

BUSINESS FIRST
September 17, 2009

Members Present

Tom Bianco, Chair
Cindy Cliver, Abilities Center
Keith McDermott, DVR
Karen Dickel, WIB Staff

Joe Frattali, WIB Director
Brigette Satchell, GCC
Michelle Shirey, GC Econ. Dev.
Bridget DiGiambattista, WIB Staff

Members Absent

Manuel Biagas, NJLWD
Justin Kenyon, NJEDA
Quincy Lee, NJLWD

Brenda Geist, BRC
Jerry Knast, St. John of God
Sam Leone, Business

Tom opened the meeting at 8:35 a.m.

A motion to approve August 11, 2009 meeting minutes was made by Cindy Cliver.

Michelle provided hand out of proposed goals & objectives for the committee to review. Once the committee finalizes their goals & objectives we should come up with some strategies on how to accomplish them. A brainstorming meeting should be held to put together proposed goals & objectives prior to next meeting.

We will extend an invitation to Morris Reichman of NJLWD and Don Swartz of NJSBA to join our committee. Joe will contact Morris and Tom will contact Don.

Karen suggested giving a brief overview at Chamber of Commerce or other business workshops of the services available.

Joe reviewed the new initiative from the State called Return to Work. Letters were sent to those that came off unemployment benefits with information about this program, which they can take to a potential employer. For an employer to be eligible, they must pay new hires \$15 per hour and must retain them for at least six months. They will receive a grant to reimburse costs up to \$5 per hour. An email blast with information and website about the Return to Work program will be sent through our business directory.

Updates

Brigette reported:

Underwood Memorial Hospital will be submitting another grant application.

Drug Store.com will be submitting another grant application.

Allen is working with Shoreway Display in Thorofare and Powell Electronics in Logan.

GCC will be providing free computer training classes to local businesses starting in October.

Announcements

Full WIB Membership Breakfast meeting will be held October 7, 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at Bogey's Club & Café.

Tri County Economic Development Summit will be held October 16, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Westin Hotel, Mt. Laurel.

An inside yard sale will be held at the Abilities Center on September 19, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

A motion for adjournment was made.

The next meeting will be October 6, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridget A. DiGiambattista, WIB Staff