

**Monmouth County Workforce Development Board
Minutes of September 3, 2020**

Members Present

Robert Connolly, Chairman
Patricia Carlesimo, Trustee
Brian Wallace, Trustee
John Ciufo
Paul Dement
Chris Femiano
John Gagliano
Rene Kurowski
Violeta Peters
Joseph Robinson
William Salcedo
Jeff Schwartz
Robert Shimko
David Stout
Judy Van Brunt
Benjamin Waldron
Cyndie Williams

Members Absent

John Brown
Wyatt Earp
Kay Harris
Dallas Hlatky
Roseann Isasi
Susan Rakoci-Anderson
Lorraine Scheibener

Guests

Jennifer Gonzalez, ACI

Staff Present

Larry Sternbach
Yolanda Taylor
Lucy Rivera

CALL TO ORDER & READING OF PUBLIC MEETING LAW:

- Robert Connolly, Chairman of the WDB, called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. via a Zoom Meeting due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.
- N.J. Provisions of the Public Meeting Law, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, and its revisions, were satisfied by publication of a Public Notice in Asbury Park Press and the Star Ledger newspapers.

ROLL CALL:

- Attendance was taken with sufficient number of WDB members present to constitute a quorum.

APPROVAL MINUTES:

- Mr. Connolly entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2020 WDB meeting. ***William Salcedo made a motion, which was seconded by Chris Femiano to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2020 WDB meeting as written and distributed. No corrections or changes were offered, and the motion was unanimously approved.***

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

- Mr. Connolly thanked and congratulated Dallas Hlatky on volunteering to be the chairperson of the Youth Committee.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- Covid-19 Update
 - Unemployment:
 - There have been 99,706 unemployment insurance claims in Monmouth County from April through August 2020.
 - The hardest hit industries for unemployment claims has been in food service, accommodations, healthcare services and retail.
 - Companies with increased job posting activity have been Amazon, Amazon Fulfillment, UPS and other companies requiring drivers.
 - Occupations with increased job postings have been drivers, warehouse workers, sales workers, stock clerks and laborers.

- Dashboard
 - WIOA funding for PY'20 was reduced by 11% (\$283,897) from PY'19
 - The total WIOA funding for PY'20 for Adult, DLW and Youth is \$2,493,947.
 - Currently awaiting WFNJ funding.
 - Workforce Learning Link received \$21,000, compared to the \$106,000 received in PY'19.

- Performance Measures
 - Currently exceeding the performance measures for Adult, DLW, Youth thanks to the "Think Green" initiative.

- Operations Update:
 - Since March 2020, the Monmouth County Division of Workforce Development (MCDWD) has switched to virtual operations
 - Limited in-person appointments since June 2020.
 - Currently working on surge planning
 - Aggressively marketing MCDWD services through constant contact and the NJDOL AOSOS database – looking to connect with the following job seekers:
 - Constant Contact: 8,700 job seekers and 6,100 businesses and with community and faith-based partners.
 - NJDOL AOSOS Database: 92,600 job seekers
 - Monmouth County Public Information: Press Releases, Video New Releases, Social Media and Freeholder Press Conferences.

- Pathways to Recovery:
 - Received a grant in the amount of \$650,000 for the period of 4/1/19 to 11/30/20 to assist any who has been impacted by the opioid crisis.
 - To date, \$288,64 has been spent.
 - 101 participants were enrolled in the program, provided an IEP, and received workforce training and supported services.

- Summer Youth Employment Program
 - Received a grant in the amount of \$303,000 for the period of 6/1/20 – 10/30/20 to provide meaningful summer youth work experience.
 - 140 Youth were enrolled and employed with 14 different employers.
 - Thank you to Kay Harris and Chris Femiano for participating in the Summer Youth Program.

- Skill-Up Monmouth
 - Contracted with Metrix for an online-learning platform.
 - As of September 1st, 426 Monmouth County residents enrolled for online courses.

- Upcoming Events:
 - Central Jersey Drive-Thru Job Fair
 - In partnership with Middlesex and Ocean Counties, Monmouth County will be having a Drive-Thru Job Fair on October 15, 2020. Brookdale Community College will accommodate for the outdoor Job Fair.
 - Each county will recruit employers and packets will be distributed as job seekers drive through.
 - MODC Silver Gull Awards
 - Monmouth County WDB is being honored for “Economic Development at the annual Silver Gull Awards that is scheduled for November 10, 2020.

- Award Programs
 - The WDB Partnership Awards for 2020 have been cancelled due to Covid-19, as well as the Alumni Awards.
 - The WDB decided to award Certificates of Achievement to participants that completed their training and gained employment during 2020.

- Board Discussion:
 - Board members expressed some of the staff challenges they are facing with their company or organization during the pandemic and how they are managing employees with school age children:
 - Employees are hesitant to return to work in person
 - Schools have having staggered classes
 - Requiring face masks
 - Work from Home agreements with employees
 - Screening questionnaires and temperature checks for employees
 - Hiring temporary employees thru the end of the year.

COMMITTEE INITIATIVES:

- Basic Skills & Literacy – Wait and See
- One-Stop Operations – Marketing our Services
- Services to People with Disabilities – Staff Training in Virtual Service Delivery and Safety
- Youth Committee – Recruiting Out-of-School Youth

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- WDB General Board Meeting – December 3, 2020 – 10:00 AM – WDB Office, Eatontown

ADJOURNMENT:

- *There being no further business to come before the WDB, the meeting was adjourned at 11:09 AM upon a motion from Brian Wallace. The motion was seconded by Violeta Peters and unanimously approved.*