



Joint Newark and Essex County

Literacy Committee/ Workforce Investment Board September 11th, 2017

<i>Barcelos, Cristhian</i>	NCC, NJALL, LVA	<i>Melendez, Wendy</i>	La Casa
<i>Beckford, Jasmyne</i>	NWDB	<i>Mirda, Betty</i>	DEDTE
<i>Celestin, Judy</i>	ECC	<i>Salmanowitz, Dennis</i>	EC Votech
<i>Chavarria, Ana</i>	FOCUS	<i>Schaeffer, Janine</i>	Essex WDB
<i>Fuller, Mikki</i>	DVRS Newark	<i>Sternstein, Lynn</i>	JVS
<i>Gonzalez, Danny</i>	NHA	<i>Velazquez, Alleghka Velez</i>	Newark Works
<i>Harvest, Garrett</i>	DVRS Newark	<i>Weiss, Howard</i>	ECWDB
		<i>Wright, Tanya</i>	ECC

>Welcome

Lynn Sternstein opened the meeting with introductions.

Minutes from the May meeting were approved.

Announcements

Russ Mattoon, from Essex County Vocational School has now retired and Dennis Salmanowitz is now the apprenticeship coordinator.

WIOA Update

Howard stated that we are currently in the process of selecting a competitively bid One Stop Operator for Essex County. In the past, the One Stop Operator was chosen by agreement of the partners but with WIOA the law states that it must be a competitive process. We have a consultant that is handling the process as a result of the apparent conflict of interest. Newark is being handled in a similar way, with a consultant. The One Stop Operator has a subjective interpretation of what responsibilities are included and Essex County made it as narrow as the law allows. Jasmyne reminded everyone that the process is still ongoing and that they cannot comment any further at this point.

Lynn stated that she believes in Boston that JVS is the One Stop Operator.

Howard stated that the Federal Legislation allow the One Stop Operator to go out to bid every four (4) years but New Jersey decided to make it every two (2) years.

Consortia Catalog of Programs

We needed to update the list and there are two different lists of programs. There is one for the consortia programs and another for the Literacy Committee which listed different agencies and testing centers. Howard suggested that any changes be forwarded to both Judy and Chris. Howard needs to forward the information about the Learning Links so the list can be updated

Lynn stated that once both lists are completely updated they will be forwarded to everyone on the Literacy Committee.

Consortium update

Judy Celestin stated that the consortium did receive the grant. They met to discuss the new IET (Integrated Education Training) Inc. for ESL students. El-Civics students now must go through IET training which includes Microsoft and First Aid. It includes all that are being served under the "Civics" part of Title II. It has to be offered to everyone but the individual can choose not to participate and sign a waiver. There was no additional funding provided for these additional offerings.

There was a recommendation that the clients should go through the One Stop because they are going through occupational training that leads to certification. Lynn stated that Essex County requires a TABE of 9 before a client can get into training and Newark requires an 8. Lynn stated that "civics" is ESL and generally those clients cannot get anywhere near those requirements.

Apparently there are kinks in the system, Judy stated that LACES doesn't account for this. They would have to take a different test. Once they do, then they are no longer ESL they become ABE and you can no longer track the funding.

Judy suggested that there are some people who would qualify for this and they are already in the system. If they are already your students, then they already took the TABE test and qualified.

Mikki Fuller stated that she is the liaison at East side High and that she usually gets at least eighty (80) referrals with the graduating class. This year she received eighty two (82), and only five (5) kids completed the process because many didn't want to divulge the information necessary to complete the process.

Judy suggested that we should refer anyone from a foreign country that goes through certification and that you feel can use additional language skills. Cristhian stated that he feels it will be a small percentage.

There was further discussion around the problem that after some clients received their CNA they cannot do the basic reports because they cannot write in English. The clients are already enrolled so they don't need to meet eligibility requirements. Sometimes after they finished their classes while waiting to take the test they could be working on the ESL. The ESL would need to be offered in the same year as the original training.

HSE Update

Betty Mirda stated that McGraw Hill sold their test to DRC. They want to move the TABE test to the same platform that they have the TASC test on. She stated that the State of NJ requires that test results be available for seven (7) years. They are allowing bulk downloads of the results, but they are only giving a two (2) week window in order to do that from the time you click on the button that was emailed out. She said that they are allowing the bulk downloads in to Excel- but it is impractical to then distribute those scores to students. The system crashes when downloading more than two hundred (200) at a time.

They will be putting the new TABE test 11/12 on the new platform but have not received approval from NRS. There is a new website with samples from the new TABE test, it is now not all multiple choice.

The TASC pass rate is about fifty (50%) percent, and when it first came out it was about sixty (60%) percent. She stated that she does give the locator and the survey. Chris stated that if they take the test and fail it, it counts against them. Betty states that they are full everyday doing the test because they are doing the youth, WIOA, GA, and TANF. They are now giving the TASC test to anyone who doesn't have a High School Diploma. They are now getting people that only have to work on math and are being successful in the Learning Link.

There was another discussion regarding that if a client passes the current High School Equivalency test then they shouldn't have to then pass a TABE in order to receive training.

Wendy stated that she will be adding more test dates. Someone stated that the American Institute of Professional Studies is very good and that they were sent a group of eleven (11) WFNJ clients and ten (10) of them got the High School Diploma and were transferred over.

SCALES Update

Nancy Fisher sent in the following report:

1. The SETC unanimously passed the SCALES resolution on the coordination of literacy services.
2. SETC is looking at coordination of program services. There was a discussion of priorities for sharing of services. The number 1 priority was assessment. Others included recruitment, cost sharing, credentialing, data entry, counseling, placement, training programs and use of technology. These will be used as a basis for state plan modifications.
3. Danielle Junanyik discussed professional development for staff. Her staff has been trained in standards. They will reach out to classroom instructors. There will be a chat room to share best practices.
4. They are looking at developing a co-teaching model which is a requirement for Title 2. They will continue to work with Dr. Belzer with a focus on IET.
4. There was a discussion of credentialing barriers and options. The goal for NJ is 65% having credentials by 2025.
5. The WDBs have the ability to move funding from Adult to Dislocated.
6. Joel Thomas will be the new assistant director of special populations. I think he will become the acting state director.

NJ ALL Update

Cristhian stated that there is a group that is going to Washington and trying to do some visits here with students but that is more difficult. They will be sending some material out with all the issues that are coming up. Wendy stated that there are approximately 22,000 people impacted in NJ by the DACA ruling. Wendy stated that she will be going down to Washington next week to protest.

Adjournment

There being no further business the Literacy meeting was adjourned at 12:10 am.

Respectfully submitted by
Janine Schaeffer

Next Meeting Date: November 13th, 2017