

**GSETA Meeting Minutes  
July 13, 2022**

Local Area/Contact	V	P	I
Atlantic			
Fran Kuhn	X		
John Fata (ALT/F. Kuhn)			
Marian Woodson			
Bergen			
Tammy Molinelli	X		
Carol Polack (ALT)			
Lynda Wolf	X		
Robert Espinosa			
Burlington			
Zahirah Sabir	X		
Barbara Weir	X		
Kelly West	X		
Camden			
Frank Cirii	X		
Nidia Sinclair (ALT)			
Jeff Swartz	X		
Leslie Williams			
Cumberland/Salem/Cape May			
Terri Bryan			
Jamie Gomez (ALT/A. Spinelli)			
Tom Halligan (ALT/T. Bryan)			
Kathy Lockbaum	X		
Allison Spinelli	X		
Amy Ronketty (ALT/K. Lockbaum)			
Essex			
Jobi Odeneye (ALT)	X		
Janine Schaeffer (ALT)			
Josette VanDyke (ALT)			
Howard Weiss	X		
Gloucester			
Tom Bianca			
Eileen Gallo (ALT)			
Michelle Shirey			
Greater Raritan			
Jeanne Cassano (ALT/P. Grzella)			
Paul Grzella	X		
Monica Mulligan	X		
Christopher Peake (ALT/M. Mulligan)			
Hudson			
Leidy Ramirez	X		
Michelle DeFilippo	X		
Deanine Muniz (ALT)	X		
Timothy Sheridan	X		
Keri Sullivan	X		
Jersey City			

Local Area/Contact	V	P	I
Katrice Thomas			
Mercer County			
Kendra Lee			
Virgen Velez	X		
Kassia Bukowski			
Middlesex County			
Claudia Dorsch (ALT)			
Kevin Kurdziel	X		
Monmouth County			
Lawrence Sternbach	X		
Yolanda Taylor			
Morris/Sussex/Warren			
Jane Armstrong	X		
Victoria Bollhardt	X		
Diane Jainarine (ALT)	X		
Karen Laurdison	X		
Kelly O'Neil McGuire (ALT)			
Beth Rodgers (ALT)	X		
Newark			
Eva Anochi (ALT)	X		
Karen Gaylord	X		
Orlando Mingo (ALT)			
Catresa McGhee			
Davetta Lane Thurman			
Ocean			
Candy Fortier	X		
Patricia Leahey			
Kim Liguori (ALT/P. Leahey)	X		
Cheryl Meyer			
Leandra Santos (ALT)			
Passaic County			
Davidene Alpart	X		
Duwan Bogert	X		
Chrystal Cleaves (ALT)			
Sofia Comas-Phillips (ALT/L. Murphy)			
Lauren Murphy	X		
Velanae Rojas (ALT/D.Alpart)			
Union			
Perle Almeida			
Debbie-Ann Anderson			
Robert Croom (ALT/D.Anderson)			
Antonio Rivera			
GSETA Staff			
Sam Pfeifer, GSETA Exec Dir	X		

P = Attended by phone; V = Attended virtually, I= Attended in person; Blank=Not present

## **Welcome and Introductions**

Kevin Kurdziel called the meeting to order at 10:03AM and welcomed membership to the July meeting.

Attendance was taken via the chat feature of Zoom by Monica Mulligan.

## **Correspondence**

Monica Mulligan reported that Perle Almeida from Union County emailed to indicate their local area had their WDB meeting today at the same time as GSETA, and therefore would not be able to attend.

## **Approval of the June 8, 2022 Minutes**

The minutes of the June 8, 2022 GSETA meeting were presented by Monica Mulligan.

Samantha Pfeiffer made a motion approve the June minutes. Jeff Swarts seconded the motion. There were no objections. Kathy Lockbaum abstained, as she was not present at the June meeting. The motion was approved.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Leslie Williams is on vacation so there is no June report. Fran Kuhn made a motion to carry the presentation and review of the June Treasurer's Report to the August meeting. Jeff Swarts seconded that motion. There were no objections or abstentions. The motion was approved.

The May Treasurer's Report was distributed right before the start of the June meeting, so membership had a chance to review. Kathy Lockbaum made a motion to approve the June report. Fran Kuhn seconded that motion. There were no objections or abstentions. The motion was approved.

