



# Joint Newark and Essex County

## Literacy Committee/ Workforce Investment Board September 21, 2016

<i>Barcelos, Cristhian</i>	NCC, NJALL, LVA	<i>Melendez, Wendy</i>	La Casa de Don Pedro
<i>Blackwell, June</i>	East Orange	<i>Schaeffer, Janine</i>	Essex WDB
<i>Bleckford, Jasmyne</i>	NWDB	<i>Sternstein, Lynn</i>	JVS
<i>Celestin, Judith</i>	ECC	<i>Weiss, Howard</i>	ECWDB
<i>Lane, Davetta</i>	NWDB	<i>Wright, Tanya</i>	ECC

### Welcome

Lynn Sternstein opened the meeting with introductions.

Minutes from the July meeting was approved

### Talent Network

Tanya Write stated that at this time ECC has not signed the contract with TLD (Transportation, Logistics and Distribution) Talent Network, so they are not yet able to implement any process related to the grant. Mitra Choudhury has met with NJIT and they are working on the details. Carmen Perchado at ECC is the grant coordinator. The TLD Grant in association with NJIT is focused on developing ongoing dialogue to service the needs of employers through training. The grant is also focused on developing high quality employer driven partnerships. The target industry partnerships are tasked with developing and ongoing dialogue with key industry sectors including TLD to serve the talent and resource needs of NJ employers.

### WIAO Update

Howard said he was a bit disappointed with the GSETA conference because of the limited information regarding to guidance that was available. Nancy stated that the regulations have just come out and Howard stated that for the regulations to just come out two (2) years later makes implementation difficult.

The performance measures have been expanded to the Literacy program, Welfare to Work programs and Wagner Peyser. Skill gain is a performance measure that still hasn't been defined. It is not a follow-up measure. If you are in a program that crosses program years you can get two positive outcomes for a person- but it can also be a negative. A lot of providers wont enroll people in a program Jun 1<sup>st</sup>. Howard stated that it will be a problem for those in Welfare to Work which needs to be in programs

They also moved the performance measures another quarter down the road so it's going to be difficult in terms of follow-up. Next year, the state has made the decision to include all of the Wagner Peyser customers State employment people as well as the Work First clients. It will be difficult to follow up with thousands of people in terms of whether they are working. The numbers counted in denominator will be much greater, and there is very little you can do in order to influence the number. You will be able to double and triple enroll people in programs.

The State will be negotiating standards with each of the local areas though there will be no actuals because of the definitions and time frames. It might be two (2) years before they have actual data in order to have standards.

If there are more than ninety (90) days between when an individual ended their literacy program and when they start another program they will be exited and the clock will start ticking on their performance. In the past individuals that were working were excluded from the measure but how they will be counted.

Cristhian stated that going forward you will need to start getting social security #s. There are two states that are currently requiring it for Title II. If there is a problem with the social security # there is a possibility of a problem with data matching. Howard stated that for earnings they use the LOOPS system, there is the ability to use supplemental information but it is unlikely. You can use supplemental but there will be so many people that it will be impractical to use anything else.

Wendy asked how the people are being followed. Howard will need to ask how the systems will be matched. LASIS as opposed to AOSOS.

Cristhian stated that the library grant program is a mess and that the state hired four (4) new people. There are different reporting systems and have revised the invoices numerous times and have yet to get paid. Howard Miller's plan is to roll them up in to Title II to make the libraries a partner with the Title II agency. The libraries are the lead agency because they have the contract so Howard Miller doesn't understand that the libraries are not capable of running the programs they are really only providing the space. Cristhian said that the state is starting to micromanage everything, Apparently, Howard Miller believes that LVA services should be complimentary.

There is a November 4<sup>th</sup> meeting in Trenton with Howard Miller- they want Howard to attend. Currently, there is no Education or Labor Commissioner. Cristhian also stated that the state has no appreciation for LVA at all. He said their numbers are better than many agencies. Howard Miller want's six hours for next year. Cristhian said that it's staffed by volunteers and that four (4) is the best they can do a week. If the state pushes it to six (6) they will no longer provide the service. Nancy stated that according to the State Plan low literacy must be served and LVA are the ones that will provide that service. Judith stated that these results were based on a survey.

### **Consortium Update**

Judith Celestin stated that she recently submitted July's reimbursement. Many agencies have been BEST+ testing and there have been some issues with it. There is a need to work on MOUs for the One Stop/ Consortium with the deadline in January. MOUs to the agencies are being worked on. All MOUs have to go through legal first so it might take a while. Howard stated that in the past there has been confusion about whether individuals are Title I or Title II and the new form will hopefully make it clear.

Howard Miller said that no active recipient of state dollars should be involved in the local plan. Howard stated the meeting is next week regarding the instructions for the local plan. Judy stated that they are mandated to be a part of these committees and if there was a choice she would choose not be part of it. There are other issues regarding the RFP for the One-Stop Operator.

### **Strategic Plan**

The committee wants to move forward on the Meet & Greet as well as the One-Stop Training. It was agreed that the group will come up with dates at the next meeting. Discussion about going out to agencies and doing an orientation

### **Announcements**

None

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business the Literacy meeting was adjourned at 12:00

*Respectfully submitted by*  
Janine Schaeffer

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