



County of Mercer Workforce Development Board

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Virgen Velez
Acting Director

Brian M. Hughes
County Executive

Keith Secrest
Chairperson

WDB Health Care Committee ♦ Kathy Fiery, Chair

November 16, 2022 (Zoom) - 12:00 p.m. ♦ Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Kathy Fiery (NJ Health Care Association), **Andrea Bash** (MCCC), **John Brzyski** (Meadow Lakes), **Alan Munford** (Mercer County Technical School), **Keith Secrest** (Kinetics Industries Inc.), **Lisa M. Williams** (Maplewood Assisted Living @ Princeton)

Staff: Virgen Velez

Welcome – Chair Kathy Fiery welcomed the group.

Review/Approval of September 21, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Lisa Williams; seconded by John Brzyski.
Motion passed and minutes were approved.

Update: One Stop Activities – Virgen Velez

An in-person job fair was held on October 26th at the Cure Arena; hours were 3:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

- 108 registered employers from all sectors and 91 attended (10 from health care field)
- 528 customers registered and 300 attended (estimated)

The next job fair in the spring will most likely be scheduled for the same time period as it proved to serve both employers and job seekers well.

Capital Health Systems is hosting a small job fair – not widely marketed as per CHS, to assist employees affected by the acquisition of St. Francis Medical Center. The One Stop will participate by inviting a few employers to their event.

NJDOL has a Rapid Response Team that makes presentations at employer sites that are closing to provide information to employees regarding One Stop services – in particular unemployment benefits.

The list of employers that attended the job fair on 10/26/22 was shared.

- Trying to determine where there's a lot of openings within one sector; offering OJTs seems to be the best incentives to hiring.
- Lisa stated that she would be very interested in hiring any future CNA graduates upon training completion and provide them with work experience, with the goal of offering them employment.
 - The starting salary is \$20/hr.
- Meadow Lakes starting salary for CNAs is \$18/hr., but can be adjusted for years in service – however, there is an in-house union that would warrant same adjustments, as applicable for salary and schedules
- Vaccinations are still required and will not change

Update: MCCC Allied Health Activities – Andrea Bash

The college is working on hosting an Open House in December.

A consultant was hired, but mostly working with the credit side.

- Enrollment has decreased; class cancellations due to low enrollment and/or staff shortage
- Andrea will attend OS orientations to inform customers of offerings
- Capital Health Systems is planning to provide MCCC with some scholarship funds to serve their incumbent workers
- MCCC has no CNA instructor; the apprenticeship component is in operation, but students are seeking higher wages once they complete their required hours; MCCC pays \$16/hr. to start

Gonzalo Perez is the Dean of the Division of Lifelong Learning; Andrea works for the Department of Continuing Studies.

MCCC pamphlets/postcards are no longer in circulation due to expense; offerings are available on-line.

MC Technical Schools Update – Alan Munford

A new pre-nursing teacher was hired.

Health Occupations & Medical Assistant courses will now be *Allied Health I* & *Allied Health II* to meet the State standards.

Member Discussion

The petition for rulemaking for the NJ Department of Health is moving forward to align the mandates for CNA instructor training with the federal requirements.

It's been difficult to get Temporary Nursing Aides (TNA) certified; they have to complete a technical component which warrants evaluators, which are difficult to find. Next on the agenda for the Nursing Coalition via the NJBIA is to pass rule-making for the evaluators.

- TNAs came to existence during the pandemic to assist bridge employer gaps

Alan will connect with Lisa who stated she might be able to offer some paid work experience/internship opportunities.

WIOA requires that 75% of Youth funding be allocated to Out-of-School youth.

- Virgen will discuss with the Youth Investment Council (YIC), the possibility of paying internship stipends to current MCTS youth who want to gain experience at a health care setting.

Meadow Lakes employs students primarily in their dining halls at \$15/hr. As an incentive, 1 year of service can result in a stipend of \$4,500 yearly (provided by Meadow Lakes residents) for four years to a higher education institution, or other nursing credentials.

One Stop FYI:

- Regional plans are due January 31st and the local plan is due March 31st
- Issues that need to be included in the plan will be brought to the individual committee meetings

Meeting Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:44 p.m.

Meeting Dates: 3rd Wednesday on bi-monthly basis (12:00 p.m. – 1: 00 p.m.)

Next Meeting Dates: January 18, 2023 ♦ March 15, 2023 ♦ May 17, 2023

****STAY SAFE****