



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

CUMBERLAND · SALEM · CAPE MAY

Special Joint Meeting of the Workforce Board & Economic Development
Cumberland County Technical Education Center
3400 College Dr., Vineland, NJ
February 13, 2018 – 12:00 p.m.

MINUTES

A meeting of the Cumberland Salem Cape May Workforce Development Board and Economic Development was held Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at the Cumberland County Technology Education Center. Those in attendance were:

Workforce Board Members:

Anna DeNovellis, Anthony Chiesa, Bert Lopez, Cheryl Golden, Dawn Hunter, Donna Groome, Dr. Mike Gorman, Dr. Yves Salomon-Fernandez, Hugh McCaffrey, Jack Swain, Jody Hirata, Kathy Lockbaum, Leslie Gimeno, Louis Joyce, Melanie Ernest, Michael Ashworth, Tricia Lyons, Vicki Clark

Economic Development: (Cumberland, Salem, Atlantic, and Cape May counties)

Jody Hirata, Louis Joyce, Kim Ayers, Howard Henderson, Julia Acton, Max Slusher, Tony Stanzione, James Quinn, Bruce Riley, Bob Campbell, Don Ayers, Jeannine McDonald, Wade Sjorgen

Presenters:

Margie Piliere – Chief Economic Development Officer for Choose New Jersey, Inc.
Joseph Constance – Business Advocate for the New Jersey Business Action Center
Kerri Gatling – Chief of the New Jersey Talent Networks and Strategic Partnership Academy at the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Guests:

Elizabeth Reed, Howard Miller, Joseph Pesitelli, Sherry Thompson, Steve Paul, Sereena Singh, Melissa Niles, April Clifton, Catherine Carroll, Justin Kenyon

Public:

Nancy Ridgeway

Dignitaries:

Deputy Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development Paul Yuen
Acting Executive Director of the State Employment and Training Commission Gary Altman
Cumberland County Freeholder Deputy Director Darlene Barber

Cumberland County Freeholder James Quinn
Cape May County Freeholder Will Morey
Salem County Freeholder Benjamin Laury
Cumberland County Deputy Administrator Kimberly Wood
Upper Deerfield Administrator Roy Spoltore

Staff:

Allison Spinelli, Christy DiLeonardo, Brian Langdon, Ivonne Walker, Shantay Clark

Handouts:

Choose New Jersey: New Jersey An International Gateway, We're Here to Help Your Business Succeed in New Jersey NJBAC, Workforce Development Board Public Notice 2018

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Bert Lopez welcomed everyone to the meeting and made opening remarks. Introductions were made around the room. Bert read the Open Public Meeting Act and introduced the dignitaries to the attendees. Superintendent of the Cumberland County Technical Education Center, Dr. Dina Elliot, welcomed everyone to the tech and gave a brief history of the building.

Special Guest

Allison Spinelli introduced Deputy Commissioner Paul Yuen and read his bio. Deputy Commissioner Yuen was thrilled to attend the meeting and looks forward to working with the Workforce Board and Economic Development.

Presentations

Presentations were made by Margie Piliere, Chief Economic Development Officer from Choose New Jersey; Joseph Constance, Business Advocate for the New Jersey Business Action Center; and Kerri Gatling, Chief of the New Jersey Talent Networks and Strategic Partnership Academy at the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development. Presentations were well received by the group.

Q&A

A question and answer discussion occurred following the presentations.

Jody Hirata introduced herself as a Workforce Board and Economic Development board member. Her question was directed to the NJDOLWD in regards to how the state could streamline the process of businesses applying for customized training grants and the like, and also that there seems to be a misunderstanding of funding available. What is the maximum capacity for these types of grants? Deputy Commissioner Yuen informed Jody that they are looking to streamline the process, especially in regards to grants. He also said there will be a focus on customer service.

Dr. Mike Gorman asked where the 6525 program is going.

Deputy Commissioner Yuen informed Dr. Gorman that they are in the process of review along with multiple other items.

Jack Swain stressed the need to keep young people in the region. He posed the question of what do we need to upgrade programs.

Deputy Commissioner Yuen responded that this administration will be coming to local areas for answers about what they need. They will make adjustments to ensure business needs are met. He informed

Jack that the Commissioner is looking to build apprenticeship programs.

Jack expressed concern that worker supply does not meet the demand of businesses because the training is not here.

Vicki Clark expressed concern that one size does not fit all especially with incentive programs for seasonal jobs.

Deputy Commissioner Yuen reiterated that they are only three weeks into their positions and are diligently reviewing every possible program and would possibly consider programs for part-time employees.

Kerri Gatling pointed to the transition report with there being a focus on incentive programs for seasonal jobs.

Public Comment

Nancy Ridgeway was glad to see that there were people from the state, the Workforce Board, and Economic Development together to talk about what is happening in our region. She thought it was an excellent meeting and suggested more joint meetings be held in the future.

Closing Remarks

Benjamin Laury updated the group by informing them that Salem is reinvigorating Mores company – that it will be an industrial park. Salem is also updating their railroads because of a grant they received. He expressed concern about their nuclear plants. They are concerned about future viability because of emissions and would like to have further conversations with the state about addressing these concerns.

Will Morey informed the group that Cape May's open space program is being enhanced. Their aging infrastructure is a major concern; especially their bridges. They are in the process of putting a plan together to fix their bridges since they are in a good financial position to start. He is excited about UAS in Cape May. They are leading in some ways. They are hoping to get migration to the county in the technology area. They are also reinvigorating their airport. Cape May Brewing Company is doing well. New AVA home for wine.

Darlene Barber expressed satisfaction with the move of the Cumberland County Improvement Authority and the Empowerment Zone to the same building. Darlene emphasized the need to train and retrain. She expressed that it is key and we need that in our area. Educational programs are helping, but we need this in order to keep people in New Jersey.

Adjournment

Bert requested a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Hugh McCaffery, Second by Dawn Hunter. All in favor, motion passes, meeting adjourned.