



Meeting of the Cumberland Salem Cape May Workforce Development Board
Cumberland County College Luciano Conference Center
3322 College Dr, Vineland, NJ
January 10, 2019 – 12:00 p.m.

MINUTES

A meeting of the Cumberland Salem Cape May Workforce Development Board was held Thursday, January 10, 2019 at the Cumberland County College Luciano Conference Center. Those in attendance were:

Workforce Development Board Members:

Andrew Bulakowsky, Anna DeNovellis, Bert Lopez, Betsy Reed, Cheryl Golden, Donna Groome, Edward Geletka, Erich Florentine, Melanie Ernest, Gary Green, Hugh McCaffery, Jack Swain, Kathy Lockbaum, Dr. Kim Ayres (Steven Paul Alt.), Marva Ferguson, Leslie Gimeno, Louis Joyce, Melissa Niles, Nancy Hudanich, Dr. Shelly Schneider (Dr. Terrence Hardee Alt.), Sheri Stephens, Vicki Clark

Guests:

Dr. Christine Johnston, Joel Johnston, Terri Bryan

Public:

Nancy Ridgeway, Denise Taguwa

Staff:

Allison Spinelli, Christy DiLeonardo, Brian Langdon

Freeholders:

Charles Hassler, Darlene Barber, Joe Derella

Handouts:

Let Me Learn Personal Learning Profile Packet, City of Bridgeton Receives EDA Planning Grant, Atlantic City Electric Awards \$6.5 Million Grant Initiative to South Jersey Workforce Boards, Quick Path to Energy Program Salem Flyer, Quick Path to Energy Program Cape May Flyer, WDB Annual Report Guidance

I. Welcome/Opening Remarks

Bert Lopez began the meeting by welcoming all attendees and read the Open Public Meeting Act. Bert requested a motion to approve the minutes from the October 11, 2018 meeting. Nancy Hudanich made the motion, Second by Jack Swain. Louis Joyce abstained. All in favor, minutes approved. Bert welcomed back Marva Ferguson, Acting Manager of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and Salem

County Deputy Freeholder Director Charles Hassler. Both have previously served on the Workforce Development Board. Bert introduced Dr. Christine Johnston from Let Me Learn.

PRESENTATION

II. Let Me Learn: “Insights to Selecting the Right Candidates and Maximizing Their Potential”

Dr. Christine Johnston explained what Let Me Learn is and gave a brief history of how Let Me Learn was started. Dr. Johnston provided the Let Me Learn Personal Learning Profile Packets. She informed the group that their sister organization in Europe uses Let Me Learn for their workforce. Let Me Learn examines how an individual learns and how that individual’s mind works. Once an individual has an awareness of how their mind works, they can develop strategies to succeed. Dr. Johnston illustrated how this can benefit workforce through the examples found in the packet. Allison Spinelli informed the group that Let Me Learn will be doing a pilot program with the Cumberland County One Stop. Allison’s plan is to incorporate it into the training services program. At the end of the program, they will do a test to see how those who utilized the tool compared with those who did not use it. The One Stop will use the data to see what careers might be best suited to their clients. Dr. Johnston said that these results will give individuals additional information to take to interviews. Dr. Johnston informed the group that a company could use this tool as a way to restructure their business. Other companies have had much success in doing this in the past.

III. NJEDA Innovation Planning Challenge Grant

Christy DiLeonardo gave an explanation of the NJEDA Innovation Planning Challenge Grant received by the City of Bridgeton. Christy referenced the City of Bridgeton Receives EDA Planning Grant handout. She emphasized that Bridgeton was the top choice to receive \$100,000 from the Innovation Challenge along with eight other municipalities and counties. Christy informed the group that the Workforce Development Board is a strategic partner in the grant and that the Workforce Development Board is representing all three counties, not just Cumberland. Christy explained that Bridgeton ultimately decided to focus on Smart Food Manufacturing since they are already a Food Manufacturing hub. A company called Emerson met with Bridgeton and expressed interest in helping them technologically. The goal is to have them donate equipment. NJEDA is looking into giving Bridgeton some implementation funds. Christy will keep the group updated as the grant work continues.

IV. Atlantic City Electric Grant Update

Allison referenced the Atlantic City Electric article and the Quick Path to Energy flyers for Salem and Cape May. Cumberland County has finished their information sessions. 10 individuals are ready to begin the program and 10 others will be taking the TABE test soon. All individuals who pass Atlantic City Electric’s test at the end will move onto the hiring process; however, a job with Atlantic City Electric is not guaranteed. Allison explained that Atlantic City Electric provided additional funding in this grant that is going toward training where there is currently a lack of funds.

V. New/Old Business

Annual Evaluation

Allison briefly explained the purpose of the Annual Evaluation. Evaluations have always taken place in the past and that State is now requiring them. Allison will be in contact to ask for ideas of what the Workforce Development Board would like to evaluate. The aim is to improve services.

Proposal Review Committee

Allison informed the group that an ad hoc committee will be forming to review proposals. Once a group is selected, training will take place on the process of reviewing. Allison will be in contact soon to ask for volunteers.

One Stop Operator – Facilitator Position

Allison provided an update about the One Stop Operator position. The position has been changed in order to make it work better for each county based on their needs. This will be discussed further at the Planning & Oversight Meeting. The position will be posted by the Cumberland Empowerment Zone soon. All three counties will participate in the hiring process.

WDB Recertification Update

Christy informed the group that everything has been submitted to and received by the SETC as of December 1, 2018. The Workforce Development Board has recently received feedback and will respond where clarification was requested. Overall, the feedback was good.

Bert asked about funding for our programs because of the government shutdown. Cheryl Golden, Director of the Cumberland County Board of Social Services, reported that a meeting took place to discuss potential impact of services to participants. They are not anticipating any impact.

Cumberland Freeholder Director Joe Derella spoke about the great work South Jersey has been doing recently. He informed the group that the governor and those in North Jersey are taking notice. In regard to the government shutdown, Freeholder Director Derella informed the group that Cumberland County College cannot process financial aid requests. Programs offered by the USDA have also been impacted. He and the other freeholders have spoken with the staff of Congressman Jeff Van Drew and Senators Cory Booker and Robert Menendez and expressed concern about how the shutdown is affecting South Jersey. They emphasized that a solution has to be reached soon.

Salem Deputy Freeholder Director Charles Hassler echoed Freeholder Director Derella's statement about the shutdown. He expressed happiness to be back with the Workforce Development Board and is looking forward to working with everyone.

Steven Paul attended the meeting on behalf of Dr. Kim Ayres. He informed the group that he has copies of the State's Master Plan if anyone was interested in having a copy. He also informed the group that Cumberland County is currently working on Opportunity Zones.

VI. Adjournment

Bert requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Gary Green made the motion, Second by Cheryl Golden. Meeting adjourned.