



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

50 South Clinton Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
East Orange, NJ 07018

**Minutes : October 17th, 2017**

<b>Beckford, Jasmyne</b>	<b>NWDB</b>	<b>Fiore, Lisa</b>	<b>Goodwill Ind.</b>
<b>Bleckman, Sandra</b>	<b>RHT TN</b>	<b>Sakhu, Qadriyyah</b>	<b>PHPIN</b>
<b>Bundy, Melody</b>	<b>NJTIP @ Rutgers</b>	<b>Schaeffer, Janine</b>	<b>EC WDB</b>
<b>Chimbay, Ida</b>	<b>NWDB</b>	<b>Shulman, Rebecca</b>	<b>Goodwill</b>
<b>Davis, James</b>	<b>Office for the Disabled</b>	<b>Simmons, Lisa</b>	<b>JVS</b>
<b>Davis, Elizabeth</b>	<b>DVR</b>	<b>Weiss, Howard</b>	<b>ECWDB</b>

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

Minutes from last meeting in June were approved with corrections approved.

**Announcements:**

Jasmyne stated that the City of Newark is doing “My Brother’s Keeper” job initiative for young people and utilizing the services while getting them ready for the application process. The actual event is in February but the date has not been finalized. Just Newark residents, and the majority are walk-ins. They are trying to establish a criteria for folks getting an interview that day and it will be at the Prudential Center.

Howard stated that there could be a lot of changes with the upcoming election. The Talent Network NGOs have yet to be put out to bid yet. Supposedly there was a rush put on the applications for the TDCs.

**Employer Recognition Event**

Everyone was pleased with the event this year. The Mayfair Farms location performed very well, there were no parking issues, the food was good and there were no problems with the running of the program. Every indication is that if the group chooses to do an event next year it will likely be at this location.

There was discussion surrounding the ability to financially support an event for 2018 and everyone agreed that we need to reach out to Kessler Foundation and Elaine Katz in order to see if they are interested in funding an event for 2018. Melody reminded everyone that when we sent out donation request forms it was at the same time that the County was looking for funding for the “Job Fair.”

There was discussion around the Disability Committee being involved in either a Disability Job Fair or the “Schedule A” hiring Event. Rebecca stated that last year’s event was at Bergen County Community College in Lyndhurst. If Essex County were to host the event we would need a location with lots of parking and small rooms for interviewing. Lisa brought up that there is usually not a lot of people that get hired at these events.

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There was discussion surrounding the possibility of doing presentations to employers about hiring individuals with disabilities. Jasmyne stated that Newark has a resource guide that includes grants, tax incentives, school, and Rebecca stated that there are OJTs specifically for people with disabilities, and some opportunity tax credits available. In the initial training for the One-Stops. Rebecca stated that looking to 2018 a Resource Guide for individuals with disabilities might be a good project for the Committee. Jasmyne stated that the one they are working on is more like a “blog” but that it might be a good starting point, though it is a resource guide for employers.

Rebecca would like to be able to put information about our committee up online. Jasmyne stated that she will ask Amina if they can put up a link to the info on the Newark WDB page.

Melody Bundy stated that there are some other counties that participate in “Project Search,” which is a transitional program, with braided funding from education, which allows a student to have a job coach for an employer partner. Elizabeth stated that there was insufficient cooperation with the hospitals in Essex County for a program like this to move forward and the license fee is \$20,000. It doesn’t need to be a hospital though.

Melody suggested that we invite Elaine to the meeting to discuss the trends in hiring individuals with disabilities. Rebecca said maybe we should ask Solo to come and speak about the hiring event.

Qadriyyah Sakhu stated that there is a lot to overcome in order to get people with disabilities hired because the employer does not want to lose money. She suggested the committee develop a “bulls eye” approach. Everything is technical now and in a smaller company where everyone must perform at a certain level. She said Shop Rite is more helpful and more sensitive to individuals with disabilities. There is a lower turnover rate with people with disabilities. Someone suggested that it adds to the diversity of the company and it should be valued.

Elizabeth stated George Washington University & NJ DVR is going to provide training on “Targeted Communities Technical Assistance Center NJ”, and Alice is asking if it makes sense to ask the Disability Subcommittee to take on an advisory role for the project. “This project will use a community based participatory research framework inclusive of an advisory council and expert panels comprised of local level community partner organizations and persons with mental illness and substance abuse. With guidance and input from the advisory council and in partnership with DVRS this targeted community project will facilitate four primary interventions open to DVRS and community partner staff”. They will be doing research and providing training. The group assumed that it would just be an additional agenda item for our meetings. However, it was agreed that the commitment of the committee would need to be clarified. Elizabeth stated that there is a half day training on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

Rebecca also stated that see if the Newark and Essex One Stops want to have training, if not she will remove it from the agenda.

**Next Meeting is scheduled for December 11th, 2017 at 2pm at JVS**

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