

State Employment and Training Commission Meeting
May 29, 2007
10:00 AM
Janice Levin Building, Room 102
Rutgers University Campus
Piscataway, New Jersey

MINUTES

Welcome and Opening Remarks - John J. Heldrich, Chairman, SETC

Chairman Heldrich called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM and read the Open Public Meetings Act Statement. The meeting was advertised in the *Trenton Times* and the *Star Ledger* newspapers. A motion to accept the minutes from the March 21, 2007, meeting was approved.

Mr. Heldrich announced that SETC staff had worked with our State agency partners to revise all relevant plans to meet Federal requirements, and that the *Unified State Plan for New Jersey's Workforce Investment System* was submitted to the USDOL in a timely manner and can be read on the SETC website at www.njsetc.net.

He advised members that Heldrich Square is now open and that the Heldrich Center relocation there will take place shortly. He invited members to attend an event at the Center on June 11th, featuring Congressman Rob Andrews.

Mr. Heldrich stressed that the lack of literacy is one of the most important issues this Commission must confront. For the Commission Members review, in the meeting packet were two reports focusing on literacy – the first a Draft White Paper on a Web-based literacy program and the second an excellent review of the status of distance learning for literacy. Additionally, distributed at the meeting was an important paper from the National Commission on Adult Literacy, which in stark terms describes the status of literacy in America.

He complimented JoAnn Hammill's numerous accomplishments as she leaves State government after over thirty years of service and stated that she has been an excellent Assistant Commissioner in the Department of Labor and Workforce Development and a real friend to the SETC.

WIA Reauthorization, David Socolow, Commissioner, Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Commissioner Socolow spoke of the long process of the reauthorization and its effects on New Jersey. He noted that Jane Oates, the Executive Director of the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education and an SETC member, was a principal drafter of S1021 that the Senate passed 1-1/2 years ago. He spoke of three major issues concerning the reauthorization, with recommendations that have been sent regarding these to Washington. The first deals with performance measures. New Jersey currently has performance measures at the One-Stop Career Centers, but requests a waiver because the hardest to serve sometimes do not get the assistance they require. Performance measures need to take this into account.

Second, New Jersey has requested that the section on Youth be amended. We would like the ages changed to 16 to 24 and the ability and flexibility to direct funding where it is most needed. For example, for summer jobs in the most disadvantaged areas of the state.

Third, New Jersey requests the protection of Wagner Peyser. The elimination of a State run employment system would not be beneficial. There is a strong need for uniform counseling which self service vouchers would not provide.

Farewell Remarks, JoAnn Hammill, Assistant Commissioner, Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Ms. Hammill thanked John Heldrich for his words and thanked Commission Members for their collaboration and successful initiatives in the workforce investment system. She spoke of her work for the Department of Labor and Workforce Development and also as a Member and former President of the National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA).

NJ PLACE Overview, Charles Wowkanech, President, New Jersey State AFL-CIO, and Peter Contini, President, Salem Community College

Mr. Wowkanech stated that an apprenticeship program of this type has taken about 10-12 years to get going. NJ PLACE began as the direct result of trade unions talking to the higher education system. He spoke of ways to increase and improve apprenticeship programs, giving more people the ability to move up the ladder in their careers. He would like to see more collaboration with the K-12 system, encouraging volunteers to speak at schools about youth career options and opportunities. NJ PLACE should be expanded by including the utilities and technology fields, and work with hotels for hotel management and hospitality degrees. The health care industry could be strengthened with the use of apprenticeship programs to encourage career ladders for those in lower positions, such as Certified Nursing Assistants.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to have SETC go to the next step in bringing the Healthcare, Utilities and Casino/Hotel industries into the apprenticeship program.

Dr. Contini spoke about the higher education system, which is now about giving results for students. He described how the apprenticeship program came about, with the County Colleges working with the American Council on Education (ACE) College Credit Recommendation Service at Thomas Edison State College. In addition, he spoke of the legislation in New Jersey which will allow for the transfer of credits from New Jersey County Colleges to New Jersey 4-year institutions, enabling more apprenticeship students to easily continue their education.

NJ PLACE Update, Maureen King, Director, NJ PLACE

For each of the 5 trades currently participating in NJ PLACE, community colleges are awarding a minimum of 25 credits toward an AAS degree in Technical Studies. To complete the requirements for this degree, apprentices will take a core of general education courses (math, science, language arts, history) as well as courses in their chosen concentration (construction management, business management or advanced technical studies).

