

**COUNTY OF UNION  
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD  
October 6, 2011  
ATTENDANCE**

**Board Members Present:**

Kevin Lynott, AGL Resources/Elizabethtown Gas  
Anna Belin-Pyles, Interim Superintendent of Plainfield Public Schools  
Dr. Thomas Bistocchi, Union County Vocational & Technical Schools  
Pat Dobson-Plainfield One Stop / Workforce New Jersey  
Liz Garcia, INFINEUM U.S.A.  
Charles Gillon, Division of Social Services  
Eileen Leahey, PSE&G  
Anna Lustenberg, Verizon  
John Malcolm, Iron Workers Local 480  
Glenn Nacion, Trinitas Regional Medical Center  
John Perry, Council for Airport Opportunities  
Myrna Pinckney, NJ Div. of Vocational Rehabilitation Services

**Board Members Absent:**

MaryAnn Anderson, One Stop Operations  
Phil Connelly, Kean University  
Sam Crane, Crane Consulting  
Donna Dedinsky, Wakefern Food Corporation  
Frank Lehr, Frank H. Lehr Associates  
James Horne Jr., United Way of Greater Union County  
Jacques Howard, City of Plainfield-Dept. of Economic Development  
Bette Jane Kowalski, Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders  
Christopher Morreale, FedEx  
Sandra McLachlan, Conoco Phillips  
Dr. Margaret McMenamin, Union County College  
Erich Peter, Union County Economic Development Corp.  
Desiree Ramos, Port Authority of NY & NJ  
Carlos Valdes, Comcast

**County of Union:**

Phil Kandl, Workforce Investment Board  
Jean Koszulinski, Division of Workforce Development Operations  
Gina Tuesta, Workforce Investment Board

**Visitors**

Steve Nacco, VP Union County College Administrative Services  
Chester S. Chinsky, NJLWD LMI Director, Labor Market & Demographic Research

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**COUNTY OF UNION**

**WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD**

9:00 A.M. Thursday, October 6, 2011

Union County College, Elizabeth Campus, Kellogg Building

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kevin Lynott at 9:05 am.

**II. Roll Call**

Gina Tuesta read the roll call and the Open Public Meetings Act Statement.

**III. Approval of June 30, 2011 Meeting Minutes**

\*A Motion was made by Charles Gillon to approve the June 30, 2011 Minutes: it was seconded by Tom Bistocchi and carried.

**IV. Announcements:** Kevin Lynott reported that Bette Jane Kowalski's father recently passed away. Antonio Rivera was under the weather and would not be in attendance and Mr. John Malcolm is retiring and this would be his last WIB meeting. Everyone congratulated Mr. Malcolm, and wished him a healthy and long retirement.

**V. NJ Department of Labor & Workforce Development – Labor Market Information**

Mr. Chester Chinsky, LMI Director, NJLWD Division of Labor Market & Demographic Research, presented demographic / labor market information specific to Union County. The Division of Labor Market & Demographic Research manages data regarding employment, unemployment, wages, and occupations. The role of the Division is to analyze and synthesize data and disseminate this information to policy makers to assist in making informed decisions.

Mr. Chinsky gave a presentation that spanned the Great Recession to present. According to the US Bureau of Economic Analysis the Great Recession ended in July 2009. The situation has stabilized but the impact remains. Mr. Lynott asked what is the definition of a recession. Mr. Chinsky responded that it is monitored by the US Bureau of Economic Analysis and officially it is determined by four (4) consecutive quarters of negative GDP.

Mr. Chinsky compared employment statistics: nationally, statewide, and Union County. There was a steep decline across the board in employment at the end of 2007.

New Jersey began the recession with 3.4 million workers: reached recessionary low point in February 2010 and continued to lose jobs until recently. Over the past few months employment has picked up slowly, and the State of NJ is inching its way out



of the recession. From August 2010 to August 2011, New Jersey has added 28,000 jobs.

Over the past year the industry sector that added the most jobs was Education/Health Services. This was the only industry to add jobs during the recession and it continues on a ten year trend to provide employment growth. It is a direct relation to the aging population that requires more health related services. Unemployment remains stubbornly high, despite employment opportunities.

Statewide data is compiled every month from the USDOL Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Survey. At the County level, labor market information relies on the County tax data. There is typically a nine month lag in obtaining county tax data. Data for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2009 to the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2010 indicated the labor market was steady adding 380 jobs. There have been some job gains in industry sectors: TLD added 700, Professional Business Services added 650, and Retail Trade added 500 jobs. During the Recession these industries lost the most jobs. There are still some industry sectors that are still struggling: Construction down 170 jobs, Information Technology down 210, Wholesale Trade down 640, and Manufacturing down 600. Approximately 190,000 individuals were employed in the private sector in Union County. Public sector jobs were down approximately 1,000 predominantly from police, fire and education job cuts. With the private sector adding 380 jobs and the public sector losing 1,000, total employment was down approximately 620 jobs for the period.

Mr. Chinsky's complete presentation is on file.

