

Public Meeting of the Union County Workforce Development Board
The Hill Tavern, 3 Golf Dr, Kenilworth, NJ 07033
9:00AM Wednesday, June 12, 2024
MEETING MINUTES

Board Members Present

Dr. Kamran Tasharofi, Union County Healthcare Associates (Chair)
Stan Robinson Jr., SHR Marketing, LLC (Vice Chair)
Debbie Ann Anderson, Union County Department of Human Services (Karen Dinsmore)
James R. Brady, The Savor Group
Paul Belardo, KML Carpenters
Curry Bucu, Trinitas Regional Medical Center
Gloria Dunham, Qunnection Management
Erich Peter, Union County Economic Development Corp
Alan Rutan, Rutan Mechanical LLC
Juanito Chiluisa, NJ Department of Labor
Craig Coughlin, Kean University
Melynda Disla, Gateway Family YMCA
Bernadette Griswold, Community Access Unlimited (Allison Sanchez)
Gwen Ryan, Union County Vocational Technical School (Janet Behrman)
Morgan Thompson, Prevention Links
Roshan White, UA Local 24 Plumbers (Chadrick Garris)

Board Members Absent:

Richard Capac, Crowne Property Management
Jessica Cohen, Bristol-Myers Squibb
Jenny Davis-Toth, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
Patricia Williams, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services
Salvador Garcia, MAS Development Group
Courtney Villani, Villani Bus
Timothy McConway, Steamfitters Local 475
Hilary McCarron, Port Authority (Secretary)
Dr. Margaret McMenamin, Union College of Union County, NJ
Daryl Palmieri, Union County Schools K-12
Teresa Soto-Vega, PROCEED

General Counsel:

Kraig M. Dowd Esq., Weber Dowd Law, LLC

County of Union:

Ed Oatman, Union County Manager
Amy Wagner, Department of Economic Development
Antonio Rivera, Workforce Development Board
Meredith Barracato, Workforce Development Board
Gina Tuesta, Workforce Development Board
Lisa Bonanno, Workforce Development Board
Robert Croom, Union County American Job Center
Nasrene Mondol, Union County American Job Center
Lillian Roman, Union County American Job Center
Latoya Bennet, Union County Division of Youth and Children Services
Hawa Bonds, Union County Division of Youth and Children Services
Melissa Lepinasse, Union County Department of Human Services

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Jeffrey Jackson, Union County Department of Human Services
Rhonda McClain, Union County Division of Social Services

Guests:

Isaias Rivera, Union College of Union County, NJ
Ana Marie McNamara, Union County Vocational Technical School
Isabel Jimenez, New Jersey Department of Labor
Oswaldo Arango, New Jersey Department of Labor
Anthea Williams, New Jersey Department of Labor
Juanita Vargas, United Way of Greater Union County
Patricia Banks, Plainfield Public Library
Scott Kuchinsky, Plainfield Public Library

I. Call to Order & Welcome

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Kamran Tasharofi, Chairman Workforce Development Board, at 9:03AM.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America was recited.

III. Open Public Meetings Act

Meredith Barracato read the Open Public Meetings Act Statement below into the record:

PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF N.J.S.A. 10:4-10 OF THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT, ADEQUATE NOTICE OF THIS MEETING OF THE UNION COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD HAS BEEN GIVEN BY MAILING THE YEAR 2024 ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE TO THE NEWSPAPERS CIRCULATING WITHIN THE COUNTY OF UNION AND DESIGNATED TO RECEIVE SUCH NOTICE, AND BY POSTING THE YEAR 2024 ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE IN THE COUNTY COURT HOUSE, THE UNION COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD WEBSITE, AND BY FILING THE YEAR 2024 ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE WITH THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK.

FURTHERMORE, ADEQUATE NOTICE OF THE LOCATION OF THIS MEETING HAS BEEN GIVEN BY PROVIDING AT LEAST FORTY-EIGHT HOUR NOTICE TO THE NEWSPAPERS CIRCULATING WITHIN THE COUNTY OF UNION AND DESIGNATED TO RECEIVE SUCH NOTICE AND BY POSTING THE SAID NOTICE AT LEAST FORTY-EIGHT HOURS PRIOR TO THIS MEETING IN THE COURT HOUSE, THE UNION COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD WEBSITE, AND BY FILING THE NOTICE AT LEAST FORTY-EIGHT HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THIS MEETING WITH OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK.

THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT SHALL BE ENTERED IN FULL IN THE MINUTES OF THIS MEETING.

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IV. **Roll Call**

Meredith Barracato conducted the roll-call of the Union County Workforce Development Board members in attendance. Union County employees present and guests were acknowledged on the record, as reflected on page one of these minutes.

V. **Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes of the April 17, 2024 meeting were presented for a vote.

**BOARD
ACTION**

Stan Robinson Jr. made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for April 17, 2024. **James Brady** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

VI. **UCWDB Report**

Director Rivera began the meeting by giving a brief overview of the presentation, emphasizing that it would be concise due to a busy agenda. He informed the board that the New Jersey Department of Labor had recently completed a rigorous fiscal monitoring, reviewing approximately 20,000 pages of data over four months. The Workforce Development Board passed this review with flying colors, and the New Jersey Department of Labor recommended that we continue our current practices.

Next, Director Rivera discussed the New Jersey State Employment and Training Commission certification. This certification was crucial for the workforce development board's functioning and was the reason for their numerous committee and board meetings. The process was heavily monitored and regulated, involving significant effort.

Director Rivera then discussed Union County's single audit that is mandated for anyone receiving over \$750,000 in federal dollars. Although they were selected for this audit, he expressed confidence since they had no findings from the state review. The New Jersey Department of Labor was also scheduled to conduct an on-site review of the American Job Center, which had been advised accordingly.

He proceeded to the budget, presenting the April 30th data report. The middle column displayed disbursements and the unexpended funds. As of April 30th, \$2.6 million remained unexpended. He highlighted the need for more training to be conducted by the American Job Center to avoid returning unexpended funds to the state.

Director Rivera then transitioned to the FutureWorks data, pointing out the actual success rates rather than the misleading percentage of goals achieved. He

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emphasized the importance of focusing on actual employment outcomes, using the example of a 63% success rate for youth employment.

Resolutions of the UCWDB

Meredith Barracato noted that the first seven concurring resolutions related to the resolutions that were approved at the executive meeting on May 10th.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-29:

RESOLUTION OF THE UNION COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD CONCURRING WITH THE DECISION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF PROGRAM YEAR 2022 INDIRECT COSTS.

Karen Dinsmore abstained from Resolution No. 2024-29.

BOARD ACTION

Chairman Tasharofi requested a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2024-29**. **Stan Robinson Jr.** made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2024-29**. **James Brady** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-30:

RESOLUTION OF THE UNION COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD CONCURRING WITH THE DECISION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF PROGRAM YEAR 2023 INDIRECT COSTS.

Karen Dinsmore abstained from Resolution No. 2024-30.

BOARD ACTION

Chairman Tasharofi requested a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2024-30**. **Stan Robinson Jr.** made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2024-30**. **James Brady** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-31:

RESOLUTION OF THE UNION COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD CONCURRING WITH THE DECISION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT (WIOA) EXPENSES FROM PROGRAM YEAR 2023 TO PROGRAM YEAR 2022.

BOARD ACTION

Chairman Tasharofi requested a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2024-31**. **James Brady** made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2024-31**. **Stan Robinson** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-32:

RESOLUTION OF THE UNION COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD CONCURRING WITH THE DECISION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO AMEND THE

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WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT IN-SCHOOL YOUTH AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED WAY OF GREATER UNION COUNTY.

BOARD ACTION

Chairman Tasharofi requested a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2024-32**. **Morgan Thompson** made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2024-32**. **Stan Robinson Jr.** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-33:

RESOLUTION OF THE UNION COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD CONCURRING WITH THE DECISION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO AMEND THE WORK FIRST NEW JERSEY AGREEMENT WITH WORKFORCE ADVANTAGE AND UNION COLLEGE OF UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, FOR THE PURPOSE OF AWARDED ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF) FUNDING.

BOARD ACTION

Chairman Tasharofi requested a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2024-33**. **Gwen Ryan** made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2024-33**. **Stan Robinson Jr.** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Chairman Tasharofi abstained from Resolution No. 2024-33.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-34:

RESOLUTION OF THE UNION COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD CONCURRING WITH THE DECISION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO AUTHORIZE ENTERING INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE COUNTY OF UNION FOR THE PAYMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE COSTS RELATED TO THE COMPREHENSIVE ONE-STOP CAREER CENTER FACILITY IN PLAINFIELD.