NJ PLACE has 122 people enrolled for the Spring 2007 semester at 10 Community Colleges. These apprentices are from the NJ Regional Council of Carpenters, IBEW Local 102, Iron Workers, UA Plumbers and Pipefitters, and Heat & Frost Insulators.

Ubiquitous Literacy Website, Eileen Appelbaum, Professor and Director, and Mary Gatta, Director Workforce Policy and Research, Center for Women and Work, Rutgers, The State University

Eileen Appelbaum and Mary Gatta discussed the White Paper: *A Self-Directed, Anytime, Anywhere Web-Based Literacy Program to Raise the Literacy Level of New Jersey Adults with Basic Literacy Skills*. The Paper was distributed to Members in the meeting packet. The White Paper proposes the development of a ubiquitous literacy web application targeted to adults with basic level literacy skills, which would be a cost-effective way to expand the reach of literacy training.

The Center for Women and Work, with funding from the Nicholson Foundation, has developed a curricular module on using math to solve problems and communicate. Drs. Appelbaum and Gatta gave a presentation of a lesson, which was based upon remodeling a kitchen. The lesson began with floor plan drawn of the full area – it taught basic math showing the countertop area using length and width, flooring using square footage, and molding using perimeter calculations. The lesson continued working with the cost of materials and determining material selections, such as laminate vs. granite countertops, to fit within a given budget. They will begin pilot testing this module in Newark in June.

SETC Update - Henry Plotkin, Executive Director, State Employment and Training Commission

Mr. Plotkin reminded Commission Members of the upcoming Garden State Employment and Training Association (GSETA) annual conference at Bally's in Atlantic City on June 13 and 14 and encouraged their attendance. The conference begins with Henry, Carl Van Horn, Jane Oates, David Socolow and David Feingold participating in a Plenary - ***The Undiscovered Country - Visions of New Jersey's Workforce Development System.***

Staff work continues with the Work Readiness Credential, Literacy issues, WIA Reauthorization, strategic planning with the WIBs for One-Stop Career Center and County College collaboration, and a statewide coalition to respond to the USDOL for a long-term care grant, among other topics. On Mr. Heldrich's recommendation, Mr. Plotkin will meet with a small group of Commission Members during the summer for informal discussions about future priorities for the State Employment and Training Commission, and will report findings at the September 24th meeting.

Mr. Heldrich wished everyone an enjoyable summer and adjourned the meeting at 11:55 AM.

**State Employment and Training Commission
May 29, 2007
Attendees**

MEMBERS or ALTERNATES

Dana Berry
Michael Cantwell
Peter Contini
Gail Davis
Deborah Heinz (for
Levin)
John Heldrich
Rochelle Hendricks (for
Davy)
Stephen Hornik

Joseph Krimko
Kyle Ledford (for Bell)
Jody Levinson
Matthew McDermott
Joseph McNamara
Robert Munyan
Dung Nguyen (for
Bauer)
Jane Oates
Clifford Reisser

Tapas Sen (for
Burlingame)
David Socolow
Carolyn Wade
Joe Walsh (for Velez)
Charles Wowkanech

ABSENT MEMBERS

Howard Beyer
Dennis Bone
Michael Carey
Celeste Carpiano
Nicky Gacos
John Gallagher

Henry Henderson
Andrea Karsian
Frank Lehr
William Linder
Robert Martin
Brian McAndrew

Velvet Miller
Harvey Nutter
Arthur O'Neal
Julio Sabater
Linda Stender
JoAnn Trezza

OTHER ATTENDEES

Eileen Appelbaum
Jim Arkuszewski
Andy Baglivo
John Bicsko
Marilyn Davis
Vito DeSantis
Brian Fitzgibbons
Mary Gatta

Joe Gazzara
Jane Guillard
JoAnn Hammill
Hector Iglesias
Tom Jennings
Maureen King
James Kline
Heather McKay

James H. Moore, Jr.
Michelle Richardson
Nils Richardson
Leyone Royster
Barry Semple
Tamara Thomas
Greg Williams

SETC STAFF

Lansing Davis
Judy Formalarie

Deborah O'Kane
Henry Plotkin