



New Jersey State Employment and Training Commission

Dennis M. Bone, *Chairman*

Chris Christie, *Governor*

State Employment and Training Commission Meeting Minutes

June 6, 2017

10 am – 12 pm

New Jersey Law Center, New Brunswick

I. Welcome & Introductions

Chairman Dennis Bone called the meeting to order at 10:06 am and welcomed members and guests to the New Jersey Law Center. Chairman Bone announced that, in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act of 1978, notice of this meeting was submitted to the Trenton Times and Star Ledger and was posted on the SETC website. Chairman Bone reviewed the agenda for the meeting and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

Draft minutes from the April 4, 2017 meeting were introduced. Tapas Sen made a motion to approve the minutes; the motion was seconded by Carolyn Wade. The minutes were unanimously approved by voice vote.

II. Chairman's Report

Mr. Bone informed the members that there would be a vote on the SCALES Policy Resolution #2017-02 (a) after a brief presentation of literacy updates. No members nor guests indicated they had any public comments at the end of the meeting.

Chairman Bone congratulated Dr. Aaron Fichtner on his first official public appearance as Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development at the Commission meeting.

III. NJ Talent Network Reports

Commissioner Fichtner provided opening remarks regarding the Talent Networks. The LWD has gained much insight into industry and their needs. The LWD and Talent Networks have formed many partnerships with employers, community colleges; 4-year colleges; libraries and high schools to bring the employers together with the Talent Networks to identify the workforce needs, develop a strategy and to lead in implementing those ideas.

Presentation

Talent Networks Manager Kerri Gatling provided a brief update on the Talent Networks (TN) and where the focus is moving. The Talent Networks have now focused on the businesses by bringing them together with the Targeted Industry Partnerships (TIPs), in three geographic regions of the state. The current Talent Networks and Representative are: Advanced Manufacturing (NJIT Lead – Michael Marchetti), Financial Services (African American Chamber Lead – Vann Holland), Health Care (Rutgers Lead – Serena Singh), Life Sciences (BioNJ Lead – Matt Alcalde), Retail Hospitality & Tourism (Fairleigh Dickinson North Lead – Grace Hong and Stockton University

South Lead – Nydia Rivera), Technology (NJIT Lead – Karen Richards), Transportation, Logistics & Distribution (NJIT & Essex County College Leads –John Taggart).

LWD will expand the NGO for Talent Networks this coming summer to add Construction & Utilities Talent Network and Food Processing Talent Network. The Food Processing TN is currently under the guidance of the Advanced Manufacturing TN. Three out of four workers in New Jersey will be working in the 10 industries in the Talent Networks, which represents 72% of workers. Approximately 73% of wages in the state will be paid from these industries.

A presentation was made by the TN representatives named above discussing the past year initiatives. The initiatives discussed included:

Health Care TN – Businesses have met with the Healthcare TN to discuss skills needs. Most common needed skills are nursing skills, data/analytical skills, diagnostic lab skills, behavioral health crisis counselor (addiction). Health Care TN has developed 3 pilot programs - CNA to BSN; EMT to Paramedics Pathway; Unskilled worker or non-clinical worker into the Health Care Apprenticeship. Events are scheduled to showcase the new programs.

Food Processing – Mr. Louis Cooperhouse of the Rutgers Food Innovation Center presented remarks on the new Food Industries TN. Food Processing is currently a part of the Advanced Manufacturing TN, but will become a separate TN once the NGO is announced and applications are approved. The Food Industries TN will include both agriculture (farming) and food services (retail, food and beverage services). These industries have over 440,000 workers and a payroll of over \$11B. Credentials/certifications are very diversified over these industries. A question was asked if the Food Industries would recognize the Randolph Sheppard Program (federal Commission for the Blind) to hire blind/visually impaired to work in food services. Commissioner Fichtner stated that the RHT and Food Industries TN would work with the Commission for the Blind to coordinate these services.

