



Joint Newark & Essex County Welfare to Work Committee

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

50 S. Clinton Street, East Orange, NJ

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Mary Alexander, Ben Amos, Ashley Barnes, Kelli Bell-Taylor, Linda Brodie, Rodney Brutton, Harold Cray, Joseph C. Epps, Danny Denise Gonzalez, Angela High, Agatha Kennedy, Betty Mirda, Miriam Rodriguez, Janine Schaeffer, Hector Smith, David Weiner, Howard Weiss

Meeting Called to Order, Co-Chairpersons, David Weiner & Danny Denise Gonzalez

Mr. Weiner led a roundtable introduction of all committee members. He made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting; minutes approved. Danny-Denise Gonzalez introduced the guest vendors.

PART I- Vendor Presentation

New Community Corporation (NCC) - Rodney Brutton

The organization is contracted to work for the TANF and GA population to train in Automotive Technology, Culinary Arts, Building Trades and Cashiering. They have an Employment Advisory Council that discusses job opportunities and qualifications for entering specific fields. The contract calls for the following results: Shoprite 10 TANF and 10 GA- 3 students are currently enrolled, while 7 of 17 who completed the program are currently working. There were about 11 terminations/ no shows for the Shoprite program. Culinary Arts calls for 5 GA and 5 TANF students- 3 of the 4 TANF who are enrolled in the program have been offered employment and 0 GA. The Building Trades Program calls for 5 TANF and 5 GA- 3 TANF are currently enrolled and 3 of the 7 who completed program hours are working in the construction trade. There were 5 terminations/ no shows for Construction Program. The Automotive Technician Program calls for 5 TANF and 5 GA- 5 TANF and 3 GA are currently enrolled. There were 8 no shows. The ability to pass a drug test and childcare challenges are among the most common issues and challenges at the school. The Family Service Bureau of NCC usually assists with supportive services. NCC recently received a grant to open a Financial Opportunity and Job Development Center to provide financial counseling and resume development for its students. Mr. Brutton communicated that the agency tracks students for up to thirty days after placement.

Catholic Charities- Hector Smith

The organization offers training in Computer Literacy, Customer Service and Hospitality, Forklift Training and Building Maintenance. There have been 32 enrollments out of 62 referrals. There are 28 active clients. Of the 15 completions, 10 have resulted in placements. There have been 15 terminations mostly due to poor attendance; 2 inappropriate referrals. There have been 10 no shows. Mr. Smith stressed the importance of giving individuals a chance and they have employers to come in to offer job readiness. One of the highlights of the program is that they regularly host career fairs. Even though tracking isn't done after ninety days, some clients come back for more service when a job doesn't work out.

Mr. Epps suggested that the organization should review the RFP before submission to ensure that budgetary figures add up properly and that a professional RFP is submitted. Mr. Weiner stated that, although he isn't condoning the practice, it is common for vendors to submit cut and pasted RFPs. Ms. Gonzalez suggested that once the ranking system is affected by the submission of inapplicable information provided within RFPs and/or cut and pasted pages, vendors will have more incentive to provide a higher quality product. This will aid both the grant writer and the RFP reviewer.

Academy of Allied Health Sciences- Suresh Sagi

This vendor offers training in EKG, Patient Care Technician, Phlebotomy, Medical Coding, Medical Assisting and Pharmacy Technician. The organization is contracted to provide allied health training computer skills and soft skills for about 30 clients. In October, there were 11 enrollments; 4 terminations and 6 completions (clients passed the national certification exam). Currently, there are 13 enrollments with 5 terminations resulting from poor attendance. Students are sent to clinics which serve as a performance based internship. The school's contract with CVS provides students with employment as they obtain training or wait for testing. Clients are screened by giving them classroom time to get a feel for what program they are most interested in.

TANF funding must be expended within twelve months whereas WIOA funding may be encumbered over eighteen months.

Ms. Gonzalez suggested that we should include a request for employers to provide employee evaluations to vendors after the probationary period so that training can be geared to improve any weaknesses.

Next Steps

Ms. Gonzalez suggested that the committee should continue to bring vendors to the table while we identify the challenges and objectives that they face so that we can improve the RFP process. Mr. Weiner recommended that she collaborate all of the committee's accomplishments to be used for the strategic plan and advised that he would pull everything together for submission.

Committee business was concluded. A motion was presented and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned.