

**County Of Union**  
**Workforce Development Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Trinitas Health/Trinitas Regional Medical Center**  
**9:00 A.M Thursday, January 19, 2017**

**Board Members Present:**

Glenn Nacion, Trinitas Regional Medical Center **(Chair)**  
Erich Peter, Union County Economic Development Corp. **(Secretary)**  
Anna Belin-Pyles, Superintendent of Plainfield Public Schools  
Mark Bocchieri, Verizon New Jersey  
James R. Brady, The Savor Group, LLC  
Peter Capodice, Union County Vocational Technical Schools  
Hugh Caufield, Plainfield One-Stop / Workforce New Jersey  
Juan Carlos Dominguez, J.J.J. Distributors  
Donna Dedinsky, Wakefern Food Corporation  
Salvador Garcia, MAS Development Group  
James Horne, Jr., United Way of Union County  
Jean Koszulinski, Union County One Stop Operator  
Anadir Liranzo, Omega Maintenance Corp.  
Richard Malcolm, Iron Workers Local #11  
Dr. Margaret McMenamin, Union County College (Dr. Lisa Hiscano)  
Lenin A. Paredes, Global Insurance Agency LLC  
John Perry, Council for Airport Opportunities  
Gary Pfarr, IBEW  
Stan Robinson Jr., SHR Marketing, LLC  
Kamran Tasharofi, Union County Healthcare Associates (Cindy Melendez)  
Pat Williams, NJ Div. of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (Leila Molaie)

**County of Union:**

Amy Wagner, Director, Department of Economic Development  
Frank Guzzo, Director, Department of Human Services  
Antonio Rivera, Director, Workforce Development Board  
Lisa Bonanno, Workforce Development Board  
Thomas McCabe, Workforce Development Board  
Elizabeth Paskewich, Workforce Development Board  
Christian Penaloza, Workforce Development Board  
Gisela Bernal-Castro, Union County American Job Centers  
Lilian Roman, Union County American Job Centers  
Michele Antunes, Union County American Job Centers  
Jeffrey Jackson, Union County American Job Centers

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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Workforce Development Board (WDB) Chairman Mr. Glenn Nacion at 9:05 a.m.

**II. OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT**

Ms. Elizabeth Paskewich read the Open Public Meetings Act Statement.

**III. ROLL CALL**

Ms. Elizabeth Paskewich conducted the Roll Call.

**IV. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 4, 2016 MEETING MINUTES**

- Motion was made by Erick Peter and seconded by James Brady to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2016 meeting. Motion carried.

**V. ACTION REQUIRED:**

**WIOA LOCAL STRATEGIC PLAN, 2016-2020**

Elizabeth Paskewich presented to the Board the Union County Workforce Development Board WIOA Local Strategic Plan, 2016-2020.

The Union County Workforce Development Board has recently released the "Union County Workforce Development Board Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Local Strategic Plan, 2016-2020." This comprehensive report was issued by the SETC and required under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), Section 108.

This Local Plan, which represents the County's strategic priorities, is in direct response to the State's directive for its counties' workforce development systems to prepare their plans consistent with New Jersey's two foundational goals for strategic talent development and in line with its five critical themes.

The Union County Workforce System (consisting of the Union County Workforce Development Board within the Union County Department of Economic Development and the American Job Centers within the Department of Human Services), sees itself as both an effective catalyst for economic development and a major resource for employment and training.

- Toward greater economic development, it must help make critical business connections and serve as a bridge between for businesses, the County, and the State.
- Toward better training and employment, it must help residents overcome unemployment, underemployment, and economic struggles and guide them along a path of successful professional growth.

Such a dual vision established the ultimate direction and tone for this Plan, as well as the framework for the Plan's six (6) strategic Goals:

**UCWDB WIOA Local Strategic Plan GOALS:**

- **Goal 1. Increased Emphasis on Career Pathways and Industry-Credential Attainment**
- **Goal 2. Expanded OS Integration of Service Delivery**

- **Goal 3. Broadened Use of Technology in Operation & Customer-Facing Processes**
  - **Goal 4. Expanded Access to Services Level**
  - **Goal 5. Enhanced Employer Engagement**
  - **Goal 6. Expanded Use of Evaluation Metrics beyond National Performance Standards/Systematic Oversight**
- From these six (6) goals, thirty-four (34) Sub-strategies were developed.
  - One Stop Procurement Process outlined and One Stop Procurement Timeline was identified
  - WIOA Mandated Youth Initiatives outlined and identified.

