

Delaware County Workforce Development Board
Planning Committee
Wednesday, December 3, 1pm

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Agenda

Approve minutes from September 3 meeting

Review progress towards strategic goals

Advocacy and Awareness Ad Hoc Committee

Open discussion

2026 Planning Committee Meeting Dates:

Wednesday, March 4, 2026 @ 1pm

Wednesday, June 3, 2026 @ 1pm

Wednesday, September 2, 2026 @ 1pm

Wednesday, December 2, 2026 @ 1pm

Planning Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 3, 1pm via Teams

Attendance: Bill Tyson, Edessa Snyder, Colleen Duran, Asma Munir, Jenn Kacimi (staff), Kate McGeever (staff)

Approve minutes from the June 4 meeting

Colleen Duran motioned to approve the minutes. Asma Munir seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

PY25 Q1 Progress Toward Strategic Goals

Kate McGeever reviewed the report on the WIOA Local Plan goals. Edessa Snyder emphasized the importance of supporting regional efforts, such as the HanWa shipbuilding effort. Bill Tyson commented that this was a good start, as the Local Plan had only been implemented on July 1.

September Board Meeting Reminder

Bill reminded the committee members that the full board will meet on September 11 at the Briarcliff Fire House.

Delaware County's Goals 2025-28: PY25 Q1

Goal 1 Maximize Use of Earn & Learn Models: DCWDB will partner with Career & Technical Education providers and employers to increase the development and use of earn-and-learn models. Focus on employers' needs to develop registered pre-apprenticeships, apprenticeships, on-the-job training, incumbent worker training, and integrated education and training programs. Recruit job seekers and youth who face barriers to employment or identify as part of underrepresented communities. Use supportive services and follow-up to ensure workers thrive in earn-and-learn employment.

- Yeadon Borough's Incumbent Worker project for their Public Works Department is underway. Two of three workers have completed CLD training and certification.

Goal 2 Increase Employer Engagement: DCWDB will continue to increase the quality and quantity of services for employers. Anchor efforts to employers' feedback, labor market information, and partner input to ensure services engage employers. Focus on building relationships with employers in key industry sectors.

- The New Business Services contract includes increasing the holistic, consultative approach to employer engagement.

Goal 3 Reach Tomorrow's Workforce: DCWDB will partner with middle and high schools, post-secondary education and training providers, community-based organizations, chamber of commerce, and employers to develop services that will attract youth and prepare them to thrive in Delaware County's workforce. Reach youth with barriers to employment or those from underrepresented communities to experience work-based learning through summer employment, pre-apprenticeship, Registered Apprenticeship, internships, job shadowing, mentoring, and other experiences in the workplace, including developing employability skills.

- The Business Education Partnership program will partner with DCCC to host a spring career awareness day on the DCCC campus.

Goal 4 Continuously Improve the PA CareerLink® System: DCWDB will use customer data and feedback to ensure the PA CareerLink® system offers effective, efficient, and comprehensive services. Offer on-site, virtual, and community-based services to engage hard-to-reach job seekers and employers. Engage all PA CareerLink® System core and additional partners to implement an effective referral process to address customers' barriers to success.

- The entire Delco workforce development system convened for an in-service training day on Friday, Nov. 21. During the day, the 80 staff members focused on strategies for increasing wages and retention for the job seekers we serve.

Goal 5 Help Vulnerable Job Seekers to Reduce Barriers to Employment: DCWDB will provide a workforce development system that is job seeker-focused. Ensure services are delivered in a manner that is welcoming and supportive to adults and youth who face barriers to employment. Provide or refer to supportive services to address barriers, including criminal background, lack of transportation, food and housing insecurity, lack of high-quality childcare, mental and physical health care, or disability.

- Starting in July 2025, two EARN staff members have been working in the Chester PA CareerLink® to help job seekers who may qualify for TANF support and participation in the EARN program.

Staff served 13 job seekers, with 7 qualifying for the program. This is a great example of braiding services to address job seekers' barriers.

Goal 6 Respond to Critical Labor Market Needs: DCWDB will build relationships with employers in critical industries (including healthcare, manufacturing, public safety, and early childhood/K12 education) to ensure that the PA CareerLink® system is a trusted partner for recruiting, training, and upskilling the workforce. Leverage state and local resources to address workforce shortages. Advocate for policies that minimize disruption to the labor supply.

- Staff are collaborating with regional peers and economic development partners to respond to a recent study by Pew/Brookings Institution that urges a regional approach to developing strength in life sciences and advanced manufacturing.

Advocacy and Awareness Ad Hoc Committee

Purpose

The purpose of the Advocacy and Awareness Ad Hoc Committee is to enhance stakeholder understanding of workforce development programs and advance initiatives that expand access to employment and training opportunities throughout Southeast Pennsylvania for residents and businesses. The committee focuses on raising awareness of resources, highlighting success stories, and driving strategic communication efforts that promote the mission and impact of the regional workforce network.

This committee stands apart from existing committees by focusing specifically on advocacy, public awareness, and workforce causes. It serves as a bridge between the Workforce Development Boards, the public, elected officials, and community partners, ensuring initiatives are visible, understood, and valued.

Why now?

Workforce development is evolving rapidly due to technological change, shifting labor market needs, and a growing emphasis on improving access. Clear communication and strong advocacy are essential to ensure residents, employers, educators, and community partners understand and engage with available resources. This committee helps organizations respond proactively, amplify visibility, showcase impact, and foster greater collaboration at a pivotal time for economic and workforce growth in our region.

Why Ad Hoc?

As an ad hoc body, the committee has greater flexibility, creativity, and responsiveness to emerging opportunities and challenges, without requiring the restructuring of permanent committees. It can bring together people with subject matter expertise or specific insight relevant to the task at hand.

Who should participate?

- Members from Southeast Pennsylvania local workforce development boards
- Subject matter experts, including the Pennsylvania Workforce Development Association
- Elected Officials, as appropriate
- Community-based organizations that partner with the PA CareerLink® system, as appropriate

What's next?

Attend our inaugural virtual meeting on November 17, 2025 @ 2:30pm. Please come ready to help shape the committee structure, agenda, and priorities.

Contact

Questions? Reach out to: Dianna Krallé – djkralle@buckscounty.org