

Joint Burlington County Workforce Development Board and EAP Meeting Minutes

Location: Rowan College at Burlington County

Votta Hall, Room 248

900 College Circle

Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Scheduled Time: 8:00-9:30 am

Attendees:

Anna Payanzo-Cotton – RCBC

Kelly West – Workforce Development Board

Jeff Keller – Federal Bureau of Prisons

John Miller – RCBC

Carl A. Donato, Jr., Wawa

Mark Remsa, Burlington County Bridge Commission

Dave Wyche, Burlington County Bridge Commission

Yvonne Payton, Department of Labor

Tom Howell – Taylor, Wiseman & Taylor

Wayne Hileman, Burlington Automotive Group

Jesus Arestirado, American Job Center

Shirla Simpson – Director, Human Services

Leah Arter – RCBC

Randy Hamilton – Smith & Solomon

Curtis Myers – Aspire Youth

June Sernak - RCBC

Zahirah Sabir – RCBC

Felice Tietz – RCBC

Dr. Todd Bonsall – BCIT

Pat Cruet, BCIT

Craig Jez, Department of Labor

Mark Boyd, Goodwill Industries

Greg Rindosh, RCBC

Donna Vandergrift – RCBC

- **Call to Order – Anna Payanzo-Cotton**

Anna Payanzo-Cotton called the Workforce Development Board Meeting to order at 8:02 am and thanked the attendees for coming.

- **Introductions**

All in attendance made introductions.

- **Reading of the Sunshine Law – Stephanie Rudd**

- **Business and Industry Leaders Updates**

Smith & Solomon

Randy Hamilton stated the transportation industry is thriving. The salaries of Smith & Solomon's graduates are growing. Job opportunities in transportation are still flourishing. In northern New Jersey, more warehouses are being built because of the increased demand from online ordering, i.e. Amazon.

Wawa

Carl Donato mentioned Wawa is changing their approach to leadership. Wawa will be opening nine new stores in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware before December 2018. There are now approximately 140 stores in Florida. He discussed having a team locally responsible for hosting career fairs.

Bureau of Prisons

Jeff Keller stated he and John Miller were working on recruitment of healthcare staff and other potential FBP employees. Jeff discussed the impact of background checks on new employees.

Taylor, Wiseman & Taylor

Tom Howell compared the growth of the architecture industry in the public and private sector. He said the private sector is moving slower, although warehouses are actively popping up in Burlington Township and Florence. Taylor, Wiseman & Taylor designed a new building to be constructed in Mount Laurel on the open land by the ShopRite on Ark Road.

- **NAWB Conference**

Greg Rindosh, Grant Accountant, discussed workshops he attended at the NAWB Conference in Washington D.C. This was Greg's first time attending the conference.

- The first workshop Greg attended was about the regionalization of workforce boards. The following are the pros and cons:

Pros:

1. Diversified funding streams
2. Less duplication of efforts
3. Rebrand entire marketing strategy; no more segregation

Cons:

1. Difficulty in drawing lines of control
 2. Confusion with determining "who works for who"
- The second workshop addressed prior learning assessments (PLA's)
 1. Prior learning assessment credit for veterans and immigrants
 2. There is nothing in WIOA that limits using WIOA funds for PLA's

- The third workshop highlighted Best Practices in Apprenticeships.
 1. Apprenticeships are a way to tailor or hone skills while learning at a jobsite along with classroom training. It results in a better talent pool with higher productivity and retention.
 2. This study showed key skills are often learned in the work place. Training coupled with education is applicable to most industries.
 3. Employers do not necessarily see the benefit right away, but they do later.

Zahirah Sabir, Strategic Outreach and Marketing, also presented on the workshops she attended and value added tools other boards have created:

- Newsletter for job seekers
- Training for staff and board members offsite

Curtis Myers, Aspire Youth Development and Vice Chair of Youth Council, also attended the NAWB conference for first time.

- He shared information regarding a workforce in Baltimore, which introduces youth to the waterworks industry.
- There is also a three weeks of summer work experience for youth.
- Apprenticeships for the arts; i.e., backstage and technical skills for theater production.

Leah Arter attended NAWB and the following are her takeaways:

- The demographics of the nature of work is changing.
- There is a sweeping change in the economy.
- Keeping up with technology to deliver education.
- Knowledge of the needs of your local region.
- Keeping up with demand from employers and the trends in your local region.

- **Talent Development Center**

Leah presented a PowerPoint with an update on the TDC (presentation attached).

- We are currently at a 76% placement rate.
- 42 of the 55 people who participated in the TLD program were hired at an average base salary of \$37,311.
- The 55 participants earned a total of 359 credits.
- At our last TLD Advisory Board Meeting, Rowan University attended. The idea of integrating apprenticeship into Career Pathways was discussed.

- **Lifelong Learning**

June Sernak gave an update on the following:

- Non-credit - summer camps
- Adult Basic Education (ABE) – 90 individuals will be graduating on June 7th
- Military/Veteran Services – “Our Community Salutes” is scheduled for May 23rd. This event supports families whose children are in the armed forces.

- **Career Services**

John Miller discussed the following events:

- A Hospitality, Tourism and Retail Job Fair was held on March 23rd. 34% of individuals who attended were hired.
- On March 28th Career Services sponsored “Navigating a Job Fair” for local schools (Yale, Lenape, Cinnaminson). Eight employers were present and several students received interviews. We received positive feedback from the employers as well as the schools attending the event.
- On April 6th was the Internship and Seasonal Hiring Job Fair.
- The next industry career fair will be one evening in June and will focus on Healthcare/Allied Health.

- **Business Engagement Committee**

Mark Remsa and Patrick Cruet reported on the Business Engagement Committee. Currently, the committee is comprised of WDI partners and a group of volunteers; however, it will eventually include individuals from the private sector. The purpose is to explore and research how to engage private sector partners with the WDB and WDI.

- **Aspire Youth**

Curtis Myers stated he is working with Leah Arter to host a career pathway exploration summit. This summit will expose youth to different educational options, such as training, apprenticeships, etc. It will present the youth with choices outside of college.

- **Announcements**

Anna Payanzo-Cotton announced the following upcoming events:

- May 2nd from 6:00-8:00pm - Dress for Success Fashion Show at RCBC in the Votta Hall Auditorium
- May 2nd from 9:00-10:45am - Transitioning Students with Disabilities from Education to Work at the Human Services Building in Lecture Hall A-B

- **Adjournment**

Anna Payanzo-Cotton adjourned the meeting at 9:15am.