



***Joint Newark & Essex County Workforce Development Board  
Business & Economic Development Committee***

Thursday, April 12, 2018  
Essex County College: TREC  
Meeting Minutes

**Attendees:**

Jasmyne Beckford, Kelli Bell-Taylor, Alfred Bundy, Mitch Cahn, Apyrl Caldwell, Qadr Camillo, Ida Chimbay, Mitra Choudhury, Elizabeth McLilly, Joseph Epps, Johnathan Kobza, Jobi Odeneye, Amanze Okere, Janine Schaeffer, Bhavna Tailor, Chike Uzoka and Ron Wise

**Meeting Called to Order, Co-Chairperson, Mitch Cahn**

Mitch advised and requested that all attendees introduce themselves and advise of any events or programs that present opportunities in Newark and Essex County as it will be the focus of today's meeting.

**Events or Programs Presenting Opportunities in Newark & Essex County**

Chike advised TRYP by Wyndham Hotel recently opened; industrial and development opportunities. Alfred Bundy advised about the May 24<sup>th</sup>, Essex County's Job Fair that will take place at Essex County College. Apyrl advised about the Youth Department's Transitional Job Program which allows the participant to gain the skill gap/work experience that they lack and gain higher probabilities of getting hired. Apyrl advised such program will be extended to the adult and dislocated population and hopefully it transitions as WIOA and OJT. Mitra advised the high in-demand jobs for food job services and medical assistant which training is available, however, many may lack interest and knowledge of such programs. Apyrl suggested monthly Industry Tours to expose and educate the public about the different employers/businesses.

Mr. Kobza advised the need for hospitality and housekeeping training which are also in high demand for workers to fill those positions. Facility Management is also an area for certification/career opportunity. Mr. Epps reiterated the need for Property Management training/certification programs. Another concerned the committee advised was the high percentage of jobs available in the City of Newark, however, only a low percentage of those jobs are filled by Newark residents. Jaymyne reminded the committee of the Mayor's First Source Ordinance and Newark 2020 program which will give businesses the employees they are seeking. Also, another issue is the fact that even though there may be enough job training and

opportunities, it is up to the individual to remain focused and interested. Mitch advised the plan should be to change the committee's focus from the employer to the job candidate and prepare them for those jobs that are available for hire.

Elizabeth advised the committee of the Job Fair the Disability Committee is hosting on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Qadr advised that end of May early June NCEDC will launch the Small Business Assembly Program which involves 18 anchors who are committed in hiring Newark residents.

Jobi Odeneye advised that the Port Authority is hosting a Career and Resource Expo, April 18<sup>th</sup> in Elizabeth, NJ and advised entrepreneurship opportunity in marijuana when it legalizes in New Jersey. Chike suggested that marijuana is still classified as a Class 1 Drug, therefore, it will never be legalized on a Federal Level which creates obstacles and risks when owning a dispensary. Jobi also advised traditional braces will no longer exist, braces will be digitalized which calls for training/certification opportunity.

Jasmyne advised she attended the Food Industry Talent Network Meeting and was made aware of the need of individuals in this field and that New Jersey alone has about 40,000 jobs available in the food industry. This is just another reason why students as early as high school should be made aware of the different programs and career opportunities available.

Ida advised the committee about the Newark Career and Resource Expo event held at the Paul Robeson Center, May 15 from 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. and that NWDB is trying to host a career fair sometime in October and when a flyer is available it will be distributed accordingly.

The April 2, 2018 minutes was approved by Alfred Bundy and Mitra Choudhury.

Mitch advised and provided the committee with a list of issues to address and focus for 2018 which are:

- Talent Network Structure – Link Centers w/ One-Stops
- Marijuana- employment drug testing vis-à-vis insurance
- Affordable Care Act- healthcare increasing impact
- match training to careers-Vocational Technical Schools
- minimum wage effects- automation & deskilled
- Amazon
- Employers- “Step It Up”- previously “un-hirable” - getting jobs NOT careers
- Spread awareness of County Resources for Employers
- Match training companies with employers' need
- Murphy – Policy- second chance
- Marijuana experiment – improve chances for employment -dispensaries-economic opportunities

Meeting adjourned by Mitch

**The next meeting is scheduled on May 24, 2018.**