

**Monmouth County Workforce Development Board
Minutes of September 2, 2021**

Members Present

Robert Connolly, Chair
Roseann Isasi, Vice-Chair
Patricia Carlesimo, Trustee
Brian Wallace, Trustee
John Brown
Wyatt Earp
Charles Ford
Kay Harris
Rene Kurowski
Violeta Peters
Susan Rakoci-Anderson
William Salcedo
Lorraine Scheibener
David Stout
Benjamin Waldron
Cyndie Williams

Members Absent

John Ciufio
Paul Dement
John Gagliano
Dallas Hlatky
Geoff Perselay
Joseph Robinson
Robert Shimko
Judy VanBrunt

Guests

Susan Kiley, Deputy Director
Monmouth County Board of County
Commissioners and Liaison to the
Workforce Development Board

Christopher Marion, Deputy County
Administrator

Staff Present

Larry Sternbach
Yolanda Taylor
Lucy Rivera

CALL TO ORDER & READING OF PUBLIC MEETING LAW:

- Robert Connolly, Chair of the WDB, called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. via a Zoom Meeting.
- N.J. Provisions of the Public Meeting Law, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, and its revisions, were satisfied by publication of a Public Notice in the Star Ledger newspaper.

ROLL CALL:

- Attendance was taken with sufficient number of WDB members present to constitute a quorum.

APPROVAL MINUTES:

- Mr. Connolly entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2020 WDB meeting. ***Dr. David Stout made a motion, which was seconded by Violeta Peters to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2021 WDB meeting as written and distributed. No corrections or changes were offered, and the motion was unanimously approved.***

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

- Robert Connolly, Chair of the Workforce Development Board welcomed and thanked everyone who took time from their busy schedules to join the WDB meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- **Overview:**

- Larry Sternbach, Executive Director of the WDB gave a Powerpoint presentation from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics on the following:
 - Workforce Snapshot – While still well below pre-pandemic rates the labor force participation is expected to rise. As of June 2021 the participation rate for women between 25-54 years of age is 75-75% and for men in the same age bracket is 88-89%.
 - Ratio of Job Openings to Hires in private sector jobs has taken a significant dive during the pandemic. There are currently more jobs than people to fill.
 - NJ UI Snapshot:
 - There have been 2,333,000 claims since March 2020 and over \$33 billion paid out.
 - Federal unemployment benefits will be ending on September 4th. The MCDWD is preparing for an influx of clients by communicating to the public that there are services available to them.
 - A huge issue has been UI fraud. There have been over 500,000 fraud cases reported so far in 2021.
 - Monmouth County Snapshot:
 - Industry Sectors that are driving the job postings in Monmouth County are: Healthcare, Retail and Hospitality.

- **Dashboard:**

- PY'21 Funding Allocation:
 - Received an increase in the following titles:
 - WIOA, which includes Adult, DLW and Youth - 25%
 - Workfirst NJ – 34%
- Overall funding was increased by 27% for a total of \$4,723,452.
- The Workforce Learning Link funding was decreased by \$3,000.
- Only 88% of PY'20 WorkFirst monies was obligated due to slow customer flow and no activity requirement from the NJDOL for WFNJ clients. Funds cannot be carried over and will be returned to NJDLWD.
- Currently 66% of PY'21 WorkFirst funding has been obligated.

- **Updates and Planning:**

- SkillUp Monmouth has been very successful. Currently there are 3,008 customers registered at a cost of \$8.31 per customer.
- On-the-Job Training – there are currently 50 master contracts to support job seekers and employers.
- Incumbent Worker Training – The MCDWD can spend up to 20% of funding for Incumbent Worker Training. Currently there are 30 prospective companies and 2375 tentative students for a total of 2246 hours.

- **Action Items:**

- Approval of Training Limits – ***A motion was made by Rob Connolly to approve the training waiting period for all funding titles for 2 two years. Motion was second by Patricia Carlesimo and unanimously approved.***

- Stigma-Free Pledge – Monmouth County asked the Monmouth County Workforce Development Board to support their initiative of the Stigma-Free Pledge by signing a pledge. ***Dr. David Stout made a motion to authorize Rob Connolly to sign the pledge on behalf of the Workforce Development Board. William Salcedo second the motion, which was unanimously approved.***
- Lease – Current lease at 17 Christopher Way expires on August 31, 2022. The County of Monmouth has taken the lead on finding office space and is looking at the following sites: Brookdale Long Branch Education Center, Neptune American Job Center, and other commercial space in Monmouth County. Another option would be to renew the lease at 17 Christopher Way
- The MCDWD would like to go in the direction of a Hub and Spoke Model by placing employment counselors through Monmouth County to meet the needs of the job seekers, i.e., Brookdale, Neptune, Libraries, Community/Faith partners. The outreach could possibly be by tabletop or a van. The approach to this would be to establish a consistent schedule and build relationships.
- **Announcements:**
 - Partnership Awards Dinner – The Monmouth County WDB will hold its 29th Annual Partnership Awards Dinner on September 29th at the Jumping Brook Country Club in Neptune. This year the WDB will be honoring the following Covid -19 heroes:
 - Monmouth County Health Department
 - Second Baptist Church of Asbury Park
 - Monmouth County Education system
 - Superintendents Roundtable
 - Principals
 - Teachers
 - School Nurses
 - Saker Shoprite
 - Pam Reinhardt – Health Professionals Allied Employees HPAE Local 5058
- **New Website:**
 - The Monmouth County Division of Workforce Development launched their new website: www.WorkinMonmouth.com

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- WDB General Board Meeting – December 2, 2021 – 10:00 AM – via Zoom

ADJOURNMENT:

- ***There being no further business to come before the WDB, the meeting was adjourned at 10:59 AM upon a motion from Rob Connolly. The motion was seconded by Violeta Peters and unanimously approved.***