

Greater Raritan One-Stop Leadership Meeting Minutes

Location: 1st Floor Conference Room

Date: Tuesday, May 26, 2026

Time: 10:00 AM

1. Attendance

- Fernandel Almonor– Greater Raritan One-Stop Operator
- Christina Shockley – Hunterdon County Youth Employment Services, Outreach Coordinator
- Silvia Saa – OJT Contract Writer, Somerset and Hunterdon Counties
- Debbie Voria – Hunterdon County ESC, Adult Literacy
- Monica Mulligan– Director Greater Raritan Career Training Services Center
- Lia Stone – NJ VR Counselor, New Jersey Commission for the Blind CentralRegional Office
- Jazlis Perez – Supervising Counselor, DVRS, Somerset County
- Danielle Kwan, Manager DVRS
- Barbara Stockton – Business Services Team Consultant, DVR
- Isabel Jiménez, WFNJ Tech- Greater Raritan/ Mercer/ Monmouth /Union
- Paul Grzella, Director Workforce Development Board
- Karen Araujo – Business Services Representative
- Maria Marnell, HCESC
- Rick Peterson, Greater Raritan Employment Services/ OSCC

2. Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed in memory of **Teresa Edwards**, an invaluable member of the Greater Raritan One-Stop.

3. Business Services Updates

- **April 30 Recruitment Event:**
 - Final placement numbers pending follow-up; currently five confirmed placements.
 - Karen Orejo to prioritize employer feedback and email updates to the team.
- **May 19 Job Fair at Hindu Temple, Bridgewater:**
 - **Attendance:** Approximately 506 job seekers
 - **Employers:** 56 of 63 attended; strong employer and participant feedback
 - **Outcomes:** 2 confirmed job offers; judiciary assisting with one internship and six resume reviews
 - The temple was thanked for venue and food donation; organizers eager to host again

4. Discussion: Downloadable Applications

- Proposal to make all applications downloadable and accessible via the website and mobile-friendly formats.
- Current Status:
 - 5 required training forms are PDF-fillable and electronically signable.
 - Beta testing with Somerset County IT for web-link submission with required fields is ongoing.
 - Goal to launch full online submission process by **July 1, 2026**.
- Considerations:
 - Posting online may bypass Employment Services intake process.
 - Strategy: maintain downloadable PDFs and transition to integrated online form submission for efficiency.

5. Discussion: July 2026 Recruitment Event

- **Initial Proposal:** "Second Chances" job fair for justice-involved individuals.
- **Feedback:**
 - Employers may be reluctant to publicly associate with justice-involved branding.
 - Candidates may avoid events labeled for justice-involved due to stigma.
 - Consensus: integrate second-chance hiring quietly into all events; avoid explicit branding.
- **Decision:**
 - July 2026 event will focus on **Entry-Level Opportunities** aligned with client data (stock clerks, order fillers, retail, etc.).
 - Business Services to secure **12 employers** by **June 15, 2026**.
 - Technology-focused event to be targeted for **October 2026**.

6. Program and Partner Updates

Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board

- Biannual certification nearly complete; awaiting final documentation.
- Upcoming review of financial policies and implementation of additional state-mandated controls.
- WIOA funding expected to decrease ~9.5%; focus on full expenditure and accurate reporting.

Business Services

- Follow-ups with employers from recent job fairs ongoing.
- Census Bureau event converted to virtual (June 11, 2026); updated flyer pending.

Employment Services

- No major updates provided at this session.

Career Training Services

- New MRSA agreements for PY26 effective **July 1, 2026**; ~12 already received from training providers.

DVR

- Fully staffed with recent new hires; open to referrals, especially youth.

WorkFirst NJ (WFNJ)

- High referral volume: ~150 SNAP referrals for June.
- Virtual classes reaching record sizes (40+ participants).
- Fully staffed with recent hires and part-time support.

Adult Literacy

- ESL and HSE programs concluding spring semester.
- HSE graduation scheduled Friday; ~20 graduates expected to attend.
- Advocacy initiative includes attendance by state senator and assembly member.

Partner Updates

- Hunterdon Polytech: Active youth outreach, electronic billboard campaign producing responses.
- CBVI and Middle Earth: No significant updates this period.

7. Action Items

1. **Business Services:** Confirm 12 entry-level employers for July by **June 15**.
2. **Karen Orejo:** Provide April 30 event placement updates via email.
3. **Monica Mulligan & IT:** Complete online form system by **July 1**.
4. **Paul Grzella and Fernandel Almonor:** Coordinate with Dr. Nicole Nikola for **July Leadership Meeting LMI presentation**.
5. **WFNJ Team:** Ensure AOSOS access for new staff (e.g., Jamila Bailey).

8. Next Meeting

Date: June 23, 2026

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: Greater Raritan One-Stop Career Training Services Center
