



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

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

Minutes : March 6, 2019

Bleckman, Sandra	RHT TN	Ogando, Angelica	PHP
Bundy, Melody	NJTIPC Rutgers	Person, Brenda	NewarkWorks
Campbell, Towanna	Newark Works	Schaeffer, Janine	ECWDB
Fiore, Lisa	Goodwill	Schweitzer, Marc	DVRS
Garcia, Madelaine	CBVI	Shulman, Rebecca	JVS
Gerson, Amanda	CBVI	Weiss, Howard	ECWDB
LaCon, Lisa	BMI		

Introductions were made and minutes from last meeting were approved.

TCTAC Update

Maureen McGuire-Kuletz from George Washington University was on the phone. She gave an update and hoped to plan on a quarterly basis some activities. She was thinking about having a “Community Academy” which is an opportunity to learn more about resources available within the community. Maureen proposed this as the next step where they would handle the registration and facilitation of the event and look to the group to invite the other organizations. So the major items the committee would need to decide is where, when and cost of event (if food is provided) the training and credits will be provided by GWU free of charge. The way it would work is that anyone from the invited organizations may attend the event but only one (1) person would speak on their organization. There would also be a “speed networking” component where you talk to someone for a few minutes and move on to someone else. Howard stated he will make the list of agencies to invite. It was agreed the agencies would provide information which would then be compiled and put into a resource guide. There is a resource guide available in New Jersey which they will try to get copies to distribute as well.

Rebecca stated that the last time the committee did a One Stop Training they split the day so different people could attend the event and not worry about coverage. So the group agreed to Tuesday, June 18th. She asked for a couple of volunteers to help organize this event and they would report back to group at the next meeting. Melody Bundy, Rebecca Schulman and Amanda Gerson all volunteered to help plan the event.

We had also previously discussed doing some interviewing skill enhancement and further “Bridges out of Poverty” training. The group agreed that they would rather do the next leg into the “Bridges out of Poverty” training in August. Maureen agreed to look into the next piece in the training and to see if the trainers will be available in August.

Rebecca agreed to reach out to Elaine Katz in order to look into using their facility for the “Community Academy”

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Announcements

Sandra Bleckman stated that she is now the Director of the Leisure and Hospitality Industry Partnerships. There is a shift of the "Talent Networks" to "Industry Partnerships". She stated that she will now be handling the entire state and her counterpart at Stockton State University will be handling the retail for the entire state. She did say that splitting out retail makes sense because it was vastly different needs from hospitality and tourism sector. Some of the talent networks have now gone back under control of the state, technology, financial services, construction and utilities and food manufacturing. It is actually the same people that were working for the host agencies that they hired. The meetings will be similar to the TIP meetings but will be business led. There are no more Talent Development Centers which previously funded training. Sandra stated that they are still in the training process and the state of New Jersey is following other state models. She added that her contract is extended until June 30th and she doesn't know anything past that.

Howard Weiss announced that we are currently working on a plan modification. He will be reviewing it to see if this area needs any modifications.

Rebecca announced that JVS now has an agreement with Northwest Essex in Montclair for providing program management services to them and she will be located there more but will try to be in East Orange at least one (1) day a week. Before July they will be deciding on whether they will take over their contract for extended employment. She stated as they work through it part of it is management and part of it is evaluation and they could be at two (2) locations or go somewhere else. Rebecca is still getting her JVS email but if people call East Orange and you leave a voice mail message she will get it in her email. She does have a phone and desk in Montclair but she doesn't have the info yet.

Employer Recognition Event

There was a discussion around the Employer Recognition Event and whether we want to do it again this year and the budget. It was agreed that everyone was interested in hosting another event in October 2019. Also, everyone was happy with the outside room at Mayfair Farms. Rebecca stated that those of us working in the field need to come up with the employers to nominate much sooner. Rebecca stated that it really needs to be an employer that hires people and that it is competitive and integrated. The employer can be out of county but they would need to hire people from Essex County and Newark. Rebecca asked the people from Newark to update Amina Bey. There was discussion about sending a request for sponsorship letter out to WDB members and prior awardees. It was decided October 21st or 22nd for Howard to check with the venue to see if available. Rebecca says once it is confirmed with the venue she will send out a "hold the date" email. Also once date is secured Howard is to reach out for Sheila Oliver's scheduler.

The standing sub-committee for the recognition event is Janine, Howard, Rebecca, Melody and Sandra.

American Dream Mall

Sandra Bleckman stated that the American Dream Mall is definitely not opening in April though it is coming along. They are still with the mentality that it will be easy to find people to work there. They have been advertising for some of their high level positions. Evanthia Corrado is going to meet with them concerning security positions called "behavior detection officers. Sandra stated that will start doing some walk-thrus now that it is enclosed. Rebecca stated they didn't do anything to improve the infrastructure. Sandra said she heard that they will be allowed to open on Sundays. There is an existing train station at the stadium and it needs to be a regular stop. It only goes from Secaucus Junction to Giants stadium and back on game days.

Next Meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2019 at 2:00pm at JVS

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