

**WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD  
WELFARE TO WORK COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES FROM AUGUST 12, 2004**

ATTENDEES: Steve Adler, Kelly West, Deb Murphy, Paul Porter, Bill Stewart, Kate Heil, Valerie Hawkins, Kenila Xavier, Candy Funk, Pat Daye, Barbara Weir, Greg Byrd, Pauline Glenn, Erika Solomon

OPENING REMARKS: Steve Adler, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m. He welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. He asked for a motion to approve the June 3<sup>rd</sup> minutes, motion so moved, the minutes were approved.

FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAM: Pat Daye reported everyone is doing well. There are still 36 participants in the program with 22 escrow accounts. Several of the participants received their GED. Some others failed the test and will be attending classes in September. A discussion followed regarding the new GED test and the statistic that there's a 60% increase in the failure rate. A reminder that the Burlington County Learning Link is available for participants to help prepare for the GED test.

A UNIFIED WORKFORCE INVESTMENT SYSTEM: Kelly West reported Burlington County is in good shape, better than most other counties. The customer flow process is fully implemented and any minor adjustments are being made. The Burlington County One Stop Career Center's Business Resource Center located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Human Services Facility, is almost complete. Final inspection is scheduled for this week with an anticipated opening in September. The Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development visited the Burlington County One Stop Learning Link and the Business Resource Center yesterday for a photo opportunity. He was here last month and was impressed with the Center. We were able to highlight eight or nine success stories of Learning Link graduates. Staff training has been implemented and will be a continuous process. All partners of the One Stop continue to work diligently. The number of One Stop customers remains the same. Mondays are busier than other days and people usually will wait until after the summer to look for employment.

The 7<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL JOB FAIR: The final numbers are in with a total of 90 employers and 1,100 job seekers. Barbara Weir mailed out 90 survey letters on August 3<sup>rd</sup> and to date has received 26 responses. From those responses, it has been reported a total of 48 job seekers found employment. The comments range from "great job", "great marketing" and a suggestion to have the employers grouped by industry. Kate Heil handed out a final employers list with a breakout of the companies who were "no shows" and the ones who cancelled. There were no issues with costs even though more funds were spent on advertising and marketing this year than in the past. This was attributed to the change of venue.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

Pauline Glenn reported she met with Eric Diamond, the Substance Abuse Initiative representative. Training regarding the initiative will take place the end of September. This training will be open to all partner agencies of the One Stop. The DYFS-SAI has had no referrals from Burlington County.

The caseload is still increasing. We are starting to see people who did not receive an extension to their unemployment.

The Food Stamps application is now online. Customers still need to come in for an appointment for completing the paperwork. Also, the Department of Human Services introduced a new website [njhelps.org](http://njhelps.org) which helps "prescreens" to see if you could be eligible for a variety of benefits. Brochures are on display at the One Stop.

Kelly announced Deb Murphy will be joining the staff of the Workforce Investment Board.

The next Welfare-to-Work meeting will be held on October 14<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.