

Executive & One-Stop Operations
July 15, 2020

Zoom Call

Les opened the meeting at 2:30 pm.

A motion to approve April 15, 2020 meeting minutes was made by M. Girone, seconded by B. Satchell.

New Business

COVID-19

Tom reported the County created The GC Dashboard which allows businesses to post their basic information like address, phone number, and type of establishment. They can also update delivery, carryout, curbside pickup, or drive-thru options. We have continued to help businesses navigate with the varying rules and to make sure they are compliant.

Municipal Economic Development Committee (MEDC) conference calls have been held weekly and now are being held every other week to keep municipalities informed. Tom stated we offered help to businesses regarding the (PPP) Paycheck Protection Program.

Les suggested for Bankers & Brokers event, to have banks discuss the PPP loan forgiveness since each bank has a different process for loan forgiveness.

American Job Center Re-opening

Michelle stated the schedule of reopening changes every 2 weeks but she feels the State provided solid information on last week's conference call. The AJC is currently operating full time with county staff and DVRS / ES working on varying schedules and others working remotely, all are following social distance guidelines. We intend to open to the public on a limited appointment basis only on August 13. The DOL does not intend to have in-person services however, the county will have in-person services on August 13. We are working virtually, telephonically, and even placing clients into training. Most of our training vendors are offering classes online. She thanked Stephen, Robert, and Stacey for their work. Brigitte Satchell and her staff have been phenomenal in helping us move to virtual platforms for our learning link along with offering diverse options for our clients. In the current climate, we cannot project any more than 2 weeks out and are relying on the Governor's press conference for guidance. Eileen & Michelle are working with Kim Quigley and Glen Donelson (CWEP clients) by holding monthly conference calls to see how to serve that population. Michelle stated we are very lucky here in Gloucester County because we already have strong partnerships with our partners and they have just gotten stronger.

Stephen stated the AJC has enrolled clients in training programs. A CDL training vendor started training for CDL certificates. AJC staff continue to answering and assisting UI calls, to date they have answered 1,900 UI calls. There are 40 people on a waitlist that are interested in training services. They are changing counseling and assessment procedures by changing forms to make them easier to fill out, making PowerPoint presentations available to name a couple. Stephen reported the federal government issued a 13-week UI extension, so those that received benefits starting in April those benefits will not end until Oct/Nov, even though the additional \$600 stimulus will end next week. The State of New Jersey implemented an additional 20-week extension of UI so individuals can be out collecting UI over 1 year. They are looking long term to determine the needs of individuals and working with their partners to determine the type of technology skills of individuals.

GC Human Services – Needs Assessment Survey

Michelle P. reported the survey is being conducted at the request of Dept. of Children & Families, the goal of the assessment to look at services & activities and what the needs are in our area and to make sure what we need is available. The assessment will be based on 3 different sources: statistical data,

community survey, and focus groups. They will be looking at 2 needs areas and 2 service areas. The focus groups will discuss housing and health care for needs area and behavioral health for adults & children for the service area. The focus groups will take place over WebEx. Michelle stated they are still looking for participants of community members and asked the members if they know of anyone that has been served by a community-based organization, part of children's system of care, child protection, or youth adults their input is essential to this process. Some members suggested Michelle contact township/rec groups, YMCA, Total Turf, and Youth Education Career Center, students. Ralph offered including info in the library newsletter.

WIOA PY20-21 Budget Approval

Michelle reported we have only received from the state our WIOA funds which are youth, dislocated, & adult. Our Workforce New Jersey funding which covers TANF, SNAP, GA, and some contracts is on hold until September 30. We had to ask the state to grant a no-cost extension of the PY19 WFNJ funds to pay for rent, salaries, etc. We were granted the extension and are rearranging budget numbers from last year to continue to pay staffing out of WFNJ funds that would typically have to obligate. WIOA funds show a significant cut – around 11% in total WIOA funds. Michelle stated she watered-down anything that was advertising, printing, office supplies – anything not salary, program, or client-related. After we finished paying salaries what was left went towards ITAs, programs, & contracts. We do still have to pay rent and will be moving into a new building in September. Below are the following figures we received:

Adult - \$534,260

Youth - \$499,936

Dislocated - \$613,656

We had a total reduction of \$198,700 in funds.

A motion to approve the PY20-21 Budget was made by M. Girone, seconded by S. Hart.

Open Discussion

Our next Full WDB Membership is scheduled for September 9 at Auletto's. The committee suggested limit the number of in-person and hold under a tent and also have set up to Zoom for those not able to attend. Michelle will contact Auletto's to discuss suggestions on how we could hold this event.

Announcements

GC Library System - Ralph reported the County Library System is open with limited capacity. They continue to have a contactless pickup. They are offering a special 1 hour opening on Tuesday & Thursday morning for those with health concerns. They have removed approximately 80% of seating in their libraries and those with a library card are only able to use their computers 1 hour per day. Ralph stated the library has a wifi hotspot outside but will have to park close to the branch buildings.

RCSJ – Brigitte reported the college will be transitioning to open on July 20 with flexible scheduling. They will start out seeing students by appointment only. The college is looking at laptops for many of the students who do not have access to technology or hot spots devices/internet connection. For fall semester courses will be online except for programs that have required hands-on, clinicals, labs, etc. Career training – working on getting apprenticeship programs established for allied health and advanced manufacturing. They are looking at pre-apprenticeship boot-camp for advanced manufacturing, then more full apprenticeship programs once employer needs and partnerships are identified. They continue to hear about approval from the State for CNA, medical assistant, pharmacy tech, and patient care tech. They will be working with CVS to roll out the apprenticeship model. They will continue to try to get the programs initiated so they offer information sessions during the fall semester. They are looking at leveraging resources through the apprenticeship grant to help fulfill employer needs.

MASCEC – Glen reported they are permitted to meet in person and are accepting appointments. If anyone needs help with job searching or resume writing, can make an appointment to meet at the Woodbury facility, please let him know. The food pantry continues to be held every Thursday in Woodbury.

Michelle reported the GC Disability Employment Job Fair will be held on September 17, 2020, at RCSJ, this will be an outdoor event under a tent. CDC guidelines will be followed. With the help of RCSJ, our workshops will be done online, the workshops are linked to YouTube.

Michael asked if there is a way to make sure the job listing is getting publicized well, as it shows a lot of job openings. Michelle stated the county helps distribute because they have a better Facebook following than WDB. Ralph stated they will post the job openings as the library starts slowly opening.

A motion for adjournment was made by T. Bianco, seconded by B. Satchell.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridget A. DiGiambattista, WDB Staff