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Atlantic County Workforce Development Disabilities Committee Meeting 9am February 27, 2019  
ACEA Conference Rm. 2009-B Hamilton Mall Mays Landing NJ 08330

#### Attendance

Regina Pryor                      Kurt Ohlson                      Cristine Chickadel                      Pat Jones                      MaryBeth Preyer  
Nina Stolzenberg                      Candace Titanski                      Joe Ingemi                      Rhonda Lowery

#### Minutes

This meeting was called to order by the newly appointed committee Chair Joe Ingemi at 9:40am. Minutes for the previous meeting held were approved by Candace Titanski and seconded by Kurt Ohlson with no abstentions or opposes.

Rhonda Lowery Executive Director Administrative Report- the new RFP with Jewish Family Services will focus on the Opioid epidemic. Lowery states that this is an 18-month program with a goal of servicing 100 eligible participants with a drug use barrier. Jewish Family Services will screen all applicants and John Brooks Recovery Center will provide additional screening and refer those customers that are not eligible to other agencies for assistance. According to Lowery this program is to begin April 1, 2019. We have also applied for the GAINS grant which may possible assist with the RFP. We also have the following programs: Summer Youth Internship and AC Electric Apprenticeship and we encourage the committee to share this with your agencies. The committee Chair invited Lowery to attend the ACEA Board meeting to further elaborate on the aforementioned. Lowery explained that Yolanda Allen is our State Coordinator that is currently focusing on the youth however she will also be available to this committee as well.

#### No Old Business

#### New Business

It was noted that October is Disabilities Awareness month of which Candace Titanski elaborated on last year's luncheon that was held at AC Country Club. Ingemi would like to the committee to be open to the Western end of the county i.e. Hammonton and Buena; Kurt Ohlson however stressed that transportation is a big issue with the disabilities community. Ingemi informed the committee that ACEA has a sub-committee that is addressing public transportation for those that has a disability. Lowry suggested that each committee member submit a bullet list to Ingemi to ensure that ACEA can be made aware of the issues. Cristine Chickadel along with Nina Stolzenberg will forward information on Access Link to which they also hire individuals with disabilities. Chickadel will also forward information on the new grant for transportation. Ingemi added that each municipality should have trained ADA personnel; Chickadel will assist with this. Regina Pryor cited that Atlantic County has trained ADA personnel also Uber has an office in Vineland NJ which is working with Social Service to initiate transportation for customers. Ingemi added that all of this information is a way for our voice to be heard and would also like to

have a presence in the school district regarding disabilities, with that said and invitation will be sent to Dr. Bumpass County Superintendent.

Stolzenberg will attend a Autism Awareness meeting and bring these concerns to the table. Ingemi added that most employers have inhibitions in hiring people with Autism and family support is key. Also keep in mind that technology is a great tool for autistic individuals as this aids in their disability; in agreement Stolzenberg added that technology companies should be contacted in hopes that they would consider hiring. There is a shift in hiring autistic individuals at the FAA center and we will keep this in mind.

Ohlson suggested that awareness should be made to employers regarding ex-offenders and or re-entry into the workforce.

Adjourned 10:40am

Additional notes will be attached to these minutes from the Committee Chair.