



## Disabilities Service Committee

Center for Workforce & Economic Development  
3322 College Drive, Vineland

January 23, 2024 – 11:00 a.m.

### **"DRAFT MINUTES"**

A meeting of the Disabilities Service Committee was held on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at the Center for Workforce & Economic Development located on the Rowan College of South Jersey Campus.

**Attendance:** Alicea Nelson, Amy Ronketty, Anne Garrison, April Friant, Elizabeth Reed, JoniRae Gatzow, Katie Czajkowski, Kevin Pileiri, Maribel Bermudez, Rachael Wilson, Ramon Casanova, Rebecca Iacovone

**Staff:** Amanda Barnes, Christy DiLeonardo, Cindy Angelo

#### **I. Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Christy welcomed all members and asked everyone to give a brief introduction. The meeting began at 11:05 a.m. Christy requested a motion to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2023 meeting.

2023 October 24 Minutes

**1<sup>st</sup> Ramon Casanova 2<sup>nd</sup> Anne Garrison**

Abstention: Amy Ronketty

Maribel Bermudez

#### **Vote passes**

Before moving on to reports Christy took a moment to explain the RFP Procurement process. The law states that the Workforce Development Board (WDB) is responsible for procuring all RFP's for Cumberland, Salem, and Cape May. Anyone interested in applying for an RFP through the WDB must be registered to the Cumberland County Portal as well as Salem County's website. Directions for registering will be emailed to the group after the meeting. Youth RFP's for In School and Out of School will be ready to go out by mid-February. An RFP for Career Services is expected to go out sometime between late February to mid-March.

In response to Elizabeth Reed's question, Christy stated that a review committee of selected individuals will decide who is awarded the RFP if there are multiple applicants. As of 2016 this was a requirement by law of every local Workforce Board, however it was not enforced. Some background was given to explain why this law was not followed prior and why it is now being followed.

#### **II. NJDOLWD Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services**

##### **o Cumberland/Salem**

Katie Czajkowski – reported that they are taking walk-ins and that some staff are still teleworking two days a week. Have been providing referrals. There are some vacant positions in their office. Interviews for Rehab Aids will be taking place in the next few weeks.

- Cape May  
Rachael Wilson- Attended a staff meeting during which a presentation was held by Adam Kubler. The purpose of his presentation was to explain the Disability Benefits 101 website and the beneficial information it can provide to those who are on disability. This information could be equally beneficial to those working with clients. Christy added that Mr. Kubler will be invited to attend our next meeting to present to the committee.

### **III. Cumberland/Salem/Cape May Offices on Aging & Disabled**

Due to a schedule conflict with a mandatory meeting held the same day some committee members were unable to attend.

- Cumberland -Not available to present
- Salem  
April Friant- Shared that two years ago Salem began holding a Disability Awareness and Caregiver Resource Day where between 30 - 40 vendors attended and provided services. The event has proven to be very successful with a large turnout. A Spring Hop has also been held in May where resources are provided. Planning is in process for the Spring Hop to be return again this year.
- Cape May  
Mary Dozier could not be present but provided information in advance which Christy presented on her behalf. A flyer for the upcoming Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program that will be taking place from the end of this month until April was printed and included in the meeting handouts. Mary also pointed out that they are working to add a column to their Senior Connections Newsletter that focuses on disabilities specifically. This idea was presented at their county's Disabilities Service Committee meeting. Bi-monthly meetings continue regarding the upcoming Community Day that will be held in May, focusing on planned activities, presenters, and the like.

### **IV. Other Reports-**

- Ramone Casanova- Have partnered with Salem Community College, taking their identified students into their Adult Center for Transition (ACT) Program. Their Hollywood themed Gala will be held on March 7<sup>th</sup>. The students in the ACT program will be aligning with Vineland High School students in the Reaching Independence through Structured Experiences (RISE) program to do a Together Café in the Cumberland Campus cafeteria. This will allow the students to gain internship experience, customer service experience, cash handling, food prep, and other skills. The Cumberland ACT Reverse Job Fair is scheduled for April 11<sup>th</sup> which allows employers to meet the graduating ACT students. This year the graduation will be a joint graduation on the Gloucester campus on May 3, 2024.

### **V. Old/New Business**

- Cindy Angelo – Spoke briefly about the Memorandum of Understanding and including the ACT Program. She also mentioned that Nicole Sikking, Director of the Arc of Cumberland, reached out and discussed all the different services they provide. Nicole has been invited to join the Disabilities Service Committee meetings.

### **VI. Adjournment**

Christy requested a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Elizabeth Reed and seconded by Anne Garrison. All in favor, meeting adjourned. The meeting ended at 11:43 a.m.