

Education & Workforce Development Taskforce

Virtual Meeting Agenda

April 23, 2021

10:00 am

10:00 am: Hello & Welcome- *Michele N. Siekerka, NJBIA*

10:05-10:59 am: Breakout Session- Discuss Themes 4-5

11:00 am: Closing Remarks & Adjourn

Future Meetings:

- Friday, May 21, 2021 at 10:00 am
 - Goal: Review updated report outline & recommendations

Taskforce Goals/Deliverables:

1. Release an updated report that will identify recommendations to reskill, rehire, and reshape New Jersey's current workforce.
2. Identify additional ways that we can ensure that NJ's future workforce is prepared to enter the labor force.
3. Create a workforce development initiative "map" to better understand the various initiatives at play in the state to better promote partnerships and collaboration.
4. Create and foster relationships to bridge the gap between business, government, and academia to ensure that our resources are being used effectively and efficiently.

Breakout Session 3: Discussion of Major Themes 4-5

Theme 4: Socio-economic disparities have become increasingly prevalent during the pandemic. This is especially true for vulnerable populations, such as first-generation college students, students of color, women, minority workers, low-income families, and low-to-middle skill workers.

Q1: From an education perspective, what can be done to enhance connectivity between vulnerable students and the education system, K-12 and postsecondary. What resources are needed from the state and/or federal government to achieve this goal?

Q2: From a workforce development perspective, what can be done to enhance connectivity between employers and vulnerable populations of students/workers? What resources are needed from the state and/or federal government to achieve this goal?

Q3: What needs to be done to ensure New Jersey's education and workforce development offerings are equitable? What resources are needed from the state and/or federal government to achieve this goal?

Theme 5: Mental health has emerged as a major societal focus as individuals cope with health, economic, professional, and family hardships/responsibilities during the pandemic.

Q1: From an education perspective, what improvements can be made to address mental health at both K-12 and postsecondary institutions? What resources are needed from the state and/or federal government to achieve this goal?

Q2: From a workforce development perspective, what can business do to better support employees if mental health issues arise? What resources are needed from the state and/or federal government to achieve this goal?

Q3: How does work-life balance impact mental health?