program.

Rebecca explained to Robert that this committee is a subcommittee of the Essex County and Newark Workforce Development Boards. This committee is charged with directing and focusing the workforce activities within the County/ city. She explained that this committee is designed to represent individuals with disabilities and to focus on promoting employment for those individuals. If an individual is connected with DVR, they will work with them to find employment. If they have never been connected with DVR they should be because they work with individuals with disabilities to help them find employment and they refer them to the various programs. The individuals also have the right to access the services available at the One Stop Career.

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Robert states that after the school the individuals can't find employment and it's very frustrating. Rebecca suggested putting together a subcommittee in order to put together a system to help these individuals.

Rebecca asked if they need additional committee members, which was discussed at the retreat. There was agreement to try to get more employers involved. There was a suggestion to invite the award recipients to participate in the November meeting.

There was a discussion about having an orientation for new members. Davetta states that Newark WDB members go through an orientations which gives descriptions of each committee so they can choose which committee they would like to serve on. She did say initially they had something more formal for all new members and now it's more individualized. Davetta did say a lot of information is up on the web site.

Kristin Lafaso stated that as a new person coming in that it's very overwhelming that they don't really understand what they are doing, what their purpose is, what all their acronyms are. She recommended that moving forward that there should be a more formalized introduction for new members.

Rebecca stated that this committee has provided training sessions for the Newark and Essex County employees regarding services available for individuals with disabilities and this coming year the training should be provided again and Howard and Davetta have to work on a couple of dates.

2017 Employer Recognition Event

We have a tentative date of June 15th for next year's event. Janine brought some price quotes for different facilities. There was a discussion regarding the quotes and that the group still needs to get a quote from Nanina's in the Park. At the next meeting the group will decide which to visit. There was also a recommendation to consider the Newark Club.

The group needs to get donations in order to have the event and there is funds left from this year and Davetta stated that she will get the exact amount for next meeting. Kristin stated that she will work on that for her organization. But Wanda Peguaro is no longer with Kessler Foundation and Joanne loses her grant at the end of September. Joanne stated that she would like to stay involved with the committee but things are a bit up in the air. They will be working on the wording on the solicitation letter.

There was discussion about opening up to employers that are located outside Essex County. Davetta stated she didn't have a problem with it as long as there is an employer from Newark.

Rebecca stated that the tentative deadline for the employer recognition forms submission is January 31st.

Next Meeting is scheduled for October 5th, 2016 at 9:30 am at Goodwill Industries in Harrison.

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