

**COUNTY OF UNION
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
June 30, 2011
ATTENDANCE**

Board Members Present:

Kevin Lynott, AGL Resources/Elizabethtown Gas
MaryAnn Anderson, One Stop Operations
Pat Dobson-Plainfield One Stop / Workforce New Jersey
Liz Garcia, INFINEUM U.S.A.
Charles Gillon, Division of Social Services
Bette Jane Kowalski, Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders
Glenn Nacion, Trinitas Regional Medical Center
John Perry, Council for Airport Opportunities
Erich Peter, Union County Economic Development Corp.
Myrna Pinckney, NJ Div. of Vocational Rehabilitation Services
Desiree Ramos, Port Authority of NY & NJ
Phil Connelly, Kean University
James Horne Jr., United Way of Greater Union County
Anna Lustenberg, Verizon
Carlos Valdes, Comcast

Board Members Absent:

Anna Belin-Pyles, Interim Superintendent of Plainfield Public Schools
Sam Crane, Crane Consulting
Frank Lehr, Frank H. Lehr Associates
John Malcolm, Iron Workers Local 480
Sandra McLachlan, Conoco Phillips
Donna Dedinsky, Wakefern Food Corporation
Dr. Margaret McMEnamin, Union County College
Jacques Howard, City of Plainfield-Dept. of Economic Development
Dr. Thomas Bistocchi, Union County Vocational & Technical Schools
Christopher Morreale, FedEx
Eileen Leahey, PSE&G

County of Union:

Frank Guzzo, Director, Dept. of Human Services
Antonio Rivera, Director, Workforce Investment Board
Phil Kandl, Workforce Investment Board
Jose Perez, Workforce Investment Board
Elizabeth Paskewich, Workforce Investment
Jean Koszulinski, Division of Workforce Development Operations
Gina Tuesta, Workforce Investment Board

Visitors

Steve Nacco, VP Union County College Administrative Services

COUNTY OF UNION
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
9:00 A.M. Thursday, June 30, 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 February 17, 2011 Meeting Minutes

*A Motion to approve the February 17, 2011 Minutes was seconded and carried.

IV. NJ Department of Labor & Workforce Development TLD Talent Network Grant Award

Antonio Rivera gave a brief description on the NJ Department of Labor & Workforce Development, Transportation, Logistics, Distribution (TLD) Grant Award. The NJ Department of Labor & Workforce Development recently awarded a one-year \$385,000 grant to the Consortium led by the John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development at Rutgers to lead the development of a Transportation, Logistics and Distribution (TLD) Talent Network for the State. The Consortium consists of the Heldrich Center, County of Union, Union County College, and Raritan Valley Community College. This Initiative will build upon the County of Union's leadership in the creation of the TLD Network under the USDOL Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) Grant. The goal of the Consortium will be to expand and operate a statewide TLD Talent Network. The State is moving to align resources to support a statewide workforce development effort aimed at six industry sectors. The sectors targeted include TLD, healthcare, finance, bio-pharmacy, green, and advanced manufacturing. The role of the statewide talent networks is to coordinate business needs, One-Stop resources, and college training in a targeted industry sector approach.

V. US Department of Labor Green Skills = Green Jobs Program Update

Mr. Rivera introduced Elizabeth Paskewich to the WIB members.

Mr. Rivera gave a description of the Green Skills = Greens Jobs/USDOL Energy Partnership Training Grant. Mr. Rivera stated that he was very excited about this program and feels that there are many opportunities both for the industries and for the people looking for work. During May and June the Union County WIB partnered with the Rutgers Advanced Technology Extension and Union County College Industry Business Institute (IBI) to construct a Green Technology training program through leveraged WIA resources. Two certificate programs were developed and were approximately 2 weeks in length and were held at the Union County College Elizabeth Campus Kellogg Building. The Residential Certificate consisted of NABCEP (North America Board of Certified Energy Practitioners) Entry Level Solar Boot Camp and BPI (Building Performance Institute) Energy Auditor/BPI Envelope. This curriculum would prepare students for careers as Solar Panel laborers, technicians and Home

Energy Auditors. The Commercial Certificate included Carbon Accounting, Corporate Sustainability Manager, LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) Green Associate, LEED AP, and LEED project Experience. This route would train students to educate and inform businesses of their sustainability options and needs as well as understand green building design for new and existing structures.

