



**Joint Newark & Essex County
One Stop Partners/Welfare to Work Operations Meeting**
50 South Clinton Street, 5th Floor
East Orange, New Jersey

Minutes from Meeting: November 18th, 2016

<i>Adamczyk, Aleksandra</i>	<i>Manager Welfare to Work</i>	<i>Gonzalez, Jennifer</i>	<i>NJLWD</i>
<i>Alexander, Mary</i>	<i>Supervisor E-Time</i>	<i>Holland, Vann</i>	<i>Urban League</i>
<i>Amos, Ben</i>	<i>EC WDB</i>	<i>Lombardi, Nereida</i>	<i>MIS Supervisor</i>
<i>Blanco, Nela</i>	<i>DVRS</i>	<i>Lozaw, Barbara</i>	<i>ECWDB</i>
<i>Blanford, Betty</i>	<i>Program for Parents</i>	<i>Mirda, Betty</i>	<i>GED/DTE</i>
<i>Barboza, Regina</i>	<i>Newark alliance</i>	<i>Montford, Julius</i>	<i>Deputy Director DEDTE</i>
<i>Bundy, Al</i>	<i>ECWDB</i>	<i>Restaino, Ricky</i>	<i>DFAB</i>
<i>Caldwell, Apryl</i>	<i>WIOA Services Manager</i>	<i>Schaeffer, Janine</i>	<i>ECWDB</i>
<i>Carvajal, Allyson</i>	<i>WFNJ Rep.</i>	<i>Sternstein, Lynn</i>	<i>JVS</i>
<i>Colon, Monica</i>	<i>Youth Coordinator</i>	<i>Sullivan, Sabrina</i>	<i>NJDOL</i>
<i>Corrado, Evanthia</i>	<i>Workforce NJ Rep.</i>	<i>Tention, Carla</i>	<i>DFAB</i>
<i>Dorlean, Melissa</i>	<i>Workforce NJ</i>	<i>Thurman, Shelton</i>	<i>Human Services Director</i>
<i>Flemming, Keisha</i>	<i>DEDTE</i>	<i>Weiss, Howard</i>	<i>ECWDB</i>
<i>Guarino, Robin</i>	<i>DTE</i>	<i>Wiggins, Gwen</i>	<i>NJLWD</i>
<i>Gilbert, Ethel</i>	<i>DFAB</i>	<i>Williams, Anthea</i>	<i>NJLWD Bus Rep</i>

Welcome and Introduction

Howard Weiss welcomed everyone and introductions of attendees were made. Minutes from the last meeting in October were approved

WDB Update

Howard Weiss stated that at the last SETA meeting the last three (3) Workforce Development Boards were certified. The Holiday meeting is scheduled for December 15th, 2016 at Nanina's in the Park at 9:00AM. He also directed everyone to review the One-Stop Status Report that is in the packets, which is a snapshot of the programs, and asked if anyone wants specific information listed in the report to let him know.

WIOA

Apryl stated that the co-enrollment process has started with the RESA clients. She also mentioned that the transition has been difficult and noted that Gwen and Nerieda have been very helpful and made the transition easier.

Workfirst NJ

Julius Montford stated that they have just gotten approval on the DFD contract.

Aleksandra Adamczyk stated that they had received valuable training at the conference in Jersey City in terms of case management and career pathways.

CWEP

Ethel Gilbert asked if there was any outcome to the insurance issue from the last meeting. Allyson stated that it is at DFD and going through the proper channels in order to get approval. Julius stated that he will reach out to Natasha to get a determination on the workman's compensation insurance. Individuals would need to seek medical coverage through Medicaid. Julius stated that they are not placing any new people in CWEP positions. Howard stated that the numbers are down by half from the previous month so it is important to get this resolved as quickly as possible.

Gwen Wiggins stated she attended a meet and greet in Trenton with the libraries in order to assist the individuals with services at the One-Stop. We are partnered with the Newark Library and they are doing things such as job club workshops and they will be referring their patrons to the One-Stop. The theory behind having libraries doing some of the services is they are open at more convenient times to assist.

