



Joint Newark & Essex County Welfare to Work Committee Meeting

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Essex County Division of Training and Employment-Room 2073

10:00 am – 11:30 am

Agenda

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Opening Remarks
- III. Review Mission Statement and Vote on Accepting or Rejecting
- IV. Marketing Strategy—How do we boost our membership in our committee?
- V. Establish two short term goals and one long term goal—how do goals relate to our mission statement
- VI. Approval of Minutes
- VII. Next Steps
- VIII. Next meeting dates/committee adjournment



***Joint Newark & Essex County
Welfare to Work Committee Meeting***

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

50 S. Clinton Street, East Orange, NJ

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Kelli Bell Taylor
Joseph Epps
Danny Gonzalez Bosques
Janine Schaeffer
Safanya Searcy
David Weiner

Welcome:

Danny Denise Gonzalez Bosques (Newark Housing Authority)

Mrs. Bosques brought greetings to meeting attendees. She asked for everyone to introduce themselves and the agency in which they represent. The attendees reviewed the minutes from the last meeting. Mr. Weiner presented a motion to approve the minutes; Mr. Epps seconded the motion. Minutes were accepted.

Mrs. Bosques opened up the meeting by stating the importance of having a mission statement, which would serve as the foundation for the committees' goals and strategic plan. The mission statement that the committee, collectively, came up with is as follows: *"This is a joint committee with the Newark and Essex County WIBs. The Welfare to Work Committee will make planning recommendations and support program implementation for the Greater Newark welfare population. This committee will also coordinate and improve services to the Work First New Jersey population. This committee will include representatives from businesses, service provider agencies, labor and County Human Service organizations."*

Mrs. Bosques suggested that the committee should examine why its' membership is so low and she recommended that it might be beneficial to come up with a marketing plan to boost up participation. Ms. Searcy communicated that we must consider parking dynamics at 50 South Clinton Street. The meeting attendees came up with four possible meeting location options; NHA Clubhouse on Spruce Street, The Waterfront on Grafton Avenue, Essex County College and Mr. Weiner's office on Park Place in Newark. Mrs. Bosques advised that she would conduct a poll and that the committee will be notified of the meeting location change before the next meeting.

The committee suggested calendar invites and email invites for future meetings to address Microsoft Outlook inaccessibility.

Mrs. Bosques suggested that at the retreat, the committee would come up with at least two short term goals which would be foundation of the committees' strategic plan. Ms. Searcy suggested the importance of having goals, strategies and tactics to help guide the committee. Mr. Weiner admitted that he felt that the committee should oversee the Welfare to Work processes, specifically RFP's. He declared that part of the reason that people lose interest is because the committee does not and is not allowed to do what it was created to do. He further states that we should be looking at tabe test results, the review process, successes and weaknesses of past RFP's. Mr. Epps admitted that in the broader sense, he views participation as how people in the workforce are counted. Like, Mr. Weiner, he thought that this committee would also have more of an oversight role.

Overall, the committee agreed that communication among stakeholders would be critical in progress. It was suggested that the committee should take a closer look at training, training participation/completion and employment after training because these factors impact the Welfare to Work population, severely. Mr. Weiner recommended that it would be great to invite Jeanette Page Hawkins and Gina Haranis to participate in upcoming committee meetings to help address some of these matters. He also asked if it was possible to share WIB committee minutes for other committees to broaden the scope of the committee. Both, Kelli Bell-Taylor and Janine Schaeffer agreed that minutes could be emailed.

Mrs. Bosques reiterated that the committee will refine the mission statement and set committee goals at the upcoming retreat. Ms. Bosques told the committee that the next meeting is scheduled for June 9, 2015. Meeting was adjourned.