



# New Jersey State Employment and Training Commission

Dennis M. Bone, *Chairman*

Philip D. Murphy, *Governor*

## State Employment and Training Commission Meeting Minutes Wednesday, March 20, 2024 10am – 12pm TEAMS Platform

### **I. Welcome & Introductions**

Chairman Dennis Bone called the meeting to order at 10:07 am and welcomed members and guests. Chairman Bone announced that, in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act of 1978, notice of this meeting was submitted to the Trenton Times and Star Ledger, shared with the Secretary of State's office, and was posted on the SETC website. Introductions were conducted. Chairman Bone called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 11-15-23. The approval of the minutes from 11-15-23 moved forward. Chairman Bone opened the meeting with an introduction welcoming the presenters.

### **II. Introductions – Commissioner Rob Asaro – Angelo NJDOL**

Commissioner Rob Asaro – Angelo opened the discussion with thanking Assistant Commissioner Hugh Bailey of the Workforce Division, his thoughts and condolences for the passing of Hugh Bailey. He spoke about his drive and passion and want to say he is greatly missed here. He expressed his heartfelt condolences, and he will be very missed.

As the administration is winding down, we are still winding up. We are working harder and stronger together and that we have accomplished great success giving our employers especially through our Apprenticeship programs. We are happy to report that two thirds of the GAINS grant, that staff are woman of color and we have

doubled our numbers with placements with NJBUILD, and the incredible work that we have been able to accomplish we have awarded nearly 6 million dollars with industry partnership programs. We have brought the pathways recovery program and helped people get back into the workforce. We have connected our business services, and we are making pathways and connecting our workers with jobs. We want every single worker to feel safe and be paid the salaries they deserve. We are seeing astounding numbers of the great work we are doing and strengthening the workforce has bounced back after Covid. We want to make sure the rights and protections are both beneficial to our workers and employers, and we have more than 4 million people working, and we have a twenty-five percent increase, of public worksites.

As a state, and because of workers protections, New Jersey and now every employers can take care of workers. We are ensuring that companies are aware of tax laws and that New Jersey businesses can thrive and that workers and their employment is protected. Please let us know here at the NJDOL know if there is anything this Department needs, or what you want to see us doing, we are happy to help you and hear from you. I want to also thank everyone and the Chair of the SETC. Chairman Dennis Bone thanked the Commissioner and appreciated him taking time for joining us today. Commissioner Asaro – Angelo mentioned also Lauren Murphy from Passaic County will be missed and that we thank her for all the work that she had done. She led by example and by staff and she is very missed. Teri Duda from Passaic County also spoke and mentioned she was an amazing woman and thanked her for the work she had done and will be missed.

### **III. WIOA 2024-2027 WIOA State Plan Overview – NJDOL, Assistant Commissioner Dr. Yolanda Allen & NJDOL, Sarah Singer Quast**

Assistant Commissioner Dr. Yolanda Allen with Workforce Development thanked the SETC for the invaluable help in preparing and assisting with the state plan mentioned how grateful NJDOL is for their collaboration.

The Division of Workforce Development had been working and collaborating with our workforce development boards through innovation and partnerships and we are currently developing a new system of records at NJDOL, and as the Commissioner stated, we are creating ways across the state of New Jersey to highlight work-based learning opportunities. Through the Apprenticeship partnerships and other industries, in a wide range of state workforce investments we have been working hard to outline this in our state plan. I also want to thank Sarah Singer Quast who has worked so hard to pull this together for us. Sarah Singer Quast opened the conversation that this has been an opportunity to showcase our data and our recovery has been strong especially I the area of the diversity of our labor market. The only two areas which have not recovered are automotive and laundry mats and salons. The industries led to changes in consumer behaviors. We are in a positive economic place as we work in the labor

plan. We do see recovery which has not been good with underserved populations and continue to experience high unemployment rates in the youth category.

We are in a state where workforce is such a high priority. Three reports which have come out and which we have been focusing on are State of Innovation 2018, Jobs for New Jersey in 2021, and the Governor's Task Force, who put out a report in 2023 of three workforce goals. This is to align businesses with clients and the Commissioner is also showcasing these key points. WIOA and the language that USDOL is using to move this initiative forward is "yes WIOA can".

