



Joint Newark and Essex County

Literacy Committee/ Workforce Investment Board

January 8th, 2018

<i>Barcelos, Christian</i>	LVA,	<i>Schaeffer, Janine</i>	Essex WDB
<i>Beckford, Jasmyne</i>	NWDB	<i>Sternstein, Lynn</i>	JVS
<i>Celestin, Judy</i>	ECC	<i>Weiss, Howard</i>	ECWDB
<i>Chimbay, Ida</i>	NWDB	<i>Velez, Velasquez, A.</i>	NEWARK WORKS
<i>Chavarria, Ana</i>	FOCUS		

Welcome

Lynn Sternstein opened the meeting with introductions.

Minutes from the November meeting were approved.

It was agreed that the next meeting location will be at Essex County College and subsequent meetings will alternate between the Livingston location and ECC.

Consortia Catalog of Programs

Final pass to verify everyone's information is correct. The list will go to all the counselors at the County, Howard stated that he will need to sit down with Lillian Pichardo-Mancheno and her manager and explain that she will need to refer directly to the consortia. Apparently Lillian has been referring everyone to WIOA, even those not interested in training. Howard gave Judy the information for the Essex County Learning Links so everything should be up to date once that information is added.

Consortium update

Judith Celestin stated that the Consortium has been moving quickly towards the Integrated Education Training and have submitted three (3) programs (food handler, computers and CPR/First Aid). The first two have already been approved and in order for the CPR/First Aid training to be approved it must be married to a program.

Howard asked if this was a Federal requirement, and Judy responded that it is a federal requirement but with additional requirements from the state for certification.

It needs to be a recognized certification that needs to be tied to an occupation. So to even get credit in the AOSOS system there needs to be a recognized credential. There is an issue with regards to paying for an exam. Conceivably a student can go through all the training and then not be able to pay for the \$150 for the exam. There was discussion that it can be considered "supportive service."

Lynn stated that there is a meeting coming up later on this month. Judy stated that she will send out the info on the meeting which will take place in Trenton.

Howard stated the funding was \$1.672 Million for this year and Hudson County received more than Essex this year. Christian stated it was likely the result of the census. There was discussion surrounding the current political environment and any future census might hurt Essex County, as people will not come forward to be counted if their immigration status is questionable.

Strategic Plan

The Committee reviewed the existing strategic plan to see if the items still makes sense for the group to do.

The local plans have yet to be officially approved. Everyone agreed that the Mission is still applicable.

Howard wanted everyone to know that the One Stop comprises WIOA but also Employment Service, DVR and UI. The system talks about shared services but the bureaucracy fights against it. Howard announced that Margaret Tyson is a new Essex County Employment Service Local Manager.

There was discussion that the “meet and greet” should take place by May 2018. There was talk about possibly doing it to coincide with the May 14th Literacy Committee meeting.

Lynn asked if it’s a more limited renewal process this year for the consortia grant. Judy responded that when she submitted the interim report she received back an email saying that the state updated the system and that she needs to redo the report, and there are twenty (20) questions that they need to answer. Judy proposed that there be a joint meeting between the WDB, One Stops and the Literacy Consortia. Howard thought that would be a great thing to do. Howard stated early February would be the time to do the State meeting. Judy said she would email Maribel (state rep) but Lynn said if Howard can contact the state for this meeting. Howard stated that they will reach out to Joel, and he will talk to Davetta and send a letter on behalf of both boards asking for a meeting with consortia members. Judy stated that whenever they have the Director’s meetings the One Stops are not there.

The group has done some outreach to employment by inviting businesses into meetings as well as the Talent Networks.

There was discussion of attending different committee meetings because often the same issues come up in more than one meeting. Lynn stated she will try to attend the next Business Committee meeting. Howard stated that Rutgers New Brunswick has the Healthcare Talent Network. Howard stated that the Talent Development Centers were supposed to develop specific curricula in certain areas that would be exported to other places in order to train people. The Centers would also be capable of training people as well. But Howard said that it doesn’t look like they are exporting the curricula to other areas. Howard said going forward we need to get clarity on the role of the Talent Network and the Talent Development Centers and what products they will be make available to the local areas. Howard stated that we need to find out what areas are considered “growth areas. Christian stated that he feels the Talent Networks are focused on a higher level. Ninety-five (95%) percent of people that come in for Title II are not at that level.

Judy stated that for us the TDC has done IETs, where you don’t need a degree but rather a certification

There was discussion around “project search” disability training program that the Disability Committee had been inquiring about.

HSE

Betty Mirda was not at the meeting but sent Howard the following update “nothing new with TASC and will not know anything about the new test until after Monday with regard to changes. Aleshka Velez Torres said that you would have to send the student to her so she can do the contract for them but she can cover the fee for anyone to take the test under supportive services. She said they would need to have 8.0 or higher on TABE test to qualify.

Judy stated that this is the first that she is hearing about this and that she has a lot of students waiting. Allyson stated that the biggest problem is with the documentation (birth certificate, social, picture ID, proof of income, proof of address last 60 days) and if she doesn’t have them she can’t do anything.

NJALL Update

Christian Barcelos stated that with all of the changes they are planning some “one pagers.”

Adjournment

There being no further business the Literacy meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.

Respectfully submitted by
Janine Schaeffer

Next Meeting Date: March 12th, 2018