



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

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

Minutes : February 20, 2018

Beckford, Jasmyne	NWDB	Rampersent Faulk, Michelle	JESPY House
Carvajal, Allyson	LWD	Sakhu, Qadriyyah	PHPIN
Chimbay, Ida	NWDB	Schaeffer, Janine	EC WDB
Davis, Elizabeth	DVRS	Shulman, Rebecca	Goodwill
Fiore, Lisa	Goodwill Ind.	Simmons, Lisa	JVS
Makely, Grg	FRN	Slater, Robert	JESPY
McLilly, Elizabeth	DVRS	Weiss, Howard	ECWDB
Porter, Stephany	Newark Works	Wilson, Kathi	ENABLE

Rebecca greeted everyone and since there were some new people at this meeting introductions were made.

Minutes from last meeting in December were approved.

Announcements:

Howard Weiss stated that Sam Okparaeke has been promoted to a Deputy County Administrator and Director of the Office of Small Business and Affirmative Action. He will be retaining the title of WDB Director but he will no longer be Division Director of DEDTE.

Rebecca stated that Alice Honeycutt tendered her resignation. There are a lot of vacancies in DVR. The DVR manager of Paterson will be retiring as of March 1st. New Brunswick DVR Manager position has been vacant almost a year.

Jasmyne stated that the “My Brother’s Keeper” initiative is on February 27th with on the job hiring, resume writing and predominately for men of color but they will not turn anyone away.

Targeted Communities Technical Assistance Center (TCTAC)

The training was delayed because of a snow storm. The rescheduled date is April 17th. The training will be at JVS in Livingston from 10-2 and the next Disabilities Issues Committee meeting will be after the training.

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One of the goals of the project is to connect individuals with disabilities and substance abuse issues to DVR. One of the big issues with DVR is staffing issues. Rebecca said there will be other training scheduled throughout the year.

Since George Washington University's project is going to be in Newark they asked this committee to serve as an advisory board for their project. She anticipates that it will be an additional agenda item that will take perhaps ten (10) minutes a meeting to discuss.

Employer Recognition Event

The event itself has been moved to October 18th. Rebecca stated that a subcommittee needs to be formed in order to work on the details of the event itself. Funding is an issue because Kessler has been contributing in the past but last year contributed \$3500. Last year the number of people attending was capped around eighty (80). Another option is to charge people for attending but that is not really what we want to do. Mayfair Farms was a good venue and we anticipate having it at the same venue.

Rebecca stated she would reach out to Kessler to see if they are interested in donating again. Howard agreed to see if the County will contribute and Jasmyne will see if the City of Newark will again contribute.

There was discussion about the nomination process in the past and everyone seemed to think it was fair and a similar process will be conducted this year.

Project Search

As a result of the presentation on this at the last meeting it did not seem like something the committee was interested in at this time.

One Stop Training

Rebecca stated that this has been on the agenda for a long time. Howard stated that he would have to speak to Davetta (who just returned to work following an absence). Rebecca stated that in 2014 they did several sessions that were very well received.

Employer Presentations

The idea was to have members of this committee do presentations on employment with individuals with disabilities and to market them to Rotary's and Chamber's of Commerce. She asked if this is something the group is still interested in. Jasmyne said maybe it would be worth it to bring up at the Business and Economic Development Committee.

Howard stated that they are doing an initiative to reach out to the Chamber's of Essex County and there might be an opportunity to do something. Rebecca stated that she would be willing to talk to a group.

Next Meeting is scheduled for April 17th, 2018 at 2pm at JVS

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