



# New Jersey State Employment and Training Commission

Dennis M. Bone, *Chairman*

Philip D. Murphy, *Governor*

**State Employment and Training Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
10am – 12pm  
TEAMS Platform**

## **I. Welcome & Introductions**

Interim Director SETC, Keith C. White called the meeting to order at 10:07 am and welcomed members and guests. In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act of 1978, notice of this meeting was submitted to the Trenton Times and Star Ledger, shared with the Secretary of State's office, and was posted on the SETC website. A vote of motion to approve the minutes from (enter date of meeting minutes reflect) was approved by Sally Nadler and Bob Wise. Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Robert Asaro-Angelo opened the SETC commission meeting thanking SETC Chairman, Dennis Bone for his dedication and service with the State of New Jersey and as the Chairman for many years with the State Employment Training Commission. We will all miss Dennis and wish him well with his retirement. His leadership and championed efforts to make New Jersey a better place. By your vision, and work towards legislation and under your leadership we have seen you help New Jersey have a solid foundation and you have always made our state look forward and your genuine passion for people has stood out and your policies you champion has made our state stronger. NJDOL Commissioner Asaro-Angelo read the retirement certificate from Governor Murphy. He would like to thank you for your service, and we wish you happy healthy retirement. The certificate reads, "On behalf of the State of New Jersey Governor Murphy, he wishes you all the best and thanks you for impeccable work and applauds you for a job well done and my very best, Phillip D. Murphy". NJDOL Commissioner Robert Asaro-Angelo acknowledged the Youth Programs and Assistant Commissioner Yolanda Allen thanking her for all the hard work going into the Youth Programs and Workforce Programs. The WIOA and grant programs continue to thrive and the NJDOL contributed over 90 million in summer youth programs and we are excited to celebrate 40 years of the Youth Core program over the next few months. We also have the Office of Research Information and thank the division for all the work they are doing with the youth programs to capture data and analysis which strengthens all our NJDOL programs.

## **II. Chairman's Report**

Chairman Bone opened the meeting welcoming our presenters and thanking all for their hard work in the SETC. Chairman Bone thanked Commissioner of NJDOL, and the SETC, along with everyone as he has enjoyed his career working with great people around the State of New Jersey. He will miss everyone and is excited to start his retirement. Chairman Bone closed with thanking the presenters and for all the wonderful participation throughout the years and the retirement certificates.

## **III. Office of Research & Information NJDOL: "The Landscape of Youth Employment in NJ"** **Dr. Nicol Nicola, Director, Division of Economic & Demographic Research, NJDOL**

Dr. Nicol Nicola opened the discussion explaining the office of the Office of Research Information. We are currently focusing on data regarding youth and younger populations, Educational Enrollment Coverage, Sex, Race, Hispanic, Citizenship, Health Insurance Coverage, Top Occupations, and Employment Status. The Office Research Information customizes data which you are working on. We will start by looking at and discussing cohorts based on age groups. We start by looking at young people within the age group of 16-24. The percentages regarding individuals ages 16-24, is currently 11% of New Jersey's population. The ratio of males is 51% males and 49% females. When we look this age group of the younger population between the ages of 16-24 as far as race, currently the statistics are, White is 49%, African American is 14%, Asian is 9%, some other race is 13%, and two or more races is 15%. In the Hispanic category of youth between the ages of 16-24, we currently have 1,012,845, youth population in New Jersey. With regards to Citizenship, Puerto Rican, US citizenship and abroad, we have 86% between ages of 16-24, US Citizen by Naturalization, 4%, and data showed not a US Citizen 10%. With regards to Health Insurance Coverage, same age bracket of data produced, 917,874, had insurance coverage, 94,971 did not have coverage. With regards to Educational Enrollment, Graduate or Education beyond a bachelor's degree we have 34,329, College or Undergraduate, 314,561, Grade 12, 122,773, Grade 11, 114,415, Grade 10, 57,129, and youth in Grade 7-9 3,590 children. Youth employed, there are currently 506,275, Unemployed, 65,319, and not in the Labor Force 438,555. We have youth working but not in school, 267,800, youth not working and not in school, 64,048, and unemployment and not in school, 30,910.

Then we look the top 5 occupations for youth, which are currently; cashiers, retail salesperson, waiters and waitresses, and fast food and customer service workers are the jobs youth start out working. We are also seeing younger individuals of more diverse backgrounds. The Office of Research Information is also working to ensure all our most to up to date information is posted. Currently we have and recommend everyone to look at our ORI newsletter. If you have some time, please look at the information posted as we gather information on Labor Statistics from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and apply the information to our publication. Please look for our link for the most up to date information.

