



New Jersey State Employment and Training Commission

Dennis M. Bone, *Chairman*

Chris Christie, *Governor*

State Employment and Training Commission (SETC)

Meeting Minutes

May 3, 2016

10 am – 12 noon

NJ Law Center, New Brunswick

I. Welcome & Introductions

Chairman Dennis Bone called the meeting to order at 10:09 am and welcomed members and guests to the NJ Law Center. Mr. Bone initiated roundtable introductions and introduced Gary Altman and Charlotte Cardenas as new members of the SETC staff. Chairman Bone announced that, in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting was submitted to the Trenton Times and Star Ledger and was posted on the SETC website.

The minutes from the March 29, 2016 meeting were introduced. Sally Nadler made a motion to approve the minutes; the motion was seconded by Steve Hornik. The minutes were unanimously approved by voice vote.

II. Chairman's Report

Chairman Bone announced the SETC and LWD stakeholder meetings scheduled on May 16, 2016 to provide an overview of the 2016 Combined State Plan and to obtain further feedback. The information sessions have been scheduled at Union County College at 9:00 am and at Camden County College at 2:00 pm. Mr. Bone reiterated that comments received after the public comment period which concluded on March 28, will be reviewed, along with any comments received through the end of May. The agenda for the June Commission meeting will allow for a review of any comments and Plan changes.

Chairman Bone provided a reminder of the upcoming NJ Talent Pipeline Policy Academy – High Quality Partnership Summit on May 26, 2016. Registration is currently at 265 attending and is filling up quickly. All SETC members and attendees were encouraged to attend the Summit.

III. Policy Presentations

a. Approval of Local Area Designation for Cumberland-Salem-Cape May

WDB Director Allison Spinelli explained that the Cumberland-Salem-Cape May (C/S/CM) Local Area Designation was delivered to the field for any questions that may need answers. Chair Bert Lopez (Cumberland-Salem WDB) stated that there was absolutely no adverse impact with the Atlantic County WDB. Dan Frye asked to confirm that Atlantic County would be a single area and Director Spinelli confirmed that is correct. Robert Wise suggested that the C/S/CM local area work with New Castle County Delaware WDB to form a partnership. Director Spinelli indicated that the local region does involve border counties as stated in the report. Sally Nadler stated that PSEG was the largest employer in Salem and the new designation was better synergy and welcomed the change. Chairman Bone indicated that the new C/S/CM WDB was largely rural and did have significant economic challenges whereas, the new Atlantic County WDB had its own unique challenges and was more politically aligned to stand separate from the

Cumberland-Salem-Cape May WDB. Tapas Sen made a motion to approve the Local Area Designation as outlined in SETC Policy Resolution #2016-13; Caroline Wade seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by voice vote.

b. SCALES: Skilled Immigrants Report

Dr. Nicholas Montalto, president of Diversity Dynamics, made a presentation on the status of skilled immigrant and immigrant entrepreneurs in New Jersey. The presentation focused on the various barriers skilled immigrants are facing and how these barriers are discouraging quality employees from maximizing their potential in New Jersey's workforce. The presentation focused on various national and local promising practices that are currently being implemented to remove these types of barriers and encourage skilled immigrants to enter the workforce. The second part of the presentation focused on the immigrant entrepreneurs located in the state of New Jersey. Immigrant entrepreneurs face obstacles like accessing credit, weak support networks and language barriers that limit their potential for success. The SETC was provided with programmatic and planning recommendations that would assist in removing many of the obstacles facing immigrant entrepreneurs. SCALES has been tasked with the review and recommendation of the Skilled Immigrant Report.

c. Youth Symposium Report

A follow up presentation was provided by members of the Shared Youth Vision Council and the local workforce areas involved in operationalizing the youth symposiums and the corresponding follow up activities. Representatives of Bergen, Cumberland/Salem and Atlantic/Cape May WDBs were in the audience and talked about their experiences. The youth symposiums were able to directly impact over 1800 students and 250 teachers throughout the state. The cost was less than 85 dollars per student. The grant may have achieved even greater success if local workforce areas had more preparation time, ability to engage schools earlier and more planning and operational resources. The SETC commission was asked to consider ways to make the youth symposium grant a sustainable opportunity for the local workforce areas.

IV. Targeted Industry Partnerships and Talent Networks

A presentation was provided by LWD Deputy Commissioner Aaron Fichtner which reviewed the NGA Policy Academy Partnership and high-quality employer-driven updates. It was noted that the Talent Networks are doing a fantastic job to gather industry intelligence and foster engagement. LWD's strategies focuses on Career Pathways and Industry-Valued Credentials. A question was asked by Senator Rice to include Passaic County in two regions; Dr. Fichtner responded that interest will be added to form partnerships. Senator Rice said talent needs to be developed in Passaic, with follow-up legislative work and the Passaic WDB. Sally Nadler indicated that Passaic County is a perfect area to showcase High Quality Partnerships. As partnerships continued to be funded, the HQP partnerships increase opportunities for a skilled workforce. Chairman Bone believes the State Plan and the Blueprint provide a clear pathway for businesses to find a workforce partner. The Commission will continue to bring partners to the table through employers. Senator Rice would like the Commission to encourage industries in New Jersey which receive state incentives, such as tax rebates and funding benefits, to participate in a high-value partnership within the state's workforce system. Steve Hornik took a moment to recognize Dr. Fichtner, congratulating him on the Monmouth WDB Government Honoree Award.

V. Public Comment and Adjournment

No public comments. The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 am.

Next SETC Meeting:

Tuesday, June 21, 2016, 10 am – 12 pm, NJ Law Center, 1 Constitution Square, New Brunswick

**STATE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING COMMISSION MEETING ATTENDEES
MAY 3, 2016**

<u>PRESENT MEMBERS and ALTERNATES</u>	
Bone, Dennis Butler, Kate (for Richman) Duda, Teri Fichtner, Aaron (for Wirths) Frye, Dan (for Connolly) Garlatti, Betsy (for Hendricks) Hornik, Stephen Karsian, Andrea Nadler, Sally	Nivens, Marsha (for Berry) Nutter, Harvey Rice, Ronald Sabater, Julio Safrin, Michele (for Blake) Sen, Tapas Wade, Carolyn Carter Wise, Robert
<u>ABSENT MEMBERS</u>	
Carey, Michael Donnadio, John Ferrera, Anthony Gacos, Nicholas Hespe, David Levinson, Jody McNamara, Joe Orsen, Melissa	Reisser, Clifford Trezza, Joann Willoughby, Melanie Wowkanech, Charles
<u>OTHER ATTENDEES</u>	
Akli, James Alarcon, Isabel Aspili, Alan Englebert, Peggy Higgins, Eileen Janz, Greg Lopez, Bert	Lowery, Rhonda Molinelli, Tammy Montalto, Nicholas Moore, T. Spinelli, Allison Swartz, Jeffrey Welch, Anthony
<u>SETC STAFF</u>	
Altman, Gary Cardenas, Charlotte Lew, Kirk Sliwinski, Janet	