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Business NEG Meeting February 24, 2017 Pleasantville One Stop

**Attendance:**

Alan Beatty	Jean McAlister	Terri Lutz	Charles Wimberg	Eric Reynolds
Elaine Williams	Stephanie Koch	Mike Greco	Rhonda Lowery	Joe Kelly

**Staff:**

Alicia Oatman

**Minutes:**

Meeting called to order by Joe Kelly, chairperson. A motion to accept the December 15, 2016 meeting minutes was made by Alan Beatty and seconded by Jean McAlister. The December 15, 2016 meeting minutes were approved.

Joe Kelly reiterated the function and responsibility of the Business/NEG committee. One of the main points that Joe pointed out is that our customers and employers are the focus. Alan Beatty inquired of the Full Board's expectations of this committee; Joe Kelly explained that the Full Board is aware of this committee's responsibilities this is why it is important as the Business Committee we submit a full report regarding updates and endeavors. Rhonda Lowery also interjected that if this is done, all questions could be answered at that time. This will be clarified at the upcoming Board meeting in March. Charles Wimberg has reminded everyone to go to the WDB Website as all of the minutes and meetings are posted there. Consumers that were previously employed by the Casino industry and is now in search of gainful employment was forwarded to Sherwood Taylor from Atlantic Cape Community College. Rhonda Lowery is in the process of getting a meeting date and time with Casino Human Resource Directors to discuss the possibility of filling the open positions available with participants referred by our committee. With that said Jean McAlister is going to contact Pat from the Golden Nugget Casino to discuss their available position as well. It appears that there are open positions on casino websites however when an inquiry is made consumers are being told that the position are not available. As per Eric Reynolds and Mike Greco, it should be our intended goal to obtain the actual amount of positions available; Rhonda Lowery is in total agreement and will inform the committee once she meets with the Casino Executives.

A letter was sent to all CEO's of various establishments, this in efforts to get everyone on the same page regarding hiring those we refer. The hope is to have a face to face meeting to discuss how we can partner with them. Rhonda Lowery has a meeting with Talent Network on 3/6/17 to discuss their involvement on future efforts for employments. Eric Reynolds also extended an invitation to the Talent Network to attend a info-session on 3/20/17. There are 518 job opening presently however the question is "why aren't they filled". As per Joe Kelly due to these findings, it is imperative that we begin to facilitate our employment endeavor. We understand that part time employment is not acknowledged however we should make every effort to get

them in the door with the goal of full time in view. Although it may seem like a waste of time due to failed salary decrease, drug test and background checks, we must continue to move forward. Stephanie Koch made the observation that wrap around services are vitally important to our customers as well as mentoring being a key element to our customers success. Alan Beatty also acknowledged that living wages are a major concern and welfare subsidy should be considered. Applicants should consider their expected outcomes: two PT jobs becomes full time pay with no benefits however it's a start.

### **Old Business**

Documentation from Sherwood Taylor is to be obtained. Apprenticeships should also be incorporated into our vision for employment.

### **New Business**

No new Business

Re-cap:

1. Share the proposal with the committee
2. Meet with employers
3. Schedule a sector meeting
4. Address barriers to employment
5. Prioritize
6. Address customer reasons for not getting hired while being qualified for the position
7. Qualified through relationship

Rhonda Lowery suggested that the committee be the connection for our customers and be the "know person" that knows the employer that will hire those that we refer. We must also have the right vendor training our customers.

Adjourned 10:10am

