

**CUMBERLANS/SALEM  
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD**

**Disabilities Services Committee**

**Meeting Minutes of  
April 12, 2011**

A meeting of the Cumberland/Salem Disabilities Services Committee was held on Tuesday, April 12, 2011. The meeting was held at the Salem County Old Court House in Salem, NJ.

**Attendance:**

Christine Hooks, Coldwell Banker Realty  
David Grennon, Cumberland Office of the Disabled  
Debra Behnke, Salem Office of the Disabled  
Lenore Sharp, Cumberland OE&T  
Marva Ferguson, DVR  
Rebecca Gower Call, The ARC of Salem  
Rebecca Sobelman, Salem One Stop

**Guest:**

Paula Barber, Rutgers – John J. Heldrich Center

**Staff:**

Shelley Spina

**Handouts:**

Disabilities Etiquette, Hidden Disabilities, and the ADA  
Justice Department's New ADA Rules  
John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development  
DiscoverAbility NJ  
The Arc of Salem County News and Events  
Cumberland Disability Navigator Daily Activity Log  
Salem Disability Navigator Daily Activity Log  
2011 Cumberland County Summary of Services  
Step Up For The ARC

**Welcome and Opening Remarks: Dave Grennon**

Dave called the meeting to order. There were introductions around the room. He introduced Paula Barber from the John J. Heldrich Center at Rutgers.

**Minutes:**

The minutes were tabled because there was not a quorum.

**Presentation:**

Paula Barber introduced herself and spoke about their Disabilities Program at Rutgers. The John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development based at Rutgers is a research and policy center devoted to helping workers, job seekers and employers respond to a rapidly changing economy. They assist with policies to help people with disabilities and this serves as a way to get their word out. She has been at the Heldrich center for 3 months.

Paula spoke about the DiscoverAbility NJ Peer Learning and Leadership Network. It is a community of practice developed for staff who are serving the career and employment needs of people with disabilities in NJ. These staff may be employed by state and local government agencies education institutions, One Stop Career Centers and private and for profit entities and participation in the network is free. They have a network of peers and experts. They have monthly webinars on disability employment related topics, monthly teleconferences, toolkits and resource guides and online and email bases discussions. To sign up go to [www.discoverabilitynj.org](http://www.discoverabilitynj.org) and subscribe to this group.

DiscoverAbility NJ is New Jersey's strategic plan to improve employment outcomes for people with disabilities. Activities are funded through a federal grant. They have 81 members of Peer Learning and Leadership Network Group. DiscoverAbility is also doing research on transportation for people with disabilities.

Rebecca Call stated that Salem does a good job partnering with the Community College, the Vo-Tech, the One Stop, DVR and the ARC. Marva Ferguson said that Cumberland does the same. Christine Hooks will look into the Salem Chamber of Commerce to see what they are doing with people with disabilities. Marva feels that transportation is the biggest problem they have along with the Vo-Tech closing their evening classes. Dave Grennon stated that a big barrier is that people won't identify themselves as having a disability.

**One Stop Reports****Division of Vocational Rehabilitation: Marva Ferguson**

Marva has been given approval to hire 2 or 3 counselors. They state has eased their qualifications. She asked the committee if knew anyone that was qualified to have them send her their resume.

**Cumberland Disability Navigator Report: Lenore Sharp**

Lenore reported that on February 10<sup>th</sup> she tabe tested a client who disclosed that they have a learning disability. The client is interested in obtaining a CAN. She allowed the client extra time as needed. They did work on the new form that was discussed at the

last meeting and they have a draft. Dave had made recommendations when he toured the building. He felt they needed more signage but Lenore has not noticed and yet.

**Salem Disability Navigator Report: Rebecca Sobelman**

Rebecca stated that they also need signage in the front of the building. She is still using the old form. Interviewing, counseling and training are on going. She is working with youth with disabilities.

**County Office of the Disabled Director Reports**

**Salem: Debra Behnke**

Debra reported that Salem's Disabilities Awareness is on July 26, 2011. Their office has been quite busy.

**Cumberland: Dave Grennon**

Dave reported that they maintain a directory of support services for senior citizens and disabled persons which he passed out to the committee. He told the committee to feel free to make copies and pass them out to their clients. They have had staff changes; 1 retired and they may have layoffs so he will be short on staff.

**Other Business:**

Rebecca Call said that the ARC of Salem has been busy. They are doing a lot of community outreach. Their Thrift Shop is doing well. They are open 9:00 to 5:00 Monday to Saturday. They have 2 employees and it is operated by the ARC.

**Adjournment:**

With no other business, Rebecca Call made a motion to adjourn.