## **President's Report**

As per GSETA by-laws, Kevin Kurdziel gave an annual report on the state of GSETA. He indicated that GSETA is thriving with a very active membership. GSETA hired an Executive Director, has been working with elected officials both locally and nationally and has had a voice in the development of workforce development policy. He reported that GSETA is strong fiscally with revenue from the GSETA Institute and conference re-invested directly back into GSETA, as illustrated through the hiring of the Executive Director. The success of GSETA is a result of members accomplishing work behind the scenes to support the organization. Kevin indicated that he thanks all membership and the Executive Committee for their time and commitment to the organization. He also thanked Leslie Williams for her work to get GSETA back on track fiscally after the previous setback with the former Treasurer. There are now new policies, procedures and controls in place to ensure that GSETA's finances are protected. Kevin indicated that there are a number of challenges that GSETA membership has faced. The issues with Unemployment were significant, though they have seemed to have moderated. Challenges for the new program year include the local governance policy from NJDOL, effective communication with NJDOL and providing services in a hybrid environment. Kevin indicated that in the new program year, membership will work on updating local and regional plans, prepare for compliance with the local governance policy and continue to work on building GSETA's brand locally and nationally. In the new program year, Kevin's objectives are to collaborate with the NJ Community Colleges Consortium more closely, work on sector-based initiatives and provide NJDOL with solutions to pain points membership experiences. Kevin concluded his report by thanking all of membership for supporting and assisting with GSETA with working in alignment with its goals and mission.

## **Executive Director's Report**

Samantha Pfeiffer reported that the survey she sent out about the purchasing of merchandise showed that most members were interested in products such as mugs, bags, t-shirts, sweatshirts and polo shirts. She hopes to have merchandise available in September.

Samantha indicated that she met with Allison Spinelli and Pat Leahey to work on conference sponsorship and the solicitation of presenters for the conference and the Institute. She indicated that the survey she had sent out about workshops showed that many were interested in training for frontline workers, so she is working on getting workshops together that address those needs.

Samantha let membership know that she met with Sarah Singer-Quast to discuss the coordination of the local governance policy training through the GSETA Institute. Kevin Kurdziel mentioned that EDSI is now the One Stop Operator in Ocean County, so to avoid any conflict, there will be an RFP issued for the training modules. Kevin also emphasized that it is important for the training to happen before any local area makes policy decisions that don't align with the policy. Virgen Velez indicated that if an RFP is to be issued, it should be very specific as the training should be specific to New Jersey and not just some general overview. Kevin indicated that after the RFP is drafted, it will be shared with NJDOL for further feedback to ensure the scope of work is specific as possible. Kevin reminded membership that NJDOL has indicated that in addition to the training, it will work with each local area individually on compliance with the policy.

## **Ctrl-Alt-Succeed**

Tammy Molinelli reminded the group that this initiative is focused on a new model that combines analytics, coaching, training and micro-internships for the cost of one ITA. She indicated that Shift Up is on the ETPL and that there will be information sessions planned in an effort to reach job seekers who may be interested in this training model in specific industry sectors. Tammy is hoping that local areas will provide one point of contact that track the training and employment of customers that go through this model to determine its effectiveness. Hudson County indicated it is on board. Greater Raritan indicated that IT has a Master Agreement in place with Shift Up. Tammy indicated that this model is a career building strategy that results in sustainable employment as it combines analytics, training and coaching with work-based learning. Kevin Kurdziel indicated that this is model that meets the need of businesses through a public/private partnership. Kevin further indicated that he could run regional reports through LinkedIn Talent Insights that identifies those who may be interested in this type of training. Tammy indicated that those attending RESEA may be interested in pursuing this training. Kelly West and Victoria Bollhardt indicated that she would like any outreach materials that are developed so that she could share it in her local area. Allison Spinelli indicated that she is working with Ray Batra on an info session for the southern region. She will share that out once it is developed. Paul Grzella indicated that information can be gleaned from Skill Up to see who has taken courses in specific industry sectors and outreach can be done to see if they are interested in this type of training. Jane Armstrong reported that she met with Hugh Bailey and that NJDOL is interested in funding this initiative. A proposal similar to the one submitted by North Jersey Partners for the NJ Endures Grant is being developed for submission to NJDOL. The number of students to be served is in process of being determined. Jane also reported that built into the proposal will be a Grant Manager who will work directly with Shift-Up and Parker Dewey as well as local areas in order to track students' progress. Kevin Kurdziel indicated that at some point, GSETA will hold a press event to promote this initiative.

