



Workforce Development Board
County of Middlesex

Operations and Planning Committee Minutes

October 24, 2019

Present: Lisa Balewitz, Roseann Bucciarelli, Hsien-min Chen, Elizabeth Conte, Lillian Cortes, Thomas Crane, Surelis DeLima, Jennifer Goodin, Deborah Hurley, Sharon Hartman, Lashawn Kendall, Nancy Musco, Bill Neary, Jobi Odeneye, Silvia Saa, Sabrina Sullivan, Roxan Teleck, Tracey Montani, Poo Lin, Miriam Ruiz, Gwendolyn Wiggins.

Staff/Guests: Hilda Alonzo, Jasmina Dizdarevic, Shamara Gatling-Davila, Barbara Heyward, Kevin Kurdziel, Lori Miranda, Diane Seavers and Martin Schamburger

- 1. Welcome and Introductions Diane Seavers
a. Diane opened the meeting by introducing herself and asking everyone to introduce themselves.
2. Approval of Minutes from July 25, 2019 Meeting.....Martin Schamburger
a. Lillian made the motion to approve and Tracy seconded. Jasmina abstained from voting.
3. Update: Middlesex County Workforce Development BoardKevin Kurdziel
a. Economic Development will focus on attracting new businesses in Middlesex County. In particular, the county is interested in becoming the hub for the autonomous vehicle industry.
b. Cohort trainings/Classroom style training will be an option in the future along with the standard Individualized Training Accounts for occupational training. The cohort training will be structured to meet the exact needs of the employer.
c. There are businesses currently located in the Food Innovation Center that are ready to expand beyond the center. This is positive job growth for Middlesex County.
d. Life Sciences/Healthcare: RWJ Barnabas, Hackensack Meridian, the expansion of Rutgers Cancer Center all have an impact on Middlesex County. It is time to be proactive not reactive in workforce.
e. The Heldrich Study suggested acquiring satellite locations. They will be known as the Community Career Centers. Towns further away from the current One Stop Career Centers will host the first few locations. Ideal locations for the Community Career Centers are: libraries, community centers and other easily accessible establishments. The current staff at those locations will be taught how to use SkillUp and refer people to the One Stop Career Center for further assistance.
f. The Heldrich Study mentioned strengthening/expanding the Workforce Development Board by obtaining 501C3 status. Kevin has been interested in obtaining 501C3 status for over a year. recommends Middlesex County Office of Workforce Development Board as a 501C3.
g. Industry Panels is also a new initiative coming soon. The State of NJ is already using this model. Employers within the same industry will be asked to come together and discuss the needs of the industry. This can assist in ensuring jobseekers are prepared for the various industries.
h. Amazon is interested in locating their Last Mile Facility in Middlesex County. A team of Economic Development representatives will help Amazon with this.
4. Presentation Acelero.....Surelis E. De Lima
a. Acelero is part of Head Start. Head Start is part of the Department of Health and Human Service and provides comprehensive services for children ages 3-5. Early head start is also available for infants six (6) weeks of age through 3 years old. This program is free of charge for those that are eligible.

- b. Recipients must reside in Monmouth or Middlesex County. Children in foster care, DCPD involvement or have a homeless status are automatically eligible, as long as space is available. Perth Amboy. There are a total of eleven (11) year-round centers. Food is provided to the children.
- c. To qualify there are income eligibility and residency verifications requirements. The family income must be equal to or below the federal poverty guidelines. Families receiving TANF or SSI have a priority with Acelero. The early learning program is located in Red Bank for Monmouth County and Perth Amboy for Middlesex County. Acceptable documents are: Birth certificates, social security numbers, passports, etc that prove date of birth for the child. Residency requirement proof: Paystubs, employer letters, third party letters from a family or friend that allows the family to reside, tax return, or W2, TANF letters, SSI documentation and self-identifying letters.
- d. Recruitments are held to not only advertise, but to get as many families registered as possible. Everyone is encouraged to apply. Acelero is allowed to have 10% of the registered families over the income requirements. Priority for the 10% is given to families with learning disabilities and IEPs.

5. **Presentation: Keep Middlesex Moving**.....Bill Neary

- a. Keep Middlesex Moving is a non-profit 501C3 entity. It is not a function of the county.
- b. The goal is to reduce traffic congestion and improve the overall air quality as a result.
- c. Autonomous vehicles will be big for the future generations. The convenience of autonomous vehicles will deter people from wanting to own a vehicle. To have a car service that will drive you door to door without the responsibility of insuring the car and the maintenance alone will have the car industry changing in the future. More people will do micro-transit or shared rides.
- d. Keep Middlesex Moving has been part of numerous incentives such as: Walk to school, walking school bus awareness, bus tickets for those that need to get to a job interview, bus tickets for up to two (2) weeks if he/she gets the job, the importance of carpooling, more bike routes and helping developers understand the importance of shuttle buses from the establishment to the train stations/park and ride locations.
- e. For more information, please contact Keep Middlesex Moving at Address: 100 Bayard St # 202, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 or Phone: (732) 745-4465

6. **Presentation: Workforce Learning Link (WLL)**Jasmina Dizdarevic

- a. The Workforce Learning Link is working hard to bridge the gap between where people are with basic skills deficiencies and where they need to be in order to attend occupational training or to get back to employment.
- b. Programs offered at the New Brunswick and the Perth Amboy One Stop Career Centers are: Basic skills remediation, math and reading remediation, high school equivalency prep (not the exam), and computer training.
- c. The computer training is geared towards preparing customers for the demands of the workplace.
- d. One requirement of the link is that all participants must have legal work authorization in the US.

7. **One Stop Partners Resource Directory**Martin Schamberger/Diane Seavers

- a. Hard copy of the Partner Resource Directory is available in the back of the room. Keep in mind this is in draft form. Feedback is appreciated to ensure the final product is correct. This directory is for the partners to have easy access to reach out to one another. It is not intended to for public distribution. Once the agencies update the information, it will be emailed to the partners. It will not be printed for distribution.
- b. The Services Locator is still available online via the county website.

8. **Old/New Business** Martin Schamberger/Diane Seavers

- a. Different organizations are needed to present at future meetings. If you would like to present information about your programs, please let us know.
- b. Census 2020 is quickly approaching. If we all express the importance of everyone being accounted for, it will help the process. The amount of funding the state and counties receive is related to the Census count.

9. **Future Meeting Topics/Presenters**..... Diane Seavers

- a. Feel free to share what topics you would like covered in future meeting.

10. **Announcements**

- a. Jennifer Goodin from Jewish Family Services Immigration Citizenship Program was just rewarded a two (2) year grant from Center for Immigration Studies. JFS is also the Department of Justice Accredited so the programs will continue for another two years. The citizenship course is open and accepting new participants.

11. **Networking/Adjournment**

- a. Meeting Adjourned

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2020 – 1:30PM
Middlesex County College: 2600 Woodbridge Ave -, Edison, NJ 08817 Crabiell Hall