



Joint Newark and Essex County

Literacy Committee/ Workforce Investment Board March 21, 2016

<i>Auerbach, Toni</i>	East Orange	<i>Melendez, Wendy</i>	La Casa de Don Pedro
<i>Barcelos, Cristhian</i>	NCC, NJALL, LVA	<i>Mirda, Betty</i>	Testing
<i>Celestin, Judith</i>	ECC	<i>Schaeffer, Janine</i>	Essex WDB
<i>Chavarria, Ana</i>	FOCUS	<i>Sternstein, Lynn</i>	JVS
<i>Fisher, Nancy</i>	JVS	<i>Weiss, Howard</i>	ECWDB
<i>Lane, Davetta</i>	NWDB	<i>Vichness, Sharlene</i>	Language Directions

Welcome

Lynn Sternstein opened the meeting with introductions.

Minutes from January meeting was approved

Nancy requested that the SCALES report be attached to the minutes and Christian stated that the link will be sent out shortly so everyone can access it.

SCALES Update

The State Plan is due on April 1st is going to be open for public comment around March 29th.

The SETC has changed some of the wording to include must, so now the state must serve all levels of learners. Howard said it was good that they said it but it's meaningless unless it makes it to the State Report.

SCALES has formed a task force to work with the Department of Labor on the Professional Development System. Christian stated that based on the responses from the teachers they are working on an NGO.

Aaron and Patty are also planning on attending the NJALL Conference which is scheduled for April 8th and it is sold out and at Brookdale Community College.

There was discussion around how some people take numerous TABE tests, one person took the test twenty-seven (27) times and the results were all over the place.

The Best Plus test changes July 1st, where the test as well as the scale will be changed. The TABE will be changing from 9/10 to 11/12, which will make it more in line with the Common Core standards and will be moving to the new platform "Insight". The level three (3) for the High School Equivalency will be coming up to where it is the final level rise in to the test. The software will be coming out shortly which will prepare students for the harder test. You will not be able to push forward any test scores, everyone will have to be retested to the harder test. TASC will be changing in August.

Howard asked if we need to purchase new tests and Betty replied that they will credit us for the unused tests but the new one is more expensive and therefore there will be fewer tests.

Judy stated that there was a webinar and that if anyone is interested in actual training there will be a date in August.

Judy stated that some of the changes for the High School Equivalency Test are lowering the scores, taking out some parts and shortening the writing section since a lot of people weren't passing.

Eastwick College gives the GED and they give the students the "Wonderlink" test first so they already have a good idea of which students will pass.

Wendy stated that her testing has been going well and that they were able to fill all the slots for English testing. The challenge is the Spanish testing, she thinks because there was an entire year where people were unable to take the test as a result of their legal status (which has now changed). Currently as long as you can prove that you are a New Jersey resident you can sit for the test. They are planning to do a lot of marketing now for the Spanish test. Cristhian stated that the problem is that no one is doing classes in Spanish so there is no preparation for the students

There was a discussion about the HiSet and whether they changed the scoring for NJ and the answer was no. Betty stated that all of the State contracts are up at the end of this year. The problem is that students are receiving a piece of paper that states that they pass when they didn't and that is a huge problem.

Strategic Plan

The mission statement : To enable adult learners at all levels to attain skills in reading, writing, math and basic computing that support academic development and credential training through a continuum of instructional services in Adult Basic Education, ESOL, and EL Civics, leading to: academic achievement, a credential, post-secondary education, citizenship, and/or employment.

This was voted on and approved

The rest of the meeting was a discussion of the strategic plan. (See attached).

Announcements

Retreat is scheduled for May 17th, 2016.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted by
Janine Schaeffer

Next Meeting Date July 18th, 2016