## **Quarterly Meeting with Commissioner**

Kevin Kurdziel reported that the Executive Committee met with the Commissioner on 7/6/22. Highlights of the meeting were as follows:

- There will be no-cost extension of the PY21 OJT funds through December 31, 2022. Something official will be coming out from NJDOL.
- There may be additional funds for Workforce Learning Links released for this program year. These funds would be one-time only so local areas would still need to plan for continued decrease in funds for PY23. Something official will be coming out from NJDOL.

- The contract with an outside vendor for the UI call center has ended and will not be renewed. Though not advertised to the general public, UI customers can schedule an in-person appointment with UI after they log into their claim.
- Employment Services continues to provide services by appointment only. No walk-ins will be served. During the meeting it was indicated that this service model is under review and discussion at NJDOL.
- Federal funding for ITAs cannot be utilized for cannabis-related training which includes OJT, IWT and WBL. NJDOL may have some state funds available for this purpose. Local areas can help businesses recruit for open positions.

Jane Armstrong asked if GSETA was going to be working on raising the profile of the issue of the loss of literacy funds. Kevin indicated that this was being looked at.

### **Committee Updates**

**MIS Committee** – Terri Bryan was unable to attend today’s meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for 7/27/22. Terri’s written report on the last meeting held indicated the following: Presentation by Sarah (NJDOL) explaining the necessary requirements for activities and comments on quarterly basis to match services and prevent 90 day exits when customers are still engaged. Also, by adding activities this will increase the Federal DOL performance by which NJDOL is measured and was under the percent rate during the last Federal monitoring report. Justin Ryan will confirm next week if Future Works will be on July’s agenda and wait until August Meeting.

**Monitoring:** There was nobody present to report on the Monitoring Committee. The next meeting is schedule for 8/25/22.

**Operations Committee:** Fran Kuhn reported that the committee met on 7/5/22. There was discussion about the return of the 28 day protocol effective July 1<sup>st</sup>. Virtual activities are allowed as long as in-person activities are offered. NJDOL is leaning toward people being encouraged vs. being mandated to participate in services. There was no new letter sent out to WFNJ recipients about any changes. NJDOL indicated local areas can send out letters specific to their area. There has been no information or updates about e-time. Kathy Lockbaum indicated that legislation recently passed that changes the status of sanctioning which allows for 6 months of eligibility before any sanction sets in. During this time recipients can still access all benefits, including emergency assistance. Kathy also reported that the WFNJ workgroup met on 7/11/22 and there was discussion about as part of the 28 day process that WFNJ applicants get assessed (including CASAS tested), have the EPDT completed, skills inventory done and having an orientation. She reminded membership that ES gets funded to provide 28 day services as well as job search.

**Conference Committee:** Allison Spinelli reported that the committee is meeting virtually today at 1PM and that anyone interested in attending can reach out to her for the link. Michigan Digital has been paid for its work. The registration process is being worked out so that it interfaces properly with QuickBooks and the invoicing process.

**Youth Committee:** There was nobody present to report on the Youth Committee.

**Fiscal Committee:** There was no report from the Fiscal Committee. The next meeting is scheduled for 9/19/22.

### **Open Discussion**

Kevin Kurdziel indicated that Samantha Pfeiffer sent out a survey asking about an in-person meeting for September. She will be sending out a more detailed survey on the topic. Kevin indicated that perhaps in-person meetings could be held at least three time with a meeting held in each region (north, central and south).

Kevin Kurdziel reported that the result of the merchandise survey was a 60%/40% split with 60% indicated they would like merchandise. Kevin stated that merchandise would not only be s source of revenue but would also help GSETA to build its

brand and build pride in the organization. Merchandise could also be given to members that work on specific projects as a thank you, such as the conference committee.

Allison Spinelli will forward to membership email that came this morning from Yolanda Allen about some policy updates.

Virgen Velez asked about budget templates mentioned by NJDOL. Allison Spinelli indicated that the policy states that templates are being offered as a tool but are not being required. Virgen also asked if the 1% for professional development was for only for WIOA funds or if it included WFNJ funds. Paul Grzella indicated that there was an email that said it was for WIOA funds only.

Kevin Kurdziel reminded membership that GSETA paid EDSI \$28,000.00 for the WBL training through the GSETA Institute. Each local area will be invoiced for its share of the training cost.

**Adjournment:**

Allison Spinelli made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Virgen Velez seconded it. There were no objections or abstentions. The motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 11:37AM.

The next GSETA Membership meeting is scheduled for August 10, 2022 at 10:00AM via Zoom.