We want to maximize the legislation in our local areas. We have several stakeholders in New Jersey. We will be aligning the infrastructure projects; many are being led out of the Department of Transportation. We have a tremendous number of partners in New Jersey. Not only do we have federal investments but state investment. WIOA allows us to have many partners in New Jersey. We have 17 locations working out career seeker focus and building a cohesive unified system. It is about having common vision and guide us and to give us a structure to work with our one stops and workforce development boards. Workforce New Jersey supports our one stops and Title 1, Title 2, DVRS, also playing an important role in the core of overseeing our workforce programs which include the core teams within workforce development and Title 4 programs and teams helping to support the work.

WFNJ is another strong partner and NJDOL is responsible for a tremendous amount of focusing system building and system delivery. A key focus is deeper investment and infrastructure, and we need to keep awareness in our career seekers and providing the most holistic services coming into our one stops. Expanding our support services and career coaching as well. With regards to local governance, GSETA has held ensuring the local workforce developments boards and that are separation and focusing on budgeting and setting annual budgets. Title 1 budgets and IFA's and key agreements are in the plans which will be delivered together and monitoring in place at the state and local level, and that monitoring also happens in fiscal.

Data monitorization is also being replaced, New Jersey is only one of two states left of a coordinated system and we are working for more functionality, and we are focused on this, and we are working with the SETC to ensure strategic enforcement and compliance is in place so that we can ensure digital access and digital tools will continue to be a priority, broadband exposure is in place and that this will lead to more employment resources. Continuing to ensure the clarity around WIOA around our state is a priority across different program partners to ensure we are NJDOL and SETC are very heavily involved to develop and investment with this plan. Our industry partners and career pathways around the needs of our workforce partners and that we are connecting career seekers and that we can continue to grow and expand our one stop career centers. I want to thank everyone and as we talk about the success of delivery, we are looking at WIOA, core partners and additional required partners that fall outside of NJDOL, and we want to leverage and enhance our partners across and for New Jerseyans.

## **Title 1 – NJDOL, Cheryl Neas**

Cheryl Neas opened with policy and information and laying the strategic plan and the parts of the plan that we will submit. These are geared specific to the plan. The way we organize our regions and as a state. There are sufficient parts in the plan on rapid response, registered apprenticeship, and strategic elements of the plan. We do have some flexible funding and we do use this aside from training providers, ETPL, and the consumer report card that we talk about state guidance strengthening local governances about the Title 1 plan and who we consider in school and out of school. Title III, is also in common elements, and how we will staff is a question, and how we will provide them with professional development and how they are referred and who is eligible, outreach, and farmworkers, veterans, and how we provide services delivery and talking about DVOPS and how to provide collaborative and cohesive staff in the programs, and we talk about goals and strategies, and increasing employment and retention in parts of the plan. There are four titles which we are focused on, and Dr. Danielle Jubanyik will talk about Title II next.

## **Title II – NJDOL, Dr. Danielle Jubanyik**

Dr. Danielle Jubanyik, State Director, opened with the importance of Adult Literacy agencies. We are very proud of the work we are doing, and we are in the third year in our competition to bring on more providers. We are using the data collection to support technical aspects. NJDOL staff and receiving training and working with the ORI division, to see where we can give technical assistance. We continue to look to work with the administration on ways on individuals can have access to courses from home and taking courses from home and having access to software for staff and Title II partners and clients. Ensuring that Title II staff are trained to know what wrap around services can be offered to clients. We want to continue to grow digital literacy, transportation and childcare are a priority, and working hard to work with hour community colleges. I want to thank everyone involved in working together on he states plan, and we will continue to collaborate on ways make Title II more marketed because we want to ensure that our clients can get to classes and the workforce systems are further developed.

## **DVRS – NJDOL, Karen Carroll**

Karen Carrol, Director DVRS, opened saying thank you for incorporating Title IV program, and am I am happy to be a new voting member in the SETC and that Title IV is officially represented. In this state plan the key changes have been to make recommendations and the council members in the VR agency is adhering and addressing any barriers as far as equitable access. All the other components of the plan have been streamlined. Every year the DVRS needs to give an assessment on the staffing needs and targeted collaboration of goals and priorities and the outcomes of

the performance metrics. The rehabilitation services are also needed to be outlined in the plan and the accuracy of our data, increasing staff, and working with our IT team to help identify our rapid and engaged sustained model. Engaged processes and expanding our efforts, staff recruitment efforts, and finding better ways of better mechanisms enhance DVRS.