Ms. Paskewich stated that there have been 78 participants that have gone through the Rutgers programs: half of them being Residential and half Commercial. The 2nd round of training just ended and success stories are slowly starting to come in from participants being employed due to this training program. Recruitment was also currently underway for a “Core Green Skills” training that consists of Utility Life Skills, OSHA 10 and 30, and CPR/First Aid/AED Certification.

Lengthy discussion followed.

VI. One-Stop Report

MaryAnn Anderson spoke about the Union County Job Fair/Resource Event that was held on Friday May 20th, 2011 that was co hosted with Middlesex County and the One-Stop Career Center. Ms. Anderson thanked Union County College for letting them use their Cranford facility, thanked the Employment Services, Department of Labor and County staff for a successful job fair. Letters went out to 4,000 individuals, some of whom were receiving unemployment benefits. The Department of Labor was able to send out a mass mailing. About 500 individuals attended the May 20th job fair from Middlesex and Union County. The job fair was held in response to a lay-off at Woodbridge Logistics (C&S) and Grocery Haulers of Avenel. The job fair was put together in about two months; first the participants received an invitation through the mail and then the job fair was advertised in a monthly newsletter. Fed Ex, NJ Transit and Wakefern were just three of the many employers that were at the fair. There were workshops on resume writing, resume critiquing in Spanish and English among other topics. MaryAnn reported that it was a well thought out event and could not have happened without the cooperation of all the partners, Freeholders, and everyone involved.

Ms. Anderson also reported that on Sept 8th, 2011 the 4th Annual Housing Authority Community Resource will be held at the Park Madison Atrium in the Plainfield One-Stop. Last year 75 community-based organizations and some employers attended. This year’s goal will be to double the number of participants.

Ms. Anderson reported that as of July 1st, 2011 there will be changes that will affect the General Assistance (GA) public assistance population in Union County. Any participant applying for GA welfare assistance has to be referred to the One-Stop. The individual will have to participate in a 28 day activity prior to determined eligibility for any kind of welfare assistance. For those 28 days, the participants will have to have to perform an organized job search. If the participant is in compliance, the participant will have to report to the One-Stop once a week for three weeks. Once the participant completes all of the program requirements, the One-Stop will refer them back to welfare for an eligibility determination which can take up to four to six weeks.

Lengthy discussion followed.

VII. WIA Youth Program

Jean Koszulinski reported on Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funding. The program year ends as of June 30th. The American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant funds that were received a couple of years ago also ended on June 30th, 2011. The additional three (3) million dollars received over

the preceding three years has helped deal with some of the regular funding cuts. Mr. Koszulinski also reported on a countywide youth program that it is expected to serve approximately 150 kids during the summer and throughout the year. Due to the late receipt of the funding notice, the program will not commence until the end of July. The program will incorporate a four week summer component: a four week program that youth will be working 30 to 35 hours a week.

Discussion followed.

VIII. New Business

Myrna Pinckney announced that the Disabilities Issues Committee is tentatively planning to have the second annual Disabilities Employment Awareness Month celebration on October 21st. The next meeting of the Disabilities Issues Committee is tentatively planned for July 14th. Due to inclement weather the previously planned March meeting was held on May 12. The goals for that meeting had been to expand the committee, develop strategies for more employer involvement, and explore ways to increase access for individuals with disabilities to the One Stop. There was some movement in those directions. Three new members attended. There is still opportunity for membership. The committee is moving toward the establishment of an involved, integrated, and stable group of 12 members. Frank Ferdetta, Bureau Chief, NJ Labor Market Information, presented. One of the committee members is working on contact information for the list of Union County employers who hired workers during the previous work cycle. Concerns arose during the presentation of the state's on-line application about first-line usage of the state's computerized system. The problem may be endemic to a partnering organization. The committee decided to concentrate its efforts upon the development of an enriched program for the October event in view of the quickly approaching October date.

Chairman Kevin Lynott introduced the three new recruited individual's from the private sector for WIB membership; Ms. Sandy McLachlan, Ms Eileen Leahey and Mr. Christopher Morreale.

Frank Guzzo thanked Union County College for the use of their facility.

IX. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:55 am

VERBATIM TAPE ON FILE.