[nj.gov/labor/subscribetoori](http://nj.gov/labor/subscribetoori)

We also wanted to say thank you Chairman Dennis Bone and wish him all the best in his retirement and thank you for your many years of service with the State of New Jersey and the SETC.

#### **IV. NJDOL Workforce Development Youth Program Overview**

**Dr. Yolanda Allen, Assistant Commissioner NJDOL Workforce**

Baden Almonor, Director of Field Services with NJDOL Workforce Division and Patricia Jordan with Youth Programs, Workforce Division, thanked Chairman Bone for his service and then opened discussion pertaining to an overview of youth development. Patricia Jordan discussed the work the office of youth programs is continuing to work hard on and explained the mission of the youth programs which consists of the grant's information team. One of the main program areas within youth programs is the Minor Working Papers program which has been instrumental in serving young people looking for work and to support them in having the right correct paperwork to start a job in New Jersey. Patricia Jordan mentioned the program area has started some statistics which captures data, and we have seen an upward trajectory with our youth. Justin Minors, with the Minor Working Papers program, discussed Summer Youth Work Experience Programs also known as (SYWEP), SYWEP, which provides in school and out of school, ages 16-24, which helps youth be prepared for summer youth experience and workforce readiness instruction to help them successfully transition to the world of work. SYWEP participants receive 160 to 200 work hours of experience and receive a \$3,400 stipend. In FY25, there will be 10,257,939 allocated.

The grant period for grantees to apply if they are interested in applying is from 4/1/25 through 10/31/25. As of today, there are 10 grantees, and 2,495 youth served in FY25. Since 2019, 6,900 youth have been served in this program successfully.

Kate Heil also discussed the Corp Program along with Bridges to employing youth. The Youth Corp Program in FY26 will offer 8,300,00. in grant funds. The grant period is 7/1/25 through 12/31/26 and currently has grant opportunity application posted which can be found on the NJDOL website. We also want to mention that the Youth Corp Program has hit its 40-year anniversary successfully. Kate Heil also discussed one other youth program called Bridges to Employing Youth which special populations of youth. In FY25 funds will be awarded in the amount of 3,057,808. The grant period for grantees to apply is 4/1/25 through 3/31/26 and currently there are 9 grantees, and this youth program has served 418 participants successfully.

#### **VIII. Public Comment – Open**

#### **IX. Closing Remarks – SETC Chairman, Dennis Bone**

Chairman Dennis Bone announced the next SETC Commission meeting is set for Wednesday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 10am and again thanked everyone for a wonderful send off for his retirement, he will miss everyone.

**Next SETC Meeting**

**SETC Commission Meeting on Wednesday, June 18th, 2025 (TEAMS Online Platform)**

**PRESENT MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES**

Dennis Bone – Chairman  
Commissioner Robert Asaro-Angelo NJDOL  
Jessica Steiger – OSHE  
David Gehrke – NJDOE  
Julie Diaz – NJDOL  
Christine Beyer – NJDCF  
Anthony Ferrera  
Hosea Johnson  
John Gagliano  
Kate Butler DCA  
Dr. Danielle Jubanyik - NJDOL  
Tim Sullivan -EDA  
Bob Wise  
Gregg Debaere  
Sally Nadler  
Teri Duda  
Charyl Yarbrough

**ABSENT MEMBERS**

John Donnadio  
Carolyn Carter Wade  
Angela Allen-McMillan  
Sarah Adelman  
John Franklin  
Charles Wowkanech

**Other Attendees**

Desmarais, Joan  
White, Keith C.  
Lamarca, Carlye  
Paul McClellan  
Jason Cassese  
Kyree Robinson  
Nicol Nicola  
Kathleen Heil  
Summer Scott  
Elizabeth Reed  
Patricia Jordan  
Sheryl Hutchison

Rosabeatriz Mosely  
Kelly West  
Kevin Harris  
Jason Timian  
Andre Hardy  
Yolanda Taylor  
Baden Almonor  
Rob Wells  
Kendra Lee  
Daysi Gonzalez  
Denise Givens  
Justin Minor  
Melissa Lespinasse  
Viviana Mastrobuoni  
James Manning  
Nisha Jackson  
Gwendolyn Wiggins  
Karen Gaylord  
Yifan Wang  
Carmen Rodriguez  
Andrew Huls  
Sarah Singer Quast  
Sharita Brown  
Luis Desousa  
Carleen Snyder  
Antonio Rivera  
Christy DeLeonardo  
Paul Grzella  
Frank Cirii  
Gladys Cruz  
Robert Croom  
Phoebe Reeves  
Helen Liu  
Althea Ford  
Andrea Levandowski