**IV. Resolution #2024-01 Policy**

**SETC, Keith C. White, Acting Interim Director**

**SETC, Joan Desmarais, Deputy Executive Director**

Joan Desmarais opened the discussion regarding an update that the next steps with regards to the state plan. A plan to approve the SETC resolution. A draft of the state plan to the USDOL will happen on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024. April 5<sup>th</sup> through the 12<sup>th</sup> will be the open public portion of the state plan. The final state plan submission is date is TBD.

**V. Public Comment – Open**

No questions from the public.

**VII. Closing Remarks – SETC Chairman, Dennis Bone**

Chairman Bone mentioned his appreciation and how incredibly powerful this work is and thanked everyone for their presentations. Thank you everyone for attending and we look forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting the new year.

The motion to close the meeting was at 11:57.

**Next SETC Meeting**

**Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Online TEAMS Meeting**

**PRESENT MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES**

Dennis Bone  
Karen Carroll  
Dr. Danielle Jubanyik  
Sally Nadler  
John Gagliano  
John Sarno  
Hosea Johnson  
Gregg DeBaere  
Teri Duda  
Bob Wise  
Commissioner NJDOL Rob Asaro-Angelo  
Assemblyman Wimberly

**ABSENT MEMBERS**

John Donnadio  
Carolyn Carter Wade  
Anthony Ferrara  
Angela Allen-McMillan  
Sarah Adelman  
Tim Sullivan  
John Franklin

Allen, Dr. Yolanda  
Alpart, Davidene  
Apple, Emily  
Anochi, Eva  
Arango, Oswaldo  
Barracato, Meredith  
Belin, Jacki  
Bicica, John  
Blanco, Francis  
Bogert, Duwan  
Bollhardt, Victoria  
Brown, Melissa  
Burkhardt, Ron  
Carvajal, Allyson  
Caramelo, JoAnne  
Carter, Jean  
Case, Kim  
Celestin, Sancia  
Choudhury, Mitra  
Custard, Donna  
Czar, Dianne  
Demmellash, Alfa  
Drakeford, Shamira  
Emigholz, Chris  
Enright, Patricia  
Everett, Kaitlin  
Feldman, Eliot  
Gaylord, Karen  
Gehrke, David

#### **OTHER ATTENDEES**

Giordano, Timothy  
Gietka, Jennifer  
Grzella, Paul  
Harris-Kuiper, Stephanie  
Hartman, Sharon  
Hiller, Nanci  
Hirsch, Lesley  
Hunt, Stacy  
Jainarine, Diane  
Jordan, Dana  
Kikkert, Becky  
Kuiper, Mark  
Kurdziel, Kevin  
Levandowski, Andrea  
Levitt, Jill  
Knight, Braheim  
Kuhn, Fran  
Kurdziel, Kevin  
Liu, Helen  
Mader, Pamela  
Martin, Michelle  
Mazzagatti, Pete  
McPartlan, Dennis  
Mirasol, Catherina  
Moody, Melissa  
Morrison, Angelique  
Murphy, Lauren  
Meyer, Cheryl  
Odeneye, Jobi  
Philp, Amanda  
Polack, Carol  
Pierre, Eric  
Rodgers, Beth  
Reyes, Maritza  
Sabater, Julio  
Safrin, Michele

Satchell, Brigitte  
Schaeffer, Janine  
Schuster, Manuela  
Seith, David  
Seavers, Diane  
Singer-Quast, Sarah  
Soto, Luis  
Sternbach, Larry  
Staub, Stephanie  
Strothers, Sandra  
Swartz, Jeffrey  
Tabassum, Zainab  
Taylor, Sherwood  
Taylor, Yolanda  
Vail, Les  
Vaidyanathan S.  
Weir, Barbara  
Williams, Albert  
Zahirah, Sabir  
**SETC STAFF:**  
White, Keith C.  
Desmarais, Joan  
Lamarca, Carlye  
Robinson, Kyree