

UNION COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
AMERICAN JOB CENTER PARTNER COMMITTEE
James Brady, CHAIRMAN
MEETING MINUTES: WEDNESDAY, October 19, 2022, 10:00AM via Zoom

Committee Members

1. Colleen Clayton, The Gateway Family YMCA
2. Catherine Hart, Housing Authority of Elizabeth
3. Cathy Waters, Urban League
4. Christine Backiel, Bridgeway
5. Diana Calle, Division of Family Services
6. Dolores Makrogiannis, Easter Seals
7. Eva Altidor, Community Service Block Grant
8. Herb Caesar, SBDA
9. Ingrid Macias, NJ Department of Labor
10. Valerie Hendon, Elizabeth Public Schools
11. Jasmine Lee, Simon Youth Academy
12. Julio Sabater, Workforce Advantage
13. Marissa Caponera, Housing Authority of Elizabeth
14. Marlene Loff, Union College
15. Michael McLean, NJ Department of Labor
16. Nasrene Mondol, Union County American Job Center
17. Perle Almeida, Union County American Job Center
18. Tina Lopez, Department of Social Service
19. Yunia Labaut, Workforce Advantage
20. Anthea Williams, NJDOL
21. Jim Brady, Chairman
22. Jennifer Zinszer, Skill Up/Metrix
23. Carolina Marin, Union County American Job Center
24. Kelly Smith, EDC
25. Lisbeth Faustino, Community Food Bank of NJ
26. Maya Garcia, Community Food Bank of NJ
27. Sarah Antonelli, Plainfield Public Library

UCWDB Staff

Meredith Barracato

Meeting Summary

Introduction of New Chairman, James Brady:

Meredith Barracato discussed the retirement of Krystal Canady and introduced the new Chairman James Brady. Meredith Barracato offered some information on the new chairman and his experience with the Workforce Development Board. Meredith Barracato asked all committee members to introduce themselves.

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Review and Approval of August 3, 2022 Minutes:

Motion was made by Cathy Waters to approve the **August 3, 2022** Committee Meeting Minutes. Collen Clayton provided the second motion. Motion was carried.

Metrix Learning /Skill Up New Jersey:

Jennifer Zinszer review a presentation which is attached to the minutes. Jennifer Zinszer reviewed the various feature of Skill Up NJ and did a short demonstration on how to access the information.

American Job Center Presentation:

Perle Almeida shared a presentation of the American Job Center service delivery, performance, and initiatives. The presentation is attached to the minutes. Perle Almeida discussed the various job fairs including the Inclusive Hiring event that was the first for Union County. Perle Almeida shared information on the new youth mentorship initiative that began in September.

Strategic Plan Update: Meredith Barracato reviewed a presentation regarding newly released guidance from NJDOL and SETC regarding the 2022-2026 strategic plan. Meredith Barracato highlighted some of the guidance which includes the following details:

- Publish Local Plan February 2023
- Local Plan must adhere to all state and local public comment requirements
- Effective Through 2026
- Four-year local plan will be reviewed/modified after two years
- One-Stop Operators are not allowed to participate in the strategic planning process
- Emphasis on integration of technology into programs/services
- Ensure Diversity, Equity and Inclusion are considered
- Detail impacts of the pandemic and local labor markets, including in-demand occupations and employment and education needs.
- Plan should be a how-to guide verses document on the shelf.

Partner Updates

Meredith Barracato asked the partners to provide a brief update on their program and share any special initiatives.

1. Division of Social Service-Tina Lopez mentioned they are still sending referrals to program partners for anyone who is on TANF and GA. Right now they are not sanctioning TANF but they will GA. In June there were 938 GA clients who have been sanctioned and now have 574 GA due to

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sanctioned process. The TANF population has increased from 553 to 600 as of 10/1/22. They continue to have operations meetings with DFD, partners, and vendors.

2. NJ Department of Labor Employment Services (ES)- Anthea Williams discussed the Return and Earn program (On the Job training, OJT) offered through NJDOL is looking to focus on working with more employers and offered details on how to apply for new hire training. Anthea Williams mentioned there is a fintech company in Berkley Height will be looking to hire 1000 people soon. They have a rapid response request from Autorama who is laying off over 150 employees. They are still working with jobseekers. Perle Almeida asked that Anthea send her the information for the rapid response event so the AJC can help.

3. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS)- NA

4. Simon Youth Academy-Jasmine Lee said they have been seeing an increase in employment opportunities due to the holidays.

5. Job Corp- NA

6. Youth Corp (United Way of Greater Union County)- NA

7. Union College- NA

8. America's Small Business Development Center-Herb Caesar mentioned they have been focusing on entrepreneur training and the need to check the individual's credit for employment purposes. Credit Card delinquencies are up and people need to make sure they are looking at their credit usage.

9. Workforce Advantage- Yunia Labaut mentioned they are still working remotely with clients on courses such as ESL, IC3, and various occupational programs. Julio Sabater wanted to thank the partnership with Social Services and One Stop because they have been working closely together and collaborating.

10. The Family Resource Network- NA

11. The Gateway Family YMCA- Colleen Clayton mentioned they are hiring for many positions and it's been a struggle during the pandemic. They are expanding their childcare services and continue to offer employment seminars to their clients.

12. Plainfield Public Library (PPL)- Colleen Clayton mentioned they have been doing a great job with their programs and will start looking to recruit for next year.

13. Union Public Library- NA

14. Bridgeway Career Services- NA

16.Easter Seals- Dolores mentioned they are recruiting and placing lots of their clients in non-profit. The main goal of their organization is to get job and hopes to create more partnerships with committee members.

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17. Workforce 55+ Program- NA

18. Urban League-Reconnections- Cathy Waters mentioned discussed some highlights from their program such as a new grant.

19. NJ Reentry Corp- NA

20. Community Services Block Grant- Eva Altidor mentioned they have the fresh start program and food distribution information in the upcoming weeks.

21. Housing Authority of City of Elizabeth- Marissa Caponera mentioned they are doing food distribution and hiring events in the upcoming days.

22. International Rescue Committee- NA

23. NJ Department of Labor Coordination & Support- Michael McLean mentioned that the county is doing a great job and he has been watching the numbers and Union County is right on track

24. Elizabeth Development Company-NA

25. Elizabeth Public Library- NA

26. PROCEED-NA

27. New Jersey Food Bank- Maya Garcia discussed the training program that includes serv safe and job training assistance.

28. The Office of Persons with Disabilities: Diana Calle mentioned they have more than 100 registered for the event. She mentioned there are resume and interview prep programs. She asked for more consideration to be made for persons with disabilities.

Nasrene Mondol mentioned some updates that should have been included in the presentation. She added there had been new staff hires and a Port Authority hiring event on 10/20/22.

Chairman James Brady introduced himself and discussed his motivation to give back and is looking forward to helping the committee.

Dolores Makrogiannis asked that she be included in all meeting notifications because she appreciates all the information discussed at the meeting, especially the job fair information.

Meeting Schedule 2022

Wednesday December 14th 10:00am via Zoom

COMMITTEE ADJOURMENT