

Workforce Innovation Business Center Planning Meeting
Union County College
Kellogg Building, 5th Floor
40 W. Jersey Street Elizabeth, NJ
Wednesday, January 28, 2015

In attendance

Ed Correa, State Director, NJ AFL-CIO Community Services Agency & We Are One New Jersey

Shirley Hollie-Davis, Assistant Dean, Center for Economic & Workforce Development

Dr. Barbara Gaba, Associate Vice President and Plainfield Provost, Union County College

Ron Stefanowicz, Supply Chain Management Program, Union County College

Dr. Lisa Raudelunas Hiscano, Director, Continuing and Professional Education, Union County College- Industry Business Institute

Dr. Stephen Nacco, Vice President, Administrative Services & Executive Assistant to the President, Union County College

Rossi Jackson, Site Manager, Union County One Stop Career Center

Jean Koszulinski, Director, Union County One Stop Career Center

Zoraya E. Lee-Hemlin, President/CEP, RayZo, Inc.

Fatima Raymond, Director of Neighborhood Revitalization, Elizabeth Development Company

Elizabeth Montes, Executive Director, We Are One New Jersey, Union County Center

Adam Farrah, Vice President, Union County Economic Development Corporation

Erich Peter, Director of Training & Technical Assistance, Union County Economic Development Corporation

William Reyes, Jr., Deputy County Manager, Director Department of Economic Development, County of Union

Amy Wagner, Deputy Director, Department of Economic Development, County of Union

Antonio Rivera, MSW, Director, Union County Workforce Investment Board, County of Union

I. Introduction to the Workforce Innovation Business Center

Antonio Rivera welcomed everyone for attending today's meeting. This meeting is being held in hopes to get all partners of the Workforce Innovation Business Center on the same page and provide an update in regards to structure and services provided.

Mr. Rivera then introduced William Reyes, Jr who further discussed the WIB Center and the commitment of the Union County Freeholders. Mr. Reyes announced the Freeholders have committed \$2.3 million to Economic Development and to job training with the Workforce Investment Board. Another \$300,000 has also been committed and allocated to the AFL-CIO assist documented individuals become citizens. The WIB Center will be a great facility to house this initiative as it will provide these individuals with not only assistance in the citizenship process but employment and training assistance as well.

Mr. Rivera then mentioned that in addition to the Occupational Training aspect and Citizenship aspect the WIB center is working on a third aspect, a Family Success Center, which would allow complete Socio Economic Development at the WIB Center.

II. Workforce Innovation Business Center Service Opportunity Matrix

-Intake and Certification

- All occupational participants will be processed through the Union County One Stop Career Centers

-Assessment

- ex. TABE

-Training Service Opportunities

- Basic Skills and Literacy
- Soft Skills Career Training
 - The Soft Skills curriculum has been designed by Union County College
 - All individuals who receive training will go through soft skills program
 - Employers will constantly provide feedback
- Family Success Center
 - Establish referral process
 - Expanding Family Success Centers to additional towns such as Roselle, Roselle Park, Linden
- Job Search
- Expungement
 - Elizabeth Development Company will be matching funding in order to do this
- Online Training Resources
 - GED
 - ESL
- Occupational training-
 - Currently \$1.3 million allocated for ITA's.
 - Occupational participants will do soft skills training as well.
- On the Job Training
 - Elizabeth Development Company
- Entrepreneurship Training
 - Union County Economic Development Corp.

Goal of the Service Opportunity Matrix is to break down silos so all services can communicate with each other

Expanded Service Opportunities Matrix II includes additional ESL services and the possibility to include Soft Skills Career Training in Spanish.

III. Additional Information

Due to a grant received by Union County College additional services could include supply chain management, additional communication related to this is ongoing.

MOU's still need to be completed for the Elizabeth Development Company and the Union County Economic Development Corporation. Union County College will be handling the administration of the program and will facilitate this communication.

Mr. Ed Correa further outlined the Immigration/Legal Resident aspect to the WIB Center. He discussed the importance of the program and that it will be a huge benefit to the Economic Development of the county, indicating Union County has approx. 50,000 legal residents. Providing legal residents with the opportunity to become citizens will provide these individuals with the security they need to invest in the community and themselves.

Becoming a citizen is very expensive, 25% of legal residents don't pursue citizenship do to cost. This program will help these residents with the paperwork and the aide of a lawyer at no cost, which would provide residents with a great financial relief. Fee waivers and micro loan programs will also be available to those who qualify.

The marketing campaign will begin shortly; this will target anyone who has come into the Union County One Stops this year. If partners are independently marketing please include all logos, specifically note that this is a Freeholder Initiative.

There will also be a Youth component and satellite program at the Barack Obama Charter School in Plainfield. This will provide soft skills to local youth that would soon enter into the workforce.

Tentative Grand Opening for the Workforce Innovation Business Center will be March 2015.

IV. Next Workforce Innovation Business Center meeting will be held on:

**Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at 1:00pm
Union County College
Kellogg Building
5th Floor, Rm. K-522
Elizabeth, NJ 07202**