Dialogue Summary:

- Chairman Nacion reiterated that One Stop Procurement is a federal law and these are federal procurement guidelines.
    - Mr. Rivera included that GSETA has hired a consultant to develop a standard One Stop Procurement RFP, which should aid in the development in our RFP.
  - Mr. Robinson inquired how various processes will be different with the procured One Stop from how they are now.
    - Mr. Rivera indicated the focus will be on employment and how the vendor will be getting client jobs. Accountability is key. This will be a transparent process and will require clear, cost-effective deliverables.
  - Ms. Belin-Pyles inquired to whether transportation for Plainfield Youth was considered and if youth programs will have extended hours.
    - Mr. Rivera confirmed those issues have been discussed and there will be both transportation and extended hours, details are still pending.
  - Mr. Robinson inquired to why employers are so reluctant to get involved.
    - Freeholder Granados explained its most likely due to fear of change. Once shown the success of other businesses they will follow.
    - Ms. Hiscano also recommended a more streamline administration and reporting process.
- Motion was made by James Brady, and seconded by Stan Robinson to approve the Union County WIOA Local Strategic Plan, 2016-2020. Jean Koszulinski, Union County American Job Centers, abstained from voting. Motion carried.

**VI. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD BUDGET REPORT**

Thomas McCabe presented the current budget for Program Year 2015 and 2016. Expenses were outlined based on WIOA and WFNJ funding streams. Full report distributed.

**VII. WORKFORCE INNOVATION BUSINESS CENTER UPDATE**

Isaias Rivera, UCC, Workforce Innovation Business Center provided the Board with a status report.

Recruitment events included: Matashi Crystals, Community Access Unlimited, Aircserv, Wawa  
Upcoming events include: Foodtown, Blue Apron

Summary:

- 5 hiring events
- 126 Residents trained
- 146 Residents hired since June 2016

**VIII. AMERICAN JOB CENTERS- DIRECTORS REPORT –**

Jean Koszulinski, Director, Union County American Job Centers provided the Board with the American Job Center report.

New Director of Vocational Rehab Ed Faver

Current accomplishments-

- Assistance with local plan development
- Restructuring of Workforce Learning Link procedure
- Return of Vocational Rehabilitation Services to Plainfield

Current Issues:

- ABAWD increase from 20 to 30 hours
  - Requesting increase in staff and vendor allocations
- Impact of extension of Program Year 2015 Notice of Obligation on Program Year 2016 performance
- Loss of approved TANF service provider
  - One-Stop Director feels WFNJ vendors are underfunded; increasing vendor allocations will increase services and opportunities for clients.
- Youth Programs
- Potential staffing issues
  - Budget is \$1 million less than 3 years ago. Increase in staff in needed to best serve clients.
- Soft Skills training recommendations- potentially bring Soft Skills to Plainfield.
  - Busing from Plainfield to the WIB Center is quite costly for clients
  - Increasing frequency of program will help clients begin journey to goals quicker.
- Future Works Spreadsheet- Update provided outlining timeline of new WIOA Performance Measures.

Dialogue Summary:

- Freeholder Granados recommended Blue Apron Job Recruitment in both Elizabeth and Plainfield.
- Lenin Parades inquired as to what can be done to prevent WFNJ funds from being returned.
  - Mr. Koszulinski explained more dollars are being allocated than there are slots, welfare caseloads are down. He recommended to look at vendor contracts and increase funding.
  - Ms. Hollie-Davis recommended restructuring WFNJ contracts to provide more funds for outcomes. She recommended contracts be based half on line-item budgets, half on benchmarks.
  - Mr. Koszulinski further recommended before an RFP is issued to go into the field and evaluate the needs of vendors and clients and adjust accordingly.

## **IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Disability Issues Committee

Josh Bornstein and Leila Molaie provided an update from the November and December Disability Committee meeting.

Plans for 2017 include:

- Revitalize Disability Committee
- Revising and finalizing new mission statement
- Developing a "traveling program" to educate businesses about the advantages of hiring individuals with disabilities.
- Provide support and resources to the American Job Center and WIB Center staff to ensure they are accessible and optimized to serve individuals with disabilities.
- Establish an awards program to honor exemplary inclusive businesses in Union County.
- Support the continued success of the Project SEARCH program and help establish a second Project SEARCH program in 2018.

**X. OLD BUSINESS**

No old business reported.

**XI. NEW BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No new business reported.

**XII. NEXT WDB MEETING:**

Friday, March 17, 2017

Trinitas Regional Medical Center Financial Services

750 Walnut Avenue, Cranford, NJ 07016

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

- A motion was made by James Brady, and seconded by Juan Carlos Dominguez to adjourn the November 4, 2016 Workforce Development Board meeting. Motion Carried.

Verbatim available through recording.