Howard stated that only about half of the One-Stops have Unemployment Insurance staff in the office. Essex County is fortunate they still have staff available at this location.

DVR

This past month they had seventeen (17) walk-ins and eleven (11) direct referrals. Going forward they are reducing the days they are available at this location to three (3), because one of the staff members is out on maternity leave. They will be staffed Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Education/ Literacy

Lynn stated that the Literacy Committee will be meeting next on Monday at JVS at 10AM. JVS is one of the recipients of a citizenship grant from the Dept. of Homeland Security. JVS will be starting a citizenship class December 1st, La Casa also provides these services.

Julius asked if there was any progress made with contacting literacy providers who are not a part of the consortium and the response was that there hadn't been a meeting since the last One-Stop to discuss it. Julius stated he knows of five (5) that provide service but are not connected to the committee. Apryl stated it would be helpful to have a consortium list as well as a provider list that is not part of the consortium.

In Essex County there is a consortium made up of ten (10) different agencies that receive funding directly from the Department of Labor. They are trying to bring the boards and One-Stops more into the process. Ben Amos was on a conference call yesterday where they talked about the role we will be playing in terms of the consortium going forward.

DFAB

Ethel Gilbert passed out a Resource Guide, which has been updated to include the most updated information. Also, a reminder the third Thursday of every month the offices are closed in order to allow staff to catch up on paperwork/ data entry. Regarding ABAWDS, they were able to receive the list of individuals from Essex County College, and the numbers very low. The list came from Mitra Choudhury and Ethel requested that she provide the actual days of attendance for individuals. Howard stated that in the State's haste to get this program up and running they didn't include some

required parameters in the contract. Nereida wanted to go on record stated that she has some concerns about the SNAP population, whoever is involved in that contract needs to be enrolled in AOSOS. It has yet to be determined who will be entering information from the SNAP clients. Howard stated that there needs to be a meeting between them regarding who will be doing the data entry, because there is a requirement of daily attendance for activities. Ethel reminded everyone that there was supposed to be a meeting with Jeannette Paige Hawkins and Sam Oparaeke, which has yet to take place. Howard stated that this is just in regards to the ECC contract however DFAB are putting people in other activities that are funding through us, which also needs to be data entered.

Carla Tention stated that it makes it difficult for them to conduct reviews because the information that they need will not be available to them. When the State comes in to review they want to see the appointment date, attendance records, time frame etc.

Announcements:

Evanthia Corrado stated that Halal Guy is looking for people. Julius stated that it seems that they are always looking for people, and asked if they ever hire anyone? Jennifer Gonzalez stated that they interviewed over two-hundred (200) people and hired seventeen (17) because he wants someone that can grow with the company.

Program for Parents

Betty Blanford stated that the numbers are down and asked if it was because the participation rate is down. Julius stated that it could just be that there are a lot of school age kids in the group now receiving TANF. She stated that they are still eligible for after-care services. Julius stated that they need to have a meeting to discuss wrap-around services and after care because it came up in a vendor meeting.

NJ DOL

Allyson Carvajal stated that Essex County's participation rate went up 7/10ths of a point, while the state's rate has dipped. She wants to make sure everyone is engaged in a work activity. The participation rate is based off of a single parent household so that at least fifty (50%) percent are required to be in a work activity. Howard stated that there seem to be a better working relationship between Labor and Human Services now that they are having joint meetings where everyone can be on the same page.

Apryl stated that her information is that starting in October the participation rate will be including two (2) parent households. Howard asked Allyson to see if something needs to be put in writing regarding this change. Julius stated that he gets level of service numbers so that he can write contracts with the State and now that is increasing without being informed of this change. He asked what numbers he is going to be held accountable for?

Adjournment

There being no further business the One Stop Partners' meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by
Janine Schaeffer

NEXT MEETING DATE: December 15th, 2016 9:00AM