

## Monmouth County Workforce Development Board Minutes of March 2, 2023

### Members Present

Robert Connolly, Chair  
Brian Wallace, Trustee  
Patricia Carlesimo, Trustee  
John Brown  
John Ciufo  
Wyatt Earp  
Chris Femiano  
John Gagliano  
Kay Harris  
Dallas Hlatky  
Geoff Perseley  
Robert Shimko  
Ben Waldron  
Cyndie Williams

### Members Absent

Paul Dement  
Lucille Famulary  
Charles Ford  
Roseann Isasi  
Renee Kurowski  
Violeta Peters  
Joseph Robinson  
Gail Russell  
William Salcedo  
David Stout

### Staff Present

Larry Sternbach  
Yolanda Taylor  
Lucy Rivera

### Guests

**Cheryl Vail**, NJ Division of Vocational  
Rehabilitation  
**Toi Collins** – Affordable Housing  
Alliance

### **CALL TO ORDER & READING OF PUBLIC MEETING LAW:**

- Robert Connolly, Chair of the WDB, called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. at the One Stop Office in Neptune, NJ.
- 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 1, 2022 WDB meeting. ***John Gagliano made a motion, which was seconded by Cyndie Williams to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2022 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.

## MEMBERSHIP:

- Introduced Cheryl Vail, Manager of the NJ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Cheryl will occupy the mandated seat on the WDB for DVR. Mr. Connolly also introduced Toi Collins, Chief Program Officer for the Affordable Housing Alliance. Ms. Collins will occupy the unexpired term that was held by Judy Van Brunt.
- Mr. Connolly recommended that the WDB become more involved by volunteering to join WDB committees and the RFP review committee.

## DASHBOARD:

- **PY'22 Funding**
  - Currently in good shape
- **PY'21 Funding**
  - **WFNJ TANF** – expenditure period expired – will be returning \$217,004 back to NJDOL.

## Performance Standards:

- As of the end of November 2022, all performance measures are in the green, except for the measurable skills gains for youth, which is currently in the red at 53.39%.

## WDB UPDATES:

- **Initiatives:**
  - Re-Entry Employment Specialist to work with the Monmouth County Correctional Institution.
  - 2023 Summer Youth Employment Program
    - Requesting \$954,000 for 280 slots
  - Monmouth Wheels Program
  - Text Messaging Application
- Went out for Requests for Proposals for the following programs
  - Incumbent Worker Training – Monmouth County businesses can get free training for their workers.
  - On-the-Job Training – MCDWD will pay 50% of a new hire's wages during first 10-24 weeks on the job.
  - Out-of-School Youth Work Experience – MCDWD will pay \$15.00 per hour for workers ages 16-24.

## 2023 Partnership Awards Dinner:

- The Partnership Awards dinner is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at the Jumping Brook Country Club in Neptune. The cost of the dinner will be \$75.00 per person.
- The following will be honored:
  - **Business:** Solar Landscape & Trinity Solar
  - **Community Service:** Rev. Ronald Sparks – Bethel AME Church
  - **Education:** Dr. David Stout, President – Brookdale Community College
  - **Government:** Veterans Team (Victor Alvarado, Arthur Maloney & Mike Ferraro)
  - **Economic & Workforce Development:** Fort Monmouth Economic Revitalization Authority (FMERA)
  - **Organized Labor:** Anthony Isaac, Local 827

#### **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING/INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING AGREEMENT:**

- Mr. Sternbach reported that the New Jersey Department of Labor has asked all local WDB boards to extend their current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Infrastructure Funding Agreements (IFA).
- Local WDBs will share plans to create new MOUs/IFAs by January 2024, and will secure agreements to extend the existing agreements through December 31, 2023.
- The required MOUs/IFAs with One-Stop Core Partners are:
  - Title I Adult, Youth & DLW Programs
  - Title II Adult Education & Family Literacy
  - Title III Wagner-Peyser (ES)
  - Title IV Vocational Rehabilitation Services
  - Other partners are: NJDOL, Other State, Federal Program

#### **MOU/IFA EXTENSION UPDATE:**

- ***A motion was made by Rob Connolly to extend the current MOU and Infrastructure Funding Agreement. The motion was seconded by Patricia Carlesimo and was unanimously approved.***

#### **2022-2023 REGIONAL PLANNING:**

- Regional Plan is due February 28, 2023. Mr. Sternbach reported that multiple meetings have been held regionally. He stated that the core pillars of this regional plan is the following:
  - More regional collaboration which includes:
    - Regional meetings of WDBS
    - Regional meetings of WDB committees
    - Regional Business Team meetings
    - Expand Business Services
- Local Plan is due on March 31, 2023 – will support the regional plan.

#### **GOVERNANCE POLICY:**

- Lawrence Sternbach, Executive Director of WDB stated that to be in compliance with the NJDOL Governance Policy, there must be separation between the Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDB), which oversee strategy and governance, and the One-Stop Career Centers which oversee operations.
- A meeting was held on February 7, 2023 with Monmouth County Administration. They have indicated preference to competitively procure first and then restructure if necessary.
- EDSI is releasing multiple guidance videos in March defining what roles must be procured and will include templates for RFPs and contracts.
- The WDB requested that these videos be made available to the WDB, as well as a Workforce Board Committee and County Administration to have a meeting mid March.

#### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: None**

#### **NEXT MEETING:**

- June 1, 2023 – 10:00 AM, LADACIN Network, Wanamassa, NJ

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

- ***There being no further business to come before the WDB, the meeting was adjourned at 10:58 AM upon a motion from Kay Harris. The motion was seconded by Robert Shimko and unanimously approved.***