

**CUMBERLAND/SALEM
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD**

Disabilities Services Committee

**Meeting Minutes of
October 11, 2011**

A meeting of the Cumberland/Salem Disabilities Services Committee was held on Tuesday, October 11, 2011. The meeting was held at the Salem Vocational Technical Schools in Woodstown, NJ.

Attendance:

Anthony Chiesa, DOL
David Grennon, Office of the Disabled
Jack Surrency, HSAC
Lenore Sharp, OE&T
Marva Ferguson, DVRS
Rebecca Gower-Call, The ARC of Salem
Rebecca Sobelman, Salem Community College

Staff:

Christy DiLeonardo, WIB
Shelley Spina, WIB

Handouts:

Advancing The World Of Work
Office of the Press Secretary
Cumberland County Disability Awareness Day
Disability Navigator Daily Log/Oct 2011
NJ Workability

Opening and Welcome:

Christy opened the meeting for David who was running a little late. She welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming.

Minutes:

Christy asked for a motion to approve the prior meeting minutes. The motion was made by Lenore Sharp and seconded by Anthony Chiesa. All approved and the minutes were passed.

WIB Update: Christy DiLeonardo

Christy passed around a draft of the Business Services & Workforce Development Resource Guide that was put together as a marketing too. It lists a lot of agencies in

Cumberland County that provide services. She asked the committee if they know of any other agencies or events to let her know and they can be inserted.

They have been working with 2 other areas putting together and OJT Operations manual. They will be submitting it tomorrow to the State for approval. If approved, they will share it with the other WIB's in the State.

She reported that on October 20th they are holding an Economic Development breakfast at the Cumberland County College. They have 33 vendors attending. It is free to the public.

She stated that there was an Economic Development in Salem that was put together by Dr. Contini and the area Chamber. They had speakers in attendance and the event turned out very well.

One-Stop Reports

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) Report: Marva Ferguson

Marva reported that the DVR will now have someone stationed in the Salem One Stop once a week and in the Cumberland One Stop twice a week. She now has 3 new counselors. They are holding a hiring event October 27th at 9:00 am in Camden. They have quite a few federal agencies attending. All applicants are prescreened and prescheduled. They are mostly looking for college graduates and veterans and must have a disability.

Cumberland Disability Navigator Report: Lenore Sharp

Lenore reported that they have been busy with the Ticket to Work program. They have 2 people looking for work and 1 in training. They are reconstructing the navigators program and there have been some title changes. They will have to go through training again. October 22 is Disability Awareness Day being held at the Cumberland County College from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Salem Disability Navigator Report: Rebecca Sobelman

Rebecca stated that she is working with 1 client who is looking for employment. She worked with him to obtain a hearing aid that he needed. She was able to get the hearing aid through DVR. She said that they still have not received their equipment.

County Office of the Disabled Director Reports

Cumberland County: Dave Grennon

Dave continues to provide resources and information to clients. He passed out a letter that he received from the President about the Americans with Disabilities Act. There is a possible transportation program and he will let the committee know more about it at the next meeting.

Dave talked about NJ Work Ability. This is a new program that lets you people with disabilities earn much more money than ever before expanding eligibility so they can get or maintain the health benefits that Medicaid provides. You have to be employed to participate. Clients can earn as much as \$55, 000 a year and still be fully eligible for Medicaid.

Salem County: Debra Behnke

Debra was unable to attend and no report was received.

Old/New Business

Jack asked where does mental health fit in and do these programs help clients find work? Dave responded that you can refer them to DVR or to the ARC of Salem County. There is also the Guidance Center in Cumberland County.

Christy asked the committee if they would like for Cornell University to come back and do an event for businesses and combine the counties this time. Rebecca Call thought it would be better to keep the counties separate and maybe partner with the Chambers and Rotaries.

Adjournment:

With no other business, Dave asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Lenore Sharp.