Karen Dinsmore abstained from Resolution No. 2024-34.

BOARD ACTION

Chairman Tasharofi requested a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2024-34**. **James Brady** made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2024-34**. **Stan Robinson Jr.** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-35:

RESOLUTION OF THE UNION COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD CONCURRING WITH THE DECISION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO AWARD WORKFORCE LEARNING LINK FUNDING TO THE WORKFORCE ADVANTAGE AND UNION COLLEGE OF UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY.

Chairman Tasharofi abstained from Resolution No. 2024-35.

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Chairman Tasharofi requested a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2024-35. Morgan Thompson.** made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2024-35. James Brady** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-36:

RESOLUTION OF THE UNION COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD APPROVING THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING AGREEMENT.

Meredith Barracato noted that since August 2023, the Workforce Development Board has met with partners to develop the MOU/IFA. The MOU/IFA served as a roadmap for coordinating plans, budgets, and operational aspects. Collaboration occurred with over 30 mandated state and local partners. The MOU highlighted the roles and responsibilities of the operator, Chief Elected Official, WDB, and partners. The focus was on strategies including data sharing, service delivery, co-enrollment, and the referral process. The IFA centered on the agreed-upon funded utilities, equipment, and technology. The effective period was set from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2026. Due to the temporary closure of the Elizabeth office, the WDB decided to reassess the MOU to reflect the status of the Elizabeth office at the end of the year.

Chairman Tasharofi, Karen Dinsmore, and Gwen Ryan abstained from Resolution No. 2024-36.

**BOARD
ACTION**

Chairman Tasharofi requested a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2024-36. Stan Robinson Jr.** made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2024-36. James Brady** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-37:

RESOLUTION OF THE UNION COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF PROGRAM YEAR 2022 INDIRECT COSTS.

Karen Dinsmore abstained from Resolution No. 2024-37.

**BOARD
ACTION**

Chairman Tasharofi requested a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2024-37. Gwen Ryan** made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2024-37. James Brady** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-38:

RESOLUTION OF THE UNION COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF PROGRAM YEAR 2023 INDIRECT COSTS.

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Karen Dinsmore abstained from Resolution No. 2024-38.

BOARD
ACTION

Chairman Tasharofi requested a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2024-38**. **Stan Robinson Jr.** made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2024-38**. **James Brady** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-39:

RESOLUTION OF THE UNION COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT (WIOA) EXPENSES FROM PROGRAM YEAR 2023 TO PROGRAM YEAR 2022.

Karen Dinsmore abstained from Resolution No. 2024-39.

BOARD
ACTION

Chairman Tasharofi requested a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2024-39**. **Morgan Thompson** made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2024-39**. **Erich Peter** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-40:

RESOLUTION OF THE UNION COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD AUTHORIZING A CLOSE-OUT AGREEMENT AND THE ISSUANCE OF FINAL PAYMENT FOR SERVICES RENDERED PURSUANT TO THE UNIFORM ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS, COST PRINCIPLES, AND AUDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS.

Chairman Tasharofi abstained from Resolution No. 2024-40.

BOARD
ACTION

Chairman Tasharofi requested a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2024-40**. **James Brady** made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2024-40**. **Morgan Thompson** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-41:

RESOLUTION OF THE UNION COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF AN AFFILIATE AMERICAN JOB CENTER SITE PROVIDER FOR CAREER SERVICES TO ADULTS AND DISLOCATED WORKERS UNDER THE WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT.

Meredith Barracato mentioned that the WDB issued a Request For Proposal on May 9, 2024 and received one proposal. Union College of Union County, NJ submitted a comprehensive proposal that met all requirements. The proposal aimed to train 193 participants and included services such as soft skills training, on-the-job training (OJT), occupational training programs, and employer engagement.

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Chairman Tasharofi requested a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2024-41**. **Stan Robinson** made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2024-41**. **Erich Peter** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Chairman Tasharofi abstained from Resolution No. 2024-41.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-42:
RESOLUTION OF THE UNION COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
CERTIFYING THE UNION COUNTY AMERICAN JOB CENTER.

