

## FULL WDB MEMBERSHIP CONFERENCE

April 12, 2023

### Members Present

Les Vail, WDB Chair  
Michelle Shirey, AVP Workforce Innovation/RCSJ  
Dan Sulpizio, First Harvest Credit Union  
Glen Donelson, MidAtlantic States Career & Education Ctr.  
Robert DeMarco, NJLWD  
Theresa Rohlfing, Ctr. for Independent Living  
Lois Forman, Jewish Family & Children's Services  
Patty Claghorn, RCSJ  
Kristin Whyte, RCSJ  
James Robinson, Business  
Julie DeLaurentis, Business  
Tania Darbouz, DVRS  
Stanley Hershey, DWD  
Judeline Marcellus, NJLWD  
Randee Davison, RCSJ  
Lisa Cerny, GC Div. Human & Special Services  
Christine Arpino, GC Probation  
Natalie Fortunato, South Jersey Dream Center  
Jeff Sander, St. John of God Community Services  
Allison Spinelli, WDB  
Eileen Gallo, WDB

Michael Girone, WDB Vice Chair  
Tom Bianco, GC Economic Development  
Ken Barnshaw, First Harvest Credit Union  
Lani Allen-Davis, MidAtlantic States Career & Ed. Ctr.  
Nicole Field, US DOL/Apprenticeship  
Melissa Eckstein, Gateway Regional High School  
Nicole Wilson, Inspira Health  
Fred Keating, RCSJ  
Jennifer Knab, DVRS  
Linwood Mosley, MidAtlantic States Career & Ed. Ctr.  
Nick Bidinger, Local Union 322  
Kimberly Gober, Housing Authority Gloucester County  
Alisha Thompson, DWD  
Karen Rodriguez, NJLWD  
Crystal Torres, RCSJ  
Carolyn Oldt, GC Library System  
Anthony DiFabio, Acenda Health  
Jenn Macchione, St. John of God Community Services  
Cheryl Casciano, DVRS  
Christina Velazquez, GC Econ. Dev/CDBG  
Bridget DiGiambattista, WDB

### Visitor

Kathy Heid, First Harvest Credit Union  
Brian English, GC Probation  
Megan Varrell, Habitat for Humanity

BethAnn Smith, NJ Dept. of Education  
Aleida Vargas, St. John of God Community Svcs.

Les opened the meeting at 8:45 am  
Salute the Flag  
Verification of Quorum was made  
Open Public Meetings Act was read

A motion to approve January 25, 2023 meeting minutes was made by M. Girone, and seconded by D. Sulpizio.

The oath of office was administered to re-appointed WDB voting members in attendance by Les Vail to the following – Dr. A. DiFabio, K. Barnshaw, & T. Bianco.

### Special Presentation

Haley Goodman, Associate/Business Development from Dimension Renewable Energy. Dimension Renewable Energy is a community solar developer, they develop solar projects that are community-oriented (not residential) and part of the development process is engaging with non-profits. The NJ community solar program incentivizes Dimension community solar projects to work with local organizations and to serve at least low-and-moderate income households. They build large-scale projects such as warehouse rooftops or commercial type buildings-50,000 sq. ft or bigger. The energy from these projects goes onto the grid to the local utility company in the area and local area residents can subscribe to the power and receive a 21% discount on electric bills. The goal is to expand access to renewable energy to those not able to access it – i.e. – those who rent their homes, those who live in apartments, etc. They sponsor solar installation training for high-quality jobs in renewable energy. The partnership opportunities included community colleges, nonprofits; workforce development boards supporting environmental justice, education, job/career training initiatives, and organization that provides support for low-moderate income families. In addition to providing support for existing education programs, they have a STEM curriculum working with Schools Power which is

a non-profit that develops stem curricula around solar, wind, and electrical vehicles. They sponsor the purchase of curriculum licenses, training of educators, and other cost associated with educational programming.

A copy of the presentation is attached.

### **WDB Update**

Governance Policy Ad-hoc Committee – selected members of the committee: M. Shirey, L. Vail, F. Keating, M. Girone, & Allison Spinelli.

MEGA Job Fair/Lunch & Learn - Michelle stated the mega job fair was a great success. The 1<sup>st</sup> Lunch & Learn was held immediately following the job fair for HR managers to discuss the many services available that can help them grow and maintain their businesses. Michelle said the event was successful and she received a lot of positive feedback. She thanked all the volunteers stating that we cannot do what we do without volunteers.

SJ Regional Workforce Development Plan – 30-day public comment period ended March 31. The plan was submitted to SETC. Our workforce region includes Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cumberland/Salem/Cape May, & Gloucester.

### **New Business**

Les introduced & welcomed Allison Spinelli, Executive Director, Compliance & Program Analysis-Workforce Innovation/RCSJ.

### **Announcements**

L. Cerny, GC Div. of Human & Special Services announced Project Search graduation will be held June 8 and announced one of the interns was hired by Jefferson Health. They are recruiting for the upcoming Project Search.

N. Field, USDOL/Apprenticeship introduced herself. She is assigned to Camden County down to Cape May County and is available to answer any questions.

T. Bianco, GC Economic Development announced the 2023 GC Best Of was launched on April 9 and runs through July 28. There are 140 categories, last year there were 83 repeat winners.

M. Eckstein, Gateway Regional High School/Career They have 27 senior interns this year interning in various internship programs from Walnut Street Theater to Collier Engineering. She has 45 juniors applying in May and will be interviewed for positions. She said if anyone is interested, to let her know.

C. Oldt, GC Library System announced they have an innovation studio located at RCSJ/Gloucester, and is a great resource for businesses. They recently became a LEAP Library, in conjunction with NJ Commission for Blind and Visually Impaired and NJ State Library. They will offer free technology classes for iPads, and iPhones for individuals that are visually impaired and 55 years and older. They have an online resource called U-Academy by GALE to help build new skills or assist in a career change.

N. Wilson, Inspira Health announced they will be having several hiring events within their organization.

R. Davidson, RCSJ/CTE announced they are developing new apprenticeship programs and are reaching out to businesses.

Les announced there will be a ceremonial signing event to commemorate the merger of Gloucester County Workforce Development Board and RCSJ on April 19, 2023. Invitations will be emailed.

A motion for adjournment was made by D. Sulpizio, seconded by T. Bianco.

The next meeting will be held on August 2, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridget A. DiGiambattista, WDB Staff