



Joint Newark and Essex County

Literacy Committee/ Workforce Investment Board March 13, 2017

<i>Auerbach, Toni</i>	EO Bd of Ed.	<i>Melendez, Wendy</i>	La Casa
<i>Barcelos, Cristhian</i>	NCC, NJALL, LVA	<i>Mirda, Betty</i>	DEDTE
<i>Celestin, Judy</i>	ECC	<i>Ray, Ellen</i>	1199 SEIU
<i>Fisher, Nancy</i>	Ret. JVS	<i>Schaeffer, Janine</i>	Essex WDB
<i>Fuller, Mikki</i>	DVRS Newark	<i>Sternstein, Lynn</i>	JVS
<i>Gonzalez, Danny</i>	NHA	<i>Webb, Stephen</i>	FOHS EOB
<i>Harvest, Garrett</i>	DVRS Newark	<i>Weiss, Howard</i>	ECWDB
<i>Lane, Davetta</i>	NWDB	<i>Wright, Tanya (phone)</i>	ECC

Welcome

Lynn Sternstein opened the meeting with introductions.

Minutes from the November meeting were approved.

Announcements

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Elizabeth has taken over administration for refugees. If a refugee has children they are still going through the County TANF services. If refugees do not have children in this country then they are going through Catholic Charities for cash assistance. A refugee can only get eight (8) months of assistance and after that they are expected to be self-sustaining.

WIOA Update

Howard stated Howard Miller will no longer be handling literacy due to the reorganization taking place at the NJ Dept of Labor. The new person is Michelle Jubanyik.

Howard stated that they are still offering training sessions regarding selection of the One Stop Operator even though it needs to be in place July 1st. He stated that according to the law the Operator is the coordinator of the One-Stop partners. Some places are putting their WIOA services out as well but the law doesn't require that. Counseling cannot be put out because that it must be done by merit based staff.

Lynn stated that there are supposed to be points of entry in order to put people in the system. This presents a problem for those that are undocumented. They would be responsible for following up in terms of employment. They would not be eligible for any services outside of Title II.

Christian stated that the library programs were serving a need and that it would be impossible to track the outcomes through the One-Stop. The Maplewood & Montclair (Bellevue) programs are officially over in May. There is no information about continuing this program. Christian stated that the program has been working well. There is a great need in Maplewood and many come from Irvington. He says that it is very challenging because of the high turnover in the library. Also, a library can't spend money that they don't have, so any program where they spend money and get compensated later for cannot work.

There was a discussion around civics. Christian wanted to make clear that there is a separate pot of money for civics. But he wanted to make clear that those students don't necessarily reach the same levels as the ABE or

ESL classes. Nancy wanted to be clear that Civics is not the same as citizenship. If you are using a certain pot of money then you must do literacy, civics and training. To clarify Howard Miller stated that there could be citizens in the civics classes.

Consortium update

The NGO is out, it is a three (3) year grant with a continuation for the last two (2) years. It was anticipated to be submitted by April 21st. Once you submit the pre-questionnaire you get access to the SAGE system. New people will likely get training on SAGE in order to submit their proposal. Everyone that is new would need to cover every literacy level so it would be nearly impossible for an individual agency to provide which is why a consortium makes the most sense. The grant is due April 21st through SAGE and they review it. Per Judy, if there is more than one proposal then the WDB would review and have input. May 22nd all approvals are due.

There is a new element to the NGO with some added input from the WDB. Howard stated that he thinks it will relate more to whether there is anything in the NGO that presents a problem. A related issue is regarding the ETPL. His understanding is that as long as the lead agency (ECC) is on the ETPL the associated partners do not need to be. Which means all agencies will be forced to be on the ETPL.

Nancy stated that all the things that were moved to the Dept. of Labor under Henry Platkin are now going back to the Dept. of Education.

Howard stated that before a consortium can start to operate in an area July 1st the MOU would need to be in place first, but the One-Stop Operator may not be in place until July 1st. Judy stated that regardless of who the One Stop Operator is, the agreement is still in place.

HSE update

Betty Mirda stated that the testing MOU is three (3) years. She has had TANF students who took the test without TABE scores and five (5) have passed. Going forward she is trying to catch up with the number of people who are on the waiting list. The TANF customers are being tested next week and she expects to give a retest at night. The TABE test will be converted over to a new platform in May. She is not sure how this will work regarding access to the old scores. The TABE 9 & 10 are not correlating to the TASC, which is why they removed the requirement to take the TABE prior to the TASC. Betty stated that the people need to study for the TASC test with the right materials in order to pass.

Betty says the biggest problem is that the TABE test is all multiple choice and it is not on the TASC.

Howard stated that the regulations require reading and math score for all WIOA clients. Though we do have flexibility over who goes into training. He states that since you are putting government funding into someone you would rather put the money into someone who has a high probability of passing. Judy states that if they have a high school diploma it proves that they have an understanding already.

NJALL Update

Nancy stated that there is a lot of talk about advocacy. She stated that there are some webinars coming up that should be helpful and said she would forward the info to Lynn who will distribute. They are also on NJALL website. Christian stated that they are working on a plan and preparing a package and it addresses the main areas of concern (like the learning disabled, low level learners and immigrants). He stated that there should be a rough draft available for approval at the next NJALL meeting on the 17th.

Adjournment

There being no further business the Literacy meeting was adjourned at 11:55am.

Respectfully submitted by
Janine Schaeffer

Next Meeting Date May 15th 2017