

County Of Union
Workforce Investment Board Of Directors Meeting
Union County College, 1033 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, NJ 07016
9:00 A.M. Friday, September 26, 2014

Board Members Present:

Glenn Nacion, Trinitas Regional Medical Center **(Chair)**
Carlos Valdes, Comcast **(Vice-Chair)**
Anna Belin-Pyles, Superintendent of Plainfield Public Schools
James R. Brady, The Savor Group, LLC
Richard Capac, Leaf Group, LLC
Peter Capodice, Union County Vocational Technical Schools
Donna Dedinsky, Wakefern Food Corporation
Pat Dobson, Plainfield One-Stop / Workforce New Jersey
Gloria Durham, Genesis Healthcare Solutions
Salvador Garcia, MAS Development Group
Alberto Goncalves, AZAD Companies
Jean Koszulinski, Union County One Stop Operator
Kevin Lynott, AGL Resources/Elizabethtown Gas
Richard Malcolm, Iron Workers Local #11
Yoshi Manale, Kean University
Jerry Masin, CompasScale
Kim McConnell, The McConnell Leadership Group
Dr. Margaret McMenamain, Union County College
Lenin A. Paredes, Global Insurance Agency LLC
Gary Pfarr, IBEW
Myrna Pinckney, NJ Div. of Vocational Rehabilitation Services
Stan Robinson Jr., SHR Marketing, LLC
Kamran Tasharofi, Union County Healthcare Associates

Board Members Absent:

Gary Alessio, Print Tech
Elizabeth Bennett, Evergreen Partners, Inc.
Mark Bocchieri, Verizon New Jersey
Roberto Camacho, Investors Bank
Pamela Capaci, HSAC Chair / Prevention Links
Monica Chenault-Kilgore, The Chenault Group, Inc.
Noel Christmas, Utilities Workers Union of America Local 601
Juan Carlos Dominguez, J.J.J. Distributors
Charles Gillon, Division of Social Services
Eugenia Hamlett, Hamlett Management, LLC
James Horne, Jr., United Way of Union County
Anadir Liranzo, Omega Maintenance Corp.
Sandra McLachlan, Phillips 66 Bayway Refinery
Christopher Morreale, FedEx
John Perry, Council for Airport Opportunities
Erich Peter, Union County Economic Development Corp. **(Secretary)**
Scott Sharp, PSE&G

County of Union:

Sergio Granados, Freeholder
Antonio Rivera, Director, Workforce Investment Board
Lisa Bonanno, Workforce Investment Board
Phil Kandl, Workforce Investment Board
Gina Tuesta, Workforce Investment Board
Elizabeth Paskewich, Workforce Investment Board
Eric Graham, Workforce Investment Board
Pamela Razo, Workforce Investment Board

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I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Workforce Investment Board (WIB) Chairman Mr. Glenn Nacion at 9:20 a.m.

II. OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Ms. Gina Tuesta read the Open Public Meetings Act Statement.

III. ROLL CALL

Ms. Gina Tuesta conducted the Roll Call.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE June 27, 2014 MEETING MINUTES

Alberto Goncalves made a motion to approve the June 27, 2014 Meeting Minutes as presented. It was seconded by Richard Capac and carried unanimously.

V. MEMBERSHIP APPOINTMENTS / REAPPOINTMENTS

No appointments/reappointments presented.

VI. WIB Director's Report

Mr. Antonio Rivera discussed the following Workforce Investment Board updates:

- The Workforce Investment Board logo has been updated. This new logo will provide greater recognition to the Department of Economic Development and the Workforce Investment Board.
- The next Business 2 Business Networking Event is scheduled for October 29th at the Red Knot Restaurant at Galloping Hill Golf Course in Kenilworth. Three thousand marketing mailers are expected to go out; a 10% attendance rate from that marketing campaign is expected.
- In review from the last WIB meeting, the Workforce Investment Board is working with the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Union County College Industry-Business Institute, Union County Economic Development Corporation, Elizabeth Development Company, and the City of Elizabeth, on the development of the Workforce Innovation Business Center at the Jersey Gardens Mall.
- Focus for the curriculum of the Soft Skills program at Workforce Innovation Business Center has stemmed from review of a Skills Pyramid. The base of the pyramid starts with Basic Skills, leading to Foundational Skills, followed by Achievement Skills, concluding with Occupational Skills at the top. Employability Skills focused on the two middle tiers, Foundational Skills which consist of Communication Skills, Customer Service, and Organization Skills, Achievement Skills can include Leadership, Writing, Planning, Research, and Problem Solving.
- Employers will also be welcomed to the Workforce Innovation Business Center to provide real feedback of what workforce skills are needed and what seems to be lacking.

VII. One Stop Operator Report –

Jean Koszulinski, One Stop Operator, provided a report regarding the Union County One Stop Career Centers.

- The three case managers that the County recently hired have started working; they are partaking in updated training with the rest of the case management staff. There are plans to hire three additional staff.

- Plainfield and Elizabeth One Stop offices are in the process of streamlining services; this includes providing case management services to “drop-ins” every day during specified hours.
- Positive Recruitment sessions have recently been held resulting in approx. 60 placements.
- Reentry Job Fair is coming up in the near future for the Reconnections Program. Providing these resources to this population is extremely helpful as employment can be difficult to find.
- Due to the sale of Runnells hospital the One Stop Rapid Response Team will be on site at Runnells providing services. A Job Fair on October 16th will also be held for Runnell’s employees.

Lengthy Discussion regarding Fidelity Bonds followed.

VIII. Committee Reports

1. One-Stop Committee

Glenn Nacion reported on behalf of the One-Stop Committee. The last meeting was held on September 19, 2014 at Investors Bank in Springfield, NJ. This meeting was a joint One-Stop/Adult Education and Literacy meeting. Maria Heidkamp from the Rutgers Heldrich Center for Workforce Development was in attendance. She discussed the process of the Union County One Stop Evaluation as well as the State One Stop System.

Kim McConnell discussed on behalf of the Adult Education & Literacy Committee the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) associated with Adult Literacy. It was discovered through the SWOT analyses that communication between the Adult Literacy vendors and the One Stop are somewhat siloed and better integration is needed. The joint committee meeting accomplished so much in bringing light to this issue and will help with better integration of services in the future.

Vendors were in attendance to discuss how the referral process works for them, and where improvements can be made in communication between them and One Stops. The attendance of the vendors and their feedback was crucial in improving integration.

Jean Koszulinski mentioned that steps to better improve the One Stops are already happening. Currently new bi-lingual staff members have been added and there is a new initiative to provide a formalized training to all staff members.

2. Adult Education & Literacy Committee

See One-Stop Committee Report

3. Disability Issues Committee

No new business reported

4. Business & Industry Committee

No new business reported

5. Youth Investment Council

No new business reported

IX. Old Business

No old business reported.

X. New Business

- Yoshi Manale reported he met an individual interested in bringing micro-loans to Union County to new entrepreneurs. Discussed possibly bringing this concept to the Workforce Innovation Business Center.
- Guest of Stan Robinson, Philip Michele, with St. Joe's Social Services based in Elizabeth came in to discuss Project Ready, a 6 week job development program run by volunteers. The program has been very successful and is working on outreach to the community and employers to increase awareness about this program.

XI. Next WIB Meeting

Date: 9:00 A.M. - November 21, 2014 CANCELLED

New Location: Union County College, 1033 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, NJ 07016

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Marc Bocchieri made a motion to adjourn the September 27, 2014 Meeting. It was seconded by Richard Capac and carried.