### **Youth Investment Council**

Dr. Bistocchi, Chairman, Youth Investment Council reported that the Youth Investment Council held a meeting September 23, 2011 at the Union County Academy of Performing Arts in Scotch Plains. Attendees included representatives from Venture & Venture, Inc., Youth Corps, Union County Youth Services, Plainfield Board of Education, Clark Board of Education, Rahway Community Action, Urban League of Union County, Union County One-Stop Career Center, and Union County College.

In the present environment of shrinking resources, the Council was exploring how to best utilize youth funding provided through the Workforce Investment Act. In its role, the Youth Investment Council was deliberating how to best target WIA Youth diminished resources. The four (4) agencies that were awarded funding to provide services to disadvantaged youth in Union County were invited to report on their respective youth programs.

The four grantees included: the Clark Board of Education, Rahway Community Action, Urban League of Union County, and the Plainfield Board of Education.

### Youth Program Reports

1) Ms. Diane Molloy reported on the program offered by the Clark Board of Education. The program offered services to fifteen "special needs" students aged 15

- 21 during the summer months. The special needs students include youth with Downs Syndrome and autism. The program operated for four (4) hours a day: Monday through Friday. The program has been operational for over ten (10) years, and provides work experiences in building and grounds maintenance. The focus of the program is to provide employment development skills.

2) Stacy Green reported on the program offered by the Plainfield Board of Education. Mr. Greene reported that eighteen (18) students participated in the program. The participants were placed in the Superintendent's Office, Early Childhood Department, Human Resources, at the elementary and high school, and Building and Grounds. Participants learned office skills, raised their self-esteem, and increased their communication skills and offered public interaction. The program helps with computer, organizational, office and customer service skills. The program provided participants opportunities for teamwork and a sense of accomplishment. To be employed in the School District, all participants had to be fingerprinted. This was important to reinforce the notion that all actions have consequences, in this regard how a criminal record can adversely affect their chances of certain employment opportunities.

The program offered participants job preparation services: resume writing, job search, dressing for success, filling out a job application both hard copy and online (especially required documents for employment). The summer component operated for five (5) weeks. During the school year, the participants will be provided an activity every month for approximately 2 - 2 1/2 hours after school.

3) Lillian Henderson reported on the youth program offered by Rahway Community Action Organization. The program operated for approximately four (4) weeks: August 1 – August 26. Twenty participants from Rahway and Linden aged 17 - 21, were provided work experiences during the summer months. The program includes a community service component. Two programs were offered: B Triple A Success Academy and Farmstand Program. The programs offered work experiences in building and grounds, daycare assistance, and office skills and included a public speaking component.

4) Ms. Ella Teal reported on the youth program offered by the Urban League of Union County. Ms. Teal explained that one reason the Urban League's youth program was successful was due to the fact that they were proactive regarding participant recruitment. Urban League had actively recruited for the program in the hope that it would be funded. All recruitment material included a disclaimer that the program would become operational upon receipt of funding. Ms. Teal stated that it would have been extremely difficult to begin the program upon receipt of the funding award which would have left little time to organize the program.

The program served sixty-four participants and had only one participant terminated. The program focused on work experiences for participants that were provided during the summer component. The program included ten (10) worksites that included childcare centers, Board of Social Services, and the Housing Authority. The participants' ages ranged from 16 – 24. In-school participants were predominantly

11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. The breakdown of participants: 37 were in-school and 27 were out-of-school. During the course of the year, workshops will be held on financial literacy, taxes, leadership and decision making.

Dr. Bistocchi reported that the Youth Investment Council would revisit the current Vision and Mission Statements and the Youth Strategic Plan. At the next meeting, the Council would discuss developing a series of short-term and long-term goals that will help set program and system priorities. Dr. Bistocchi reported that he invited George Paffendorf to speak about the NJ Youth Corps at the next Youth Investment Council meeting to discuss Youth Corps programs that combine community service, education, and training.

An issue was raised regarding the timing of the release of the WIA Youth RFP and subsequent youth program awards. Staff reported that the County receives the WIA funding Notice of Obligation from the state later every year. The County received the PY 2011 WIA Notice of Obligation as of June 13, 2011 which gave little time to make funding recommendations to have youth programs begin in early July to provide youth services during the summer. It was suggested that the Youth RFP be released earlier and not wait for the Notice of Obligation. This would provide sufficient time to review and make funding recommendations in anticipation of receipt of funding. Discussion ensued regarding youth programming.

#### **VI. Disabilities Issues Committee**

Myrna Pinckney, Chairperson, WIB Disabilities Issues Committee reported that the Committee last met on September 7, 2011 and discussed the planning for a recruitment event to be planned for early Spring. The event will be coordinated with the NJLWD Business Services Representative and will be held at both the Elizabeth and Plainfield One-Stop Career Centers.

The Disabilities Issues Committee has had to postpone an event celebrating National Disability Employment Awareness month. The next scheduled meeting of the Committee is scheduled for 10:00 am November 10<sup>th</sup>. It is anticipated to be held at the Elizabeth One-Stop. Ms. Pinckney asked for WIB participation on the Committee.

#### **VII. New Business**

Chairman Kevin Lynott welcomed Ms. Eileen Leahey to the WIB as a newly appointed Board member.

#### **VIII. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

VERBATIM TAPE ON FILE.