



New Jersey State Employment and Training Commission

Dennis M. Bone, *Chairman*

Philip D. Murphy, *Governor*

State Employment and Training Commission Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2019

10 am – 12 pm

NJ Law Center, New Brunswick, NJ

I. Welcome & Introductions

Chairman Dennis Bone called the meeting to order at 10:08 am and welcomed members and guests. He 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. Roundtable introductions were conducted. The draft minutes of the September 17, 2019 meeting were presented. Sally Nadler made a motion to approve the minutes; the motion was seconded by Tapas Sen. The minutes were unanimously approved by voice vote.

II. Chairman's Report

Chairman Bone reviewed the meeting agenda. Anyone wishing to use public comment time at the end of the meeting was asked to alert the Chairman to reserve time for this portion of the agenda.

Chairman Bone reported that the Future of Work task force formed by Governor Murphy is drafting recommendations, which will be shared with the Commission members. The SETC's new Apprenticeship Committee is exploring apprenticeship opportunities in health care and other industries. A number of policy options are being considered to strengthen apprenticeships in non-traditional fields. Chairman Bone also noted that the NJ Pathways Leading Apprenticeships to a College Education (NJPLACE) model was being revisited; the goal is to provide college credit for all areas where apprenticeships are utilized.

Chairman Bone also reported on the new legislation signed by the Governor, to bring the SETC membership into compliance with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) requirements. The SETC staff is working with the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development (NJDOL) Commissioner's office to create a slate of potential members for appointment by the Governor.

III. NJDOL Initiatives – NJ Industry Partnerships

Kerri Gatling, NJDOL Chief, Industry Partnerships, provided an overview of the Industry Partnerships initiative undertaken jointly by a number of state agencies, including NJDOL, NJ Department of Education (NJDOE), NJ Office of the Secretary of Education, NJ Economic Development Authority, and the SETC, to enable business and industry to directly inform public sector partners about the talent needs, opportunities and challenges that they face. These industry partnerships are business-led and will focus on the nine key industries identified by the NJDOL as having the greatest impact in our state.

Members discussed the organization of these industry partnerships; while government takes a role, they are driven by business. The meetings are convened and run with business at the center; the public sector partners are there to provide information as needed, but do not take an active part in the meetings. Each of the three regions of the state – North, Central and South – have been asked to begin with Advanced Manufacturing partnerships, and are developing plans to launch the industry partnerships in the coming months. Members suggested that libraries and other community partners be included in the partnerships. Chairman Bone thanked Ms. Gatling for her presentation and indicated that the Commission will look forward to hearing about the progress of this initiative at future meetings.

IV. SETC Youth Policy #2019-01

Catherine Milone, chair of the Strategic Youth Vision Council, presented the draft Policy #2019-01 for consideration and approval by the Commission. The SETC's Youth Council created a local youth council decision-making tool for use by local workforce development boards (WDBs) in New Jersey. This tool was shared and tested during a listening tour conducted with 12 of New Jersey's local workforce development boards, and is recommended to be established as a tool for WDBs to consider using to strengthen local youth activities in the workforce area. Chairman Bone opened the floor for discussion and comment; hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the policy. Tapas Sen made a motion to approve the draft policy resolution, SETC #2019-01. Carolyn Carter Wade seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by voice vote.

V. SETC Dashboard

Sheryl Hutchison, SETC Deputy Executive Director, presented the updated SETC Dashboard for WIOA, located online at njsetc.net/performance. Karen Carroll, State Director of the NJDOL Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS) highlighted the newly-added dashboard information that shows Title IV results for the WIOA primary indicators and customer demographics. Representatives of the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CBVI) Ms. Ines Matos and Ms. Denise Cohen were also present to discuss CBVI programs, which are included in the Title IV reported numbers, although not broken out specifically. Dr. Danielle Jubanyik, State Director of NJDOL Adult Education and Literacy Services, presented the newly-created dashboard tab that provides in-depth performance results and demographics for WIOA Title II - Adult Education and Literacy Services. This new slide is an opportunity to showcase the work of the Title II programs, beyond the primary indicators that are used to measure all four titles of WIOA.

The current Dashboard includes tabs for Funding by Program Year; Statewide Outcomes by Program Year (WIOA primary indicators); Demographics by Program Year which are further broken down by WIOA Titles and programs; and the Title II Adult Basic Education outcomes for Program Year 2017. Additional program years will be added to the Dashboard as data becomes available, to support trend analysis.

Members discussed a number of dashboard highlights, including the performance of individual programs, the costs associated with the program delivery and the possibility of local workforce data being included in future dashboards. The demographic information of the Title II programs was enhanced by the dashboard feature which breaks down each level of Adult Basic Education (ABE) and English as a Second Language (ESL) programs by the race/ethnicity and gender of the participants. NJDOE Assistant Commissioner Linda Eno indicated that the Department of Education was interested in the possibility of a credential that could be leveraged for English Language Learners that would spotlight their bi-literacy; this could be an avenue for further exploration with the Commission.

