



Joint Newark and Essex County

Literacy Committee/ Workforce Investment Board November 13th, 2017

<i>Beckford, Jasmyne</i>	NWDB	<i>Melendez, Wendy</i>	La Casa
<i>Chimbay, Ida</i>	NWDB	<i>Mirda, Betty</i>	DEDETE
<i>Chavarria, Ana</i>	FOCUS	<i>Salmanowitz, Dennis</i>	EC Votech
<i>Diehl, Bob</i>	WDB Member	<i>Schaeffer, Janine</i>	Essex WDB
<i>Gonzalez, Danny</i>	NHA	<i>Sternstein, Lynn</i>	JVS
<i>Harvest, Garrett</i>	DVRS Newark	<i>Weiss, Howard</i>	ECWDB

Welcome

Lynn Sternstein opened the meeting with introductions.

Minutes from the September meeting were approved with changes.

WIOA Update

Howard stated that Henry Platkin former SETA Executive Director passed away. Ben Amos former Essex County WDB director also passed away within the past 2 weeks.

There will be a change in state administration and it remains to be seen who will be staying and who will be leaving. It is unclear what direction the new administration will be going. There are three (3) Talent Development Centers in the state, and the state gives out millions of dollars to these entities without any requirement that they distribute it to anyone else. For instance, the Financial Talent Network is located in Gloucester County and there is no requirement that they work with anyone else or to service folks in the north region. Jasmyne stated that employers are never at their meetings and it's frustrating that that piece is missing. She said that Retail Hospitality Network is much better at getting our feedback. Howard stated that it shouldn't be based on who is heading the network and that it should have been mandated.

Lynn stated JVS needed to apply to become a private career school even though everything they have ever done is grant based. They are required to provide a certification for career development. She also stated that the only thing that is in demand in that area is SafeServ which is certification in the hospitality network.

There was discussion around the stalled "work readiness credential."

The County has applied to be the One Stop Operator and the selection is still in process. Howard mentioned that several counties have selected private entities to be their One Stop Operator. New Jersey has decided to bid the Operator out every two (2) years instead of every four (4) as the federal law allows.

Consortium update

Lynn stated that Essex County College is the lead agency, and Judy Celestin is the director of ECC adult learning center. Judy couldn't be here today but she passed along some notes to Lynn which she read.

Regional LACES Trainings was held on October 18, 2017 at The Ciarc Center of Bergen Community College to address the NRS table changes, Periods of Participation (PoPs), and Integrated Education and Training (IET) and Integrated English Language and Civics Education (IELCE). The Department of Labor sponsored WIOA Title II Directors' Roundtable on October 27, 2017. Reorganization and Integrated Educational and Training

(IET) were discussed. Joel Thomas was introduced as the new Assistant Director, Special Programs and Populations. Howard K. Miller Jr. is Chief of Business Services. The Essex County Consortium submitted three (3) IETs for State review/approval. MS Office Specialist and Food Handler Training were approved and Public Health and Safety Training is pending.”

Wendy added that the food service program was approved and will be provided for by La Casa. Computer Literacy is approved and will be done by FOCUS, NCC and LVA. The first aid class is still in process and not yet approved. There is no extra funding for these classes. Wendy stated that they get \$1000/ per student, so they are able to service fewer students and still get the same amount of funding. There was discussion around the funding for these additional classes. Lynn stated that NJLWD said to use other sources of funding. It is supposed to be for people being served under “Civics” which is an ESL focused program as opposed to ABE, which is higher level students. So they are English learners, who also have a civics component, and must concurrently take an occupational training. Wendy stated that it was clear to her that they can use the literacy funding for at least part of the expense. She also stated that the food service training was very economical and online and the students get a certificate when they are done. Joel will get back to them with whether they can teach in Spanish.

For the new people Howard gave a summary that there is a set aside of money for the Consortium for Literacy and it is awarded through a competitive process. In Essex County there is a consortia of nine agencies including Essex County College, which is the lead agency. This includes English as a second language, Adult Basic Skills, El Civics (ESL with history), low literacy, High School Equivalency.

The IET Program needs to be connected to an occupational component. It must be offered but it can be waived. This is a pilot year and going forward all WIOA regulations would have to be mandatory.

HSE Update

Betty Mirda stated that there are no issues with the new platform of 9/10. She put a key next to each computer showing what each icon means. There is a problem with monitoring students on the platform. The 11/12 part is being released in January. The TABE 9/10 is not aligned with the TASC so they cannot use that assessment to determine whether a client is ready to take that test. Wendy uses the TASC readiness and it is about half as long to take the entire TASC.

Wendy stated that when clients are referred and are already being assessed they are taking that score with the expectation that the client will be reassessed after remediation. The expectation is now that the client must improve in both reading and math and there is no standard as to which test is given to them. The city tests everyone at the “M” level and only does part of the math, which is not accurate. She also stated that not all Welfare to Work providers are coming to these Literacy Committee meetings. She has requested a separate meeting with those literacy providers: NCC, JVS, La Casa, and Catholic Charities to understand how students are being pre-assessed in order to assess them properly at the end to determine whether progress has been made. Betty says that they give the survey and now also the locator. Wendy stated that they had received three (3) GA referrals with no test scores and were told that the city of Newark is supposed to test them not the county. Howard is supposed to check to make sure that the County is responsible for testing with their vendors.

NJALL

Wendy stated that NJALL stands for NJ Association for Lifelong Learners and it focuses on advocacy around Adult Basic Education. They are focused on the new administration and trying to figure out how things will change going forward. Also the conference is coming up in May.

Schedule 2018

Meetings schedule for next year- Jan 8, March 12, May 14, July 9, Sept, 10, Nov. 19.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted by
Janine Schaeffer

Next Meeting Date: January 8th, 2017