Financial Services TN – Currently 12,000 businesses employ over 182,000 employees. The businesses contribute over \$35B annually to the economy. There is a focus on the Northeastern area of New Jersey with businesses relocating from NYC. A large part of the businesses are banking services with a focus on customer service entry level positions. The Financial Services TN is working with high schools and colleges to showcase credentials needed for these jobs. There is a need for credentials in the call-center industry. LWD will work with the Financial Services TN to update Industry-Valued Credential List.

- Due to time constraints, presenters were asked to quickly summarize their presentations at this point.

Retail, Hospitality & Tourism TN – This TN has been working with businesses to meet the skills needed and credentials for this industry. Soft-skills and customer service were the primary of needs indicated by businesses.

Advanced Manufacturing TN – The TIPs work well with the Advanced Manufacturing TN. Soft-skills are very important to businesses in these industries as well. Advanced Manufacturing has adopted a Dream-It-Do-It motto.

Transportation, Logistics & Distribution TN – The logistics component of this TN is the growing

area in this field with many employment opportunities. Certifications and experience are integral in the pathway to employment. TLD TN works with VoTech/training centers to allow trainees to gain the experience to obtain gainful employment.

IV. SCALES Literacy Council

a. Literacy Updates

Department of Labor and Workforce Development Assistant Commissioner Patricia Moran provided an adult literacy services update to the Commission. In order to build the economy new training must be provided. LWD conducted a landscape analysis in order to capture all literacy providers outside of Title II, i.e. libraries, faith-based organizations, and the prison population. It was recognized that LWD staff needed quality staff to work with the literacy program and subsequently hired four literacy professionals to work with the Adult Literacy providers. LWD Literacy Unit Supervisor Danielle Jubanyik spoke on the Title II grant applications which were due April 21, 2017 and are currently under panel review. Contract awards will be announced in the coming weeks.

b. SCALES Policy Resolution #21017-02

The purpose of SCALES Policy Resolution #2017-02 is to support planning for literacy learners through the system and to better incorporate Title II literacy clients into Title I Workforce Development programming. The GED is a disservice to the adult learner because it results in remedial classes, not a college-ready person. The local WDBs need to consider all resources to coordinate plan for literacy in their area. Steve Hornik made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-02; Sally Nadler seconded. The Resolution was approved by unanimous voice vote.

V. Employability Skills Task Force

Melanie Willoughby, NJ Business & Industry Association, Chair, Employability Skills Task Force (ESTF) presented a summary of the task force findings. The SETC was formed to set the standards for employers to hire and fire employees. The soft skills were of utmost importance to the employers to hire workers. Career Readiness needs to be brought into the schools at both the K-12 and K-16 levels. While the ESTF has completed the study, there is still work to be done to ensure the ready for work remains in the schools. Ms. Willoughby will submit a final report to the SETC. The SETC will determine the next steps for the Task Force.

VI. Public Comments & Adjournment

There were no public comments at the Commission meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 pm.

Next SETC Meeting:
Tuesday, September 12, 2017
10 am – 12 pm
New Jersey Law Center, New Brunswick

NJ STATE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING COMMISSION
MEETING ATTENDEES
June 6, 2017

PRESENT MEMBERS and ALTERNATES

Bone, Dennis	Milone, Catherine
Barry, Marie (for Harrington)	Nadler, Sally
Berry, Dana	Safrin, Michele (for Blake)
Butler, Kate (for Richman)	Sen, Tapas
Duda, Teri	Virella, Marie (for Hendricks)
Fichtner, Aaron	Wade, Carolyn Carter
Franklin, John	Willoughby, Melanie
Frye, Daniel (for Connolly)	Wimberley, Benji
Hornik, Stephen	
Karsian, Andrea	

ABSENT MEMBERS

Brown, Kevin	Reisser, Clifford
Carey, Michael	Rice, Ronald
Donnadio, John	Wise, Robert
Ferrera, Anthony	Wowkanech, Charles
Gacos, Nicholas	
Orsen, Melissa	

OTHER ATTENDEES

Guest were in attendance,
sign-in sheet not
completed.

SETC STAFF

Altman, Gary
O'Brien Murphy, Maureen
Robinson, Kyree
Sliwinski, Janet