

EXECUTIVE & ONE STOP OPERATIONS

October 25, 2023

Zoom Participants

Les Vail, Chair
Tom Bianco, GC Economic Development
Robert DeMarco, NJLWD
Kimberly Quigley, St. John of God
Stacey Smith, DVRS
Allison Spinelli, WDB Staff

Michael Girone, Vice Chair
Ranee Davidson, Apprenticeship & Industry Dev.
Stephen Hart, DWD
Brigitte Satchell, RCSJ
Eileen Gallo, WDB Staff
Bridget DiGiambattista, WDB Staff

Les opened the meeting at 2:30 pm.

A motion to approve July 26, 2023, meeting minutes was made by T. Bianco and seconded by K. Quigley.

New / Old Business

Youth Procurement Update – The RFP went out and received one response. RCSJ was awarded effective August 1, 2023, for one year. They currently have six students enrolled and are participating in activities.

MOU Update – Allison reported the DOL issues a series of training sessions and meetings to provide the WDBs and required partners regarding the new policy. Allison reported that we recently met with the co-located partners here to discuss customer flow. A meeting will be held in November for all partners to review the full document, which will be signed by all required partners by January 1, 2024.

Announcements

DVRS – Stacey reported their fiscal year ended 9/30/23, and they opened 409 new cases; determined 353 individuals eligible for services; moved 281 individuals into a plan, which is where they determine the individuals' vocational goal and what their services will be, and they successfully closed 85 individuals (which was their goal).

RCSJ – Brigitte reported on the following grant funding opportunities. A grant from the Counsel of Community Colleges to develop a direct support professionals program career pathway, this will be a pilot with RCSJ and Bergen Community College to train individuals to become direct support professionals or help upskill current direct support professionals by giving CNA certifications or pay for 2 college credits. If the participants follow through, they receive a \$5,000 stipend for participating. This will be available through the end of August 2024. Another grant opportunity is with Rowan University on a federal grant to help community health workers and certified peer recovery specialists. This funding is through 2025, and individuals will get certification and expenses will be covered, and will receive a \$7,500 stipend. The last grant opportunity is one they are waiting for the Counsel of Community Colleges to release funding for advanced manufacturing, where RCSJ will be able to train individuals currently unemployed or upskill them.

Ranee reported that the Apprenticeship & Industry Committee recently met, and Nicole Field from USDOL/Office of Apprenticeship attended and provided information. She sent Ranee a link for orientation to employers, which can be shared with employers. Through the Advanced Manufacturing grant, we still have 3 apprentices at Danone, and they are interested in expanding this apprenticeship program. The CNA programs are ongoing, have several in Cumberland, and have a partnership with Shady Lane. The Patient Care Tech program has six apprentices enrolled through Salem Medical, which Inspira has purchased. The cannabis program is complete on the RCSJ end, where we sent 8 participants, but only six remain. They started with 20 at Rowan University, and the 6 RCSJ sent are still attending.

Tom announced the Veterans Job Fair will be held on 11/3 at RCSJ/McCaffrey College Center. The MEGA Job Fair was held on October 13 and was a success.

A motion to adjourn was made by M. Girone, seconded by T. Bianco

Respectfully submitted,

Bridget A. DiGiambattista, WDB