Meredith Barracato mentioned that the Union County Workforce Development Board certified the Union County American Job Center (AJC) as part of the State Employment & Training Commission requirements. This certification involved a lengthy review process that examined service delivery, accessibility, ADA standards, and partner integration. Since the 2023 review, the Union County American Job Center made improvements by commencing operational meetings, acquiring translation devices, increasing the use of tracking systems, and engaging more with employers.

Areas for improvement were highlighted, including the regular collection of feedback and surveys from customers and employers to gauge service delivery and ensure continuous improvement. A formal referral system for the Elizabeth customers, which would be marketed and provided to all partners within the network, was recommended due to the closure. Additionally, the need for a formalized partner integration and service delivery plan, as well as a review of the underutilization of support services, was emphasized. Meredith Barracato noted that the Workforce Development Board will continue to work with the Union County American Job Center to provide guidance and technical assistance.

Chairman Tasharofi and Karen Dinsmore abstained from Resolution No. 2024-42.



Chairman Tasharofi requested a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2024-42**. **Stan Robinson Jr.** made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2024-42**. **Erich Peter** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-43:
RESOLUTION OF THE UNION COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
AUTHORIZING AWARDING CONTRACTS FOR THE PROVISION OF AFFILIATE
AMERICAN JOB CENTER PROVIDERS OF WORK FIRST NEW JERSEY SERVICES.

The Union County Workforce Development Board authorized awarding contracts for the provision of Affiliate American Job Center providers of Work First New

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Jersey (WFNJ) services. The Request For Proposal was issued on May 9, and by May 31, two proposals were received from Workforce Advantage and Union College of Union County, NJ. Both proposals met the requirements and both vendors have a long history of offering WFNJ services and are well-versed in the needs of the population.

Workforce Advantage proposed a digital loaner program and offered job search assistance, CWEP, job placement services, and ESL, along with a robust outreach plan. Union College of Union County, NJ, highlighted its strong collaboration with partners and offered ESL, GED, CWEP, job readiness programs, and employer engagement.

Chairman Tasharofi abstained from Resolution No. 2024-43.



Chairman Tasharofi requested a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2024-43**. **Stan Robinson Jr.** made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2024-43**. **James Brady** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-44:
RESOLUTION OF THE UNION COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
AUTHORIZING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A TEMPORARY BUDGET.



Chairman Tasharofi requested a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2024-44**. **Stan Robinson Jr.** made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2024-44**. **James Brady** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously

VII. **American Job Center Report**

Karen Dinsmore began by mentioning she was covering for Director Anderson, who was at a conference in Virginia. She introduced herself and explained that the Department of Human Services, led by Director Anderson, includes herself, Melissa Lespinasse, and Jeffrey Jackson. This department is distinct from the American Job Center division, headed by Robert Croom.

Karen Dinsmore noted that as a contracting agency, they are responsible for the entire American Job Center system, ensuring that all partners included in the memorandum of understanding work with them and meet the Workforce Development Board's expectations and WIOA regulations. Over the past year, they improved by conducting operator partner meetings, with three held so far, and the next one scheduled for Monday. Meeting agendas and minutes are posted on their website.

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Karen Dinsmore acknowledged the technical assistance received from the Workforce Development Board staff Antonio Rivera and Meredith Barracato, which highlighted the importance of service integration and coordination with all partners to ensure seamless service delivery. While there is still progress to be made, improvements have been noted, especially coming out of the pandemic and adapting to economic changes and constituent needs. Karen mentioned the challenge of serving customers who do not meet WIOA eligibility and the need to identify other partners who can serve these customers, as well as improve tracking to better tell the story of the system.

She emphasized the goal of partner integration and service delivery, which is a primary focus for the year. Karen also mentioned a recent resolution that allowed the transfer of approximately \$222,000 from the prior program year into the current program year for training, enabling them to assist additional customers in need of training.

Chairman Tasharofi thanked Karen Dinsmore for her comments and welcomed those changes and improvements that she mentioned.