Ms. Hutchison concluded the presentation by encouraging all members and guests to go online and explore the SETC Dashboard as an interactive tool. She recognized the outstanding efforts of Seetha Vaidyanathan and Alexandra Kvarantan, of the NJDOL Office of Research and Information (ORI) team, to understand and curate the many and varied programs that are presented in the dashboard. They have pulled information from multiple data sources, and together with the SETC Performance Committee, have distilled the information to provide this useful tool to support the Commission's policy work. Ms. Hutchison also thanked ORI Assistant Commissioner Lesley Hirsch and Director David Ramsay, of the ORI Workforce Research and Analytics division, for their continued support of this project. Chairman Bone thanked the group for the presentation and for their ongoing efforts to bring this information to the Commission.

VI. Public Comment and Adjournment

Andrea Levandowski, Library Consultant, Small Business Development & Technology with the New Jersey State Library, announced the upcoming Google free workshops being held at the Long Branch Free Public Library on December 4, 2019. The workshops include topics such as "Power Your Job Search with Google Tools." These workshops are open to both the public and library staff.

Bernard Treml, USDOL Office of Apprenticeship in NJ, thanked the SETC and its partners for their support, as he moves on to a new position as Regional Director with the US Department of Labor - Region 1, Office of Apprenticeship. The members thanked Mr. Treml for his years of service in New Jersey.

Julio Sabater, member of the SCALES literacy council, expressed his advocacy and support for the literacy services that are being provided in New Jersey and encouraged the Commission to explore the ongoing literacy needs of New Jersey's diverse populations, including reducing waiting lists for current services and supporting integrated education and training (IET) models.

Albert Collier, a member of the public, expressed his support for the work of the Commission, as the costs of living in New Jersey rise, and encouraged the Commission to examine the problems of the working poor, and to work towards a goal of full employment with sustainable wages.

NJDOL Assistant Commissioner Lesley Hirsch indicated that the Department is exploring an evaluation of workforce programs for Program Year 2019 that focuses on the integration of Title I (workforce) and Title II (adult education and literacy) services; the evaluation is expected to result in findings to strengthen these programs and the delivery of services to participants across the state.

Chairman Bone recognized the work of John Franklin, Chief Executive Officer of United Way of Northern New Jersey, and the United Way's efforts to showcase the needs of New Jerseyans through their important ALICE initiatives. Mr. Franklin has served on the SETC for a number of years, and Chairman Bone congratulated him on his anticipated retirement in 2020.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 am.

Next SETC Meeting

Wednesday, February 26, 2020 ~ 10 am – 12 pm
Rutgers Labor Education Center, New Brunswick

ATTENDEES ~ November 19, 2019:

PRESENT MEMBERS and ALTERNATES

Bone, Dennis	Milone, Catherine
Butler, Kate (for Oliver)	Nadler, Sally
DeSmedt, Kevin (for Sullivan)	Safrin, Michele (for Blake)
Drakeford, Shamira (for Duda)	Sen, Tapas
Eno, Linda (for Repollet)	Wade, Carolyn Carter
Franklin, John	Yuen, Paul (for Asaro-Angelo)
McNamara, Dillon (for Smith Ellis)	

ABSENT MEMBERS

Brown, Kevin	Reisser, Clifford
Carey, Michael	Rice, Ronald
Donnadio, John	Wimberly, Benjie
Ferrera, Anthony	Wise, Robert
Gacos, Nicholas	Wowkanech, Charles
Hornik, Stephen	
Johnson, Carole	

OTHER ATTENDEES

Allen, Yolanda	Matos, Ines
Armstrong, Jane	Molinelli, Tammy
Cassano, Jeanne	Moran, Patricia
Carroll, Karen	Ochse, Maureen
Cleaves, Chrystal	Odeneye, Jobi
Cohen, Denise	Ramsay, David
Collier, Albert	Sabater, Julio
Custard, Donna	Scalia, Donna
Frater, Darrel	Shah, Nimit
Gatling-Davila, Shamara	Seith, David
Glenn, Mignon	Sherida, Timothy
Grzella, Paul	Sternbach, Larry
Hirsch, Lesley	Swartz, Jeffrey
Hoyte, Sakinah	Thurman, DaVetta
Jubanyik, Danielle	Treml, Bernie
Kurdziel, Kevin	Vaidyanathan, Seetha
Kvarantan, Alexandra	Wilson, McKenzie
Levandowski, Andrea	Wolf, Lynda

SETC STAFF:

Gary Altman
JoAnn Brooks
Sheryl Hutchison
Maureen O'Brien-Murphy
Kyree Robinson