



## Joint Newark and Essex County

Literacy Committee/ Workforce Investment Board  
January 11, 2016

<i>Auerbach, Toni</i>	East Orange	<i>Schaeffer, Janine</i>	Essex WDB
<i>Barcelos, Cristhian</i>	NCC, NJALL	<i>Sternstein, Lynn</i>	JVS
<i>Davis, Elizabeth</i>	DVRS	<i>Weiss, Howard</i>	ECWIB
<i>Fisher, Nancy</i>	JVS	<i>Wise, Nicole</i>	NWIB
<i>Lane, Davett</i>	NWIB	<i>Wright, Tonya</i>	Training Inc.
<i>Mirda, Betty</i>	Testing		

### Welcome

Lynn Sternstein opened the meeting with introductions.

Minutes from October meeting was approved with following changes. Cristhian wanted to clarify that illegal immigrants cannot go to any State service. Also that many are even below 9<sup>th</sup> grade level.

December 2016 the state needs to rebid the GED/ High School Equivalency test.

### SCALES Update

Nancy stated that Scales (a subcommittee of SETC). See report attached- submitted to SETC.

The state plan is due in a couple of weeks. It is on the Governor's test. The regional plans are due in October and local plan due in December 2016. The State and Regional plan are not operational, but the local will be.

Nancy stated that it is really workforce oriented and there is a lot of people that won't fit into either category. Everyone is going to have to fit into a cohort. There can be more than one cohort an individual can fit into. There are all types of issues but the lower level will not be helped. The population is not 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade level. Goals are certification, high school diploma and employment or improvement in job. Clearly the focus is away from family literacy and citizenship and towards literacy.

There will be an issue with undocumented individuals because it won't count towards you goals. It will be a two way street so agencies will not be able to refer to the One-Stops.

There will be webinars and she encourages everyone to get on and make comments. The NGO will not change but it will be the following year. The changes will be in implementation because the regulations are not out yet.

Some of the employment goals will have to be met through the One-Stop. A lot of referrals will go out from One-Stop and for employment the individuals will go back to One Stop.

There is a grant about the library to do a similar function.

Career Connections – they want everyone to coordinate and have a consistent service delivery model (plan, prepare, succeed). Version 1 due out the end of February.

Nancy stated that in the public comment period it needs to be communicated that low level people will be a huge drain on the economy. By next January there will be a more cohesive system in terms of job placement.

Cristhian stated that LVA does take on the low literacy individuals. More and more individuals are low level and there is a huge problem with learning disabled individuals. There is no tests readily available to determine what type of learning disability. DVR sends them to a psychologist. The programs are not set up to deal with learning disabilities.

Skilled immigrants (legal) and entrepreneurs, there is a plan going forward to serve these individuals and will be presented to the SETC.

They will be looking to training for staff (providers) in professional development.

### **WIOA**

Nancy stated that the literacy providers in Essex County must look to making their curricula more employment friendly. Possibly combining vocational training along with other programs. Cristhian stated that he had to cut a week out of his training and because there is such a broad mixture of individuals that sit in the class it might be more beneficial for seminars to add on to what is presented in the class. Cristhian stated that perhaps as a consortia we could present seminars. Howard asked if the students get the indicator test. Betty stated that there is a test at \$6.

Davetta stated that ONET is a possible test that's free.

There are some issues with who gets credit for students that are referred to another agency. They need to serve new people first and everyone needs to make their numbers.

### **Training Inc**

Tonya Wright from Training Inc. they offer short term certificate programs. Do require a basic math 10D for each group. Certified nurse aide is a ninety (90) hour program and need a clean record however low level crimes can be ok) and Microsoft Office need a seventh grade level. For math 6.8 level. They will be moving to the M level. They also do job placement and have open enrollment. There is no cost as long as they meet the requirements and the individuals must be legal immigrants. Home Health Aide is currently not offered but in the past did not require a HS Diploma.

Also works with students with disabilities by making accommodation.

### **HSE/TABE**

Betty stated that the TABE is going to be changing and getting harder. They will be giving mock test questions to people. They say that individuals can make up to 250. If they take all three tests. They need a working email address and it will take about 2 weeks for the giftcards to get sent out to Betty. She needs to pick levels and she will be given E through A so she needs to know the level of the people. She needs one hundred people (100). There is no grading and they will not know how they did.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business the Literacy meeting was adjourned at 12:07

*Respectfully submitted by*  
Janine Schaeffer

Next Meeting Date March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016