

Monmouth County Workforce Development Board
March 7, 2024

Members Present

Robert Connolly, Chair
Patricia Carlesimo, Trustee
Peter-Donnell Boynton
Anthony Cipriano
Meg Cody
Wyatt Earp
Charles Ford
John Gagliano
Dallas Hlatky
Violeta Peters
Gail Russell
David Stout
Cheryl Vail
Cyndie Williams

Members Absent

John Brown
Toi Collins
Paul Dement
Lucille Famalary
Chris Femiano
Jodi Grinwald
Kay Harris
Roseann Isasi
William Salcedo
Robert Shimko
Brian Wallace

Guests

Michael Dunne, Regional Director
Equus
Rudy Racine, Vice President - Equus
Maurice Snell, One-Stop Operator
Barbara Wolfe, NJDOL

Staff Present

Yolanda Taylor
Lucy Rivera

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

- Rob Connolly introduced Michael Dunne, Regional Director of Equus and Rudy Racine, Vice President of Equus. Mr. Connolly indicated that Equus was awarded the contract to take over the Monmouth County Career Services.
- He then welcomed and thanked everyone who took time from their busy schedules to join the WDB meeting. He also thanked Dr. Stout, President of Brookdale Community College for hosting the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER & READING OF PUBLIC MEETING LAW:

- Robert Connolly, Chair of the WDB, called the meeting to order at 10:14 a.m. at the Student Life Center located on the campus of Brookdale Community College in Lincroft, 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 OF MINUTES:

- ***Robert Connolly asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2023 WDB meeting. Dr. Stout made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2023 General Board meeting as written and distributed. Motion was second by Violeta Peters. No corrections or changes were offered, and the motion was unanimously approved.***

APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING/INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING AGREEMENT (MOU/IFA)

- Yolanda Taylor, Executive Director of the WDB stated that the MOU/IFA had been revised in accordance with NJDOL requirements. The updated MOU/IFA was emailed to the Executive Committee on February 26th. The Executive Committee approved the revisions.
- ***Robert Connolly asked for a motion to approve the revised MOU/IFA. Dr. Stout made a motion to approve the revised MOU/IFA, seconded by Patricia Carlesimo. The motion was unanimously approved.***
- Mr. Connolly indicated that he would sign the MOU/IFA document and it will be submitted to Commissioner Director Thomas Arnone for his signature. It will then be forwarded to the NJDOL for their approval.

EQUUS PRESENTATION:

- Yolanda Taylor noted that meetings are held weekly with Equus, who was granted the and Board members have been invited to participate in those meetings when necessary. She stated that the goal is have the contract to Equus completed by June 2024.
- She also indicated that she is working diligently with the County on current staffing issues and is hoping to have a WDB staff in place by July 1, 2024.
- At this time, Equus who was awarded the Career Services Provider contract gave a powerpoint presentation on their organization.

MEMBERSHIP:

- Yolanda Taylor noted that the following WDB members terms will be expiring on June 30, 2024:
 - Chris Femiano
 - William Salcedo
 - Robert Shimko
- The Membership committee recommended that the above members be re-appointed to three-year terms. Lucy Rivera will email them to find out if they are interested in continuing to serve on the WDB.
- There is also an open seat for Social Services. Yolanda Taylor, Executive Director of the WDB will reach out to County Administration for direction on the appointment for that open seat.
- Ms. Taylor also mentioned that she would like to expand the WDB membership to include a younger voice. By doing so, it would add a different perspective and diversity to the Board. The committee thought it was a good idea. It will be referred to the Membership Committee for further discussion.

PERFORMANCE STANDARDS:

- Ms. Taylor indicated she is pleased to announce that performance measures are in the green, except for the measurable skills gains for youth, which is currently in the red at 78.87% . She stated that this will improve as youth pass their GED test.

NJDOL PY'22 MONITORING REPORT:

- The Monitoring Report was received on January 29, 2024, with the following two findings:

- **Finding #1:** Indicated that Monmouth County WDB's procurement documents did not include required federal funds Disclosure. Ms. Taylor noted that this finding was an inaccurate and misleading generalization because the RFPs did include the required federal funds disclosure. She stated that NJDOL's Final PY'21 Monitoring Report was dated May 9, 2022, so therefore the WDB was not aware of this requirement when early 2022 RFPs were issued.
- **Finding #2:** Monmouth County WDB does not have a monitoring or oversight reports. Ms. Taylor noted that this finding was accurate. Monitoring and Oversight is an area that has been lacking in this organization over the last two years. She stated that a plan is in place to resolve this going forward. The WDB will have a dedicated Monitor who will monitor not only outside vendors but also the One Stop Operator and Career Service Provider as well.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE:

- John Gagliano, Chairman of the Nomination Committee started the process of identifying the slate of WDB Officers for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026 and will recommend the slate of officers to the Executive Committee on May 2, 2024 before formal approval at the General Board meeting on June 6, 2024.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

- **Youth Committee:**
 - Had a planned Healthcare Job Fair and Exploration Day, both events have been postponed until further notice.
 - Youth staff are working on a program with four area high schools to talk to high school seniors who have no direction on paths going forward. They have emailed high schools and are working on dates to hold the events. The purpose of these events is to increase awareness of our services and increase visibility in high schools.
- **Inclusive Employment:**
 - The goal of the committee is to be more inclusive to other groups of people, not just the disabled population.
 - The committee is looking to organize a resource fair for parents and the business community.
 - The goal is to expand the Monmouth County Job Fair in the Spring and Fall to include an education session for business on hiring people with disabilities.
- **One-Stop Operations:**
 - The Committee recommended that a notice be sent out to all schools and vendors making them aware of the change in the Career Services Provider and let them know that none of the services have changed.
 - A vendor meeting will be scheduled in the Spring for vendors to meet the new Career Services Provider (Equus).
- **Basic Skills & Literacy:**
 - The Resource Fair held at the Monmouth County Vocational School was very successful. There were approximately 10 to 15 vendors representing ESL, GED, Housing, Social Services in attendance. Possibly repeating this initiative to educate the community of the services that are available.
- **Awards Committee:**
 - Planning for the 2024 Partnership Awards has begun.
 - Proposed date is May 22, 2024

- Currently receiving quotes for venues – so far Jumping Brook has been the best
- Committee is working on the selection of honoree.
- A decision was made to add a different category, which is Youth Employment (someone or an organization that has worked well with Monmouth County over the last year in providing services to youth).

ADJOURNMENT:

- ***There being no further business to come before the WDB, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM upon a motion from Violeta Peters. The motion was seconded by Robert Connolly and unanimously approved.***