Jeffrey Jackson acknowledged that Karen Dinsmore covered many key points, emphasizing the structure of the American Job Center Network, which comprises core title partners like adult dislocated workers, youth services, adult education and literacy, employment services, and vocational rehabilitation. Each partner has specific roles and contracts to fulfill. He highlighted several network goals, including strong partnerships, an integrated service delivery model, shared case management, data sharing agreements, cross-training of staff, integrated customer service teams, monitoring and evaluations, performance metrics, leveraging funds, community outreach, and stakeholder involvement. These goals aim to improve the integration and coordination of the American Job Center network.

Jeffrey noted that three meetings have been held with the American Job Center operators committee to clarify the roles of the operator, the division of the American Job Center, and other partners. There had been confusion about these roles, but it is now clear that their department is the operator. The next meeting, scheduled for June 17, will focus on assessing the current system and establishing a vision, strategies, objectives, desired outcomes, and necessary technology and resources. He also mentioned the high staff turnover in partner agencies, necessitating re-education on roles and responsibilities. The first meeting allowed partners to voice needed improvements, such as addressing the significant Union County American Job Center turnover in case managers, which impacted service delivery. Despite initial progress, Jeffrey emphasized that there is still much work to be done to reach their desired future state.

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Robert Croom provided an overview of the Division of the American Jobs Center's recent activities and outcomes. He detailed the completion of 1,052 customer orientations and the assessment of 104 individuals for eligibility, noting challenges in documentation and testing that impacted progression to training programs. The division created 129 individual employment plans and issued 95 stackable credentials with soft skills, alongside 89 In Demand training or ITA placements for workforce development.

Robert highlighted financial allocations for the year, with significant funds directed towards dislocated workers and adults in training programs. He reported a shift in spending percentages following recent decisions, reflecting ongoing adjustments in training and support for program participants. Additionally, Robert discussed successful job fair initiatives, including upcoming events targeting veterans and the transportation sector, aimed at connecting job seekers with employment opportunities aligned with market demands. He emphasized ongoing efforts to enhance service delivery and engagement with employer partners, ensuring effective job placement outcomes for program participants.

Paul Belardo noted he would like to collaborate with the Veterans job fair and asked to connect with the American Job Center for this initiative.

Jeffrey Jackson presented updates on the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program administered by the Division of Social Services in New Jersey. During his presentation, Jeffrey discussed the impact of COVID-19 on TANF recipients, noting that waivers were provided to prevent benefit sanctions for non-participation in work activities. Despite these waivers, the state continued to monitor and assess work readiness and participation rates. Jeffrey highlighted the county's efforts to improve its participation rate, which increased from 1.2% to 3.4% as of April. He compared this to higher rates in other counties and outlined challenges faced by the Division of Family Development in maintaining performance standards across the state.

To address issues with data accuracy and staff procedures, Jeffrey detailed corrective actions taken by the Division of Social Services. This included ensuring consistent coding practices, enhancing staff access to necessary systems, and providing comprehensive training on data entry and reporting. He emphasized the implementation of quality assurance measures and the development of new programs like the Community Work Experience initiative to bolster participation and compliance with TANF requirements. Jeffrey concluded by highlighting ongoing efforts to streamline processes and improve client referral systems within

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the American Job Center network, aiming to support not only TANF recipients but also other job seekers accessing their services.

Isaias Rivera, Juanito Chiluisa, and Hawa Bonds presented updates on their respective programs within the American Job Center network. Isaias highlighted the successful implementation of the Workplace Readiness Training Program, emphasizing recent enhancements through AI tools to support job seekers. He reported on ongoing engagement efforts with employers and the promotion of financial incentives for hiring program participants, showcasing a period of active training and outreach from January to April.

Hawa Bonds then provided insights into the Division of Children's Youth Services, focusing on initiatives for WIOA youth programs. She detailed partnerships with United Way for in-school youth and Simon Youth Academy for out-of-school youth, highlighting achievements such as certifications and completions among enrolled students. Hawa discussed educational support and career development activities aimed at preparing youth, noting upcoming graduations and ongoing efforts to expand services to pending applicants from local high schools.

VIII. **Old Business**
No Comments

IX. **New Business**
No Comments

X. **Public Comments**
No Comments

XI. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Dr. Kamran Tasharofi at 10:13 am.

Meeting Schedule:

9:00 AM, Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Location:

The Hill Tavern at Galloping Hill, 3 Golf Dr, Kenilworth, NJ 07033