



Joint Newark & Essex County Business and Economic Development Committee

Essex County College- Training Inc.

Thursday, April 4, 2019 at 9:00 am

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Jasmyne Beckford, Amina Bey, Apryl Caldwell, Qadr Camillo, Ida Chimbay, Mitra Choudhury, Robert Diehl, Joseph Epps, Jonathan Kobza, Dr. S. Aisha Steplight Johnson, Elizabeth McLilly, Angelique Morrison, Amanze Okere, Bhavna Tailor, Willie Tolbert.

Meeting Called to Order: Chairperson, Bhavna Tailor & Willie Tolbert

Ms. Bhavna Tailor (Vice President of Operations, Eastwick College/HoHoKus Schools) introduced herself and advised she's been with Eastwick College for 25 years and with Workforce Development Board for over 10 years. She advised her purpose for attending the Business and Economic Development Meetings is to learn about workforce and employers' needs to make a connection and fill in the gaps. A roundtable roll call was conducted to introduce all meeting attendees.

January 10, 2019 minutes was approved by Mitra Choudhury and seconded by Willie Tolbert.

Amina Bey (Executive Director, Newark Workforce Development Board) introduced herself and advised all attendees about the NWDB's April 11th Business Breakfast Event that is scheduled to take place at the Paul Robeson Campus Center in Newark. Ms. Bey advised there will be a panel discussion and that the main focus is discussing all the different services, financial incentives, tax credits and training opportunities to businesses in the City of Newark.

Amanze Okere (ECWDB) advised Essex County will also host a Small Business Procurement Expo on Thursday, April 11th at Essex County College Gymnasium. He handed out flyers and advised everyone to attend and share among their colleagues. The event is free of charge.

Amanze advised the expo is a one-day event designed to promote Essex County as the place to do business. The expo will provide business owners with access to valuable information and resources as well as the opportunity for networking.

Ms. Tailor stated the committee needs to create and brainstorm a vision that will help direct the committee in the most effective, proactive and realistic manner in order to be productive and reach goals.

Sharing Network Presentation- Transplant Games 2020, Elisse Glennon

Background/History/Role:

Ms. Elisse Glennon (Vice President & Chief Administrative Officer, NJ Sharing Network) introduced herself and advised that after reviewing the minutes from the January 2019 meeting, she serves as Chairperson of the Meadowlands Regional Chambers and has been very active in the American Dream Project.

Ms. Glennon advised NJ Sharing Network is a non-profit organization responsible for the recovery and placement of donated organs and tissue for those in need of a life-saving transplant. Nearly 4,000 New Jersey residents are currently awaiting transplantation. NJ Sharing Network is also part of the national recovery system, which is in place for the 115,000 people on the national waiting list.

NJ Sharing Network operates 24/7/365 with a team of over 150 highly trained and dedicated members on staff. Their Governing and Foundation Boards are made up of a diverse group of individuals from both public and private sectors, across a variety of disciplines, and many of whom have been touched by donation including donor families and recipients. NJ Sharing Network was formed in June 1987 when three New Jersey organ procurement organizations merged. Later that year, legislation passed by both state and federal governments, known as Required Request/Assured Option, began requiring hospitals to present the option of donation to family members of potential donors. Since then, NJ Sharing Network and our Foundation have set out to educate the general public about how transplantation can save lives with the goal of increasing the number of organ donors.

By working closely with hospitals and transplant centers, and increasing awareness with education tools and the media, the number of organs recovered in New Jersey for transplant has quadrupled since NJ Sharing Network was founded. Through supporting hospital partners, medical examiners and funeral directors in the identification, referral and care of potential organ and tissue donors, we realize our mutual goal of saving and enhancing lives through organ and tissue donation.

Their fully accredited “state of the art” transplant laboratory performs histocompatibility testing of organ donors and recipients. The laboratory also plays a critical role in the pre and post-transplant evaluation, and successful transplantation of highly sensitized individuals who would be difficult to treat under general conditions. The Family Services Division provides care during and after a donor family's experience. Family Services also addresses unique issues related to seeking consent for organ and tissue donation. NJ Sharing Network's goal is to educate New Jersey residents about the life-saving benefits of organ and tissue donation and transplantation, so they can discuss donation with their families and make the personal decision to register as a

donor. In addition, they work closely with state lawmakers to pass legislation, such as the landmark 2008 Hero Act which mandates donation education in public high school curriculums, for public institutes of higher learning and as a condition for graduation for professional nursing and medical school programs.

Transplant Games 2020:

The Donate Life Transplant Games is a multi-sport festival event produced by the Transplant Life Foundation for individuals who have undergone life-saving transplant surgeries. Competition events are open to living donors, organ transplant recipients, bone marrow, corneal and tissue transplant recipients. More than an athletic event, the Donate Life Transplant Games highlight the critical importance of organ, eye, and tissue donation, while celebrating the lives of organ donors and recipients.

Transplant Games of America- Mission Statement:

To increase awareness to the life-restoring importance of organ, cornea, bone marrow, and tissue donation through the lives of the athlete-recipients and the lasting legacy of their donors.

To involve the entire transplant community - healthcare providers, recipients, donors, donor families, individuals awaiting transplantation, recovery agencies, and other related organizations - in a shared mission to highlight the benefits of donation.

To increase the number of individuals registering as donor candidates, state-by-state, and on the National Donate Life Registry by supporting existing campaigns, and harnessing the energy and drive of recipients through the Transplant Games events, partnerships, marketing, and related communications.

Ms. Glennon advised the Transplant Games of America is coming to New Jersey, summer of 2020 in July. She advised the event is both national and international event. Teams from every state plus Brazil, India and Australia. American Dream is the hub of the event, however, after research, the main city awaiting transplantation is Newark, therefore, they have decided to host the opening ceremony on July 18 at Prudential Center. The contract is currently under negotiation. The event is 6 days.

Ms. Bey advised that this event is also an economic opportunity for the City of Newark. Participants, staff and all those attending the event will shop around businesses and use services such as hotel, food and beverage, tourism and different activities happening in Newark.

Employer Engagement Discussion Items

Ms. Tailor advised that more employer engagement is necessary in order to understand the businesses' needs. Ms. Tailor requested that everyone bring 1 employer to the next meeting that will bring different conversations to the repeated discussions. Ms. Tailor advised the importance

of relationships and partnerships that can be utilized to help engage businesses. Ms. Taylor also mentioned that connecting with different agencies when hosting employer engagement events can be a new focus point. Meeting adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled on July 11, 2019