



Joint Newark and Essex County

Literacy Committee/ Workforce Investment Board ECC

March 12, 2018

<i>Barcelos, Christian</i>	LVA, NCC	<i>Mirda, Betty</i>	DEDE-EC
<i>Beckford, Jasmyne</i>	NWDB	<i>Schaeffer, Janine</i>	Essex WDB
<i>Celestin, Judy</i>	ECC	<i>Sternstein, Lynn</i>	JVS
<i>Chimbay, Ida</i>	NWDB	<i>Vera, Lissett</i>	FOCUS
<i>Harvest, Gary</i>	DVRS- Newark	<i>Weiss, Howard</i>	ECWDB
		<i>Wright, Tanya</i>	ECC

Welcome

Lynn Sternstein opened the meeting with introductions.

Minutes from the January meeting were approved with certain corrections from Judy.

Testing

Howard stated that he and Betty went to the operations meeting and the sales person from DRC was there and gave an interesting presentation, after she left they had a discussion. There are several companies that have tests that are available and approved through 2019. DRC is claiming that they are the only test approved through 2024. There was a major change that their test is significantly longer and no one has ever informed us nor has anyone asked for our input.

Howard had asked John Basica about this and was informed that only the “youth” population is required to have this level of testing. All the other populations can be given the locator, which is apparently free. So Judy stated that the information that they are receiving is very different and that she has been advocating to have more inclusive meetings where everyone can hear the same version.

Howard stated that all the schools that are on the approved list (ETPL) have prerequisites that are based on the old test. Howard is guessing that none of the schools have been informed of this change.

DVR uses Employment Service to schedule clients to take the TABE test. One of the big concerns is that since the math is much harder clients might not be able to score high enough to get into training.

The last time they changed the test was in 2002. No one could recall a lead time given for the change but Christian stated that there is money in the grant for the change.

Betty stated that there are other new features like drag and drop, multiple correct answers and fill in the blank.

Judy stated that the only test that they are allowed to enter into LACES is the TABE.

Howard stated that he will reach out to Danielle and urge that they have a session with the other vendors and recommend that all other One-Stops as well as consortia members be invited to that meeting.

There was discussion around if the One Stop gives the locator, then ECC can purchase the test from the One Stop. Betty stated that it should be fairly simple to do because the county has the jail as a school. Betty stated

that they currently have in stock one hundred fourteen thousand tests. Betty stated that she sets the test up and every client would then get a “test ticket”. The student puts the information into the database themselves they can then save the results, print them out, make a pdf, email etc. Judy stated for her to get a decreased rate they would have to purchase five thousand tests. Howard will look into whether the County can sell their test licenses.

Judy is proposing that we get everyone in the same room with the consortium, and we have a workshop where you share with them how to go into the system, how to register a student that is already in the system, and give the test. Betty stated that you would download the version. Howard stated it sounds a little complicated but it is a possibility.

Judy also commented that the people who will be making these decisions in Trenton have yet to be hired.

Betty stated that she gets the report every month telling how many tests at each of the schools were given. She would get the licenses that are broken down by school so she knows how much has been spent.

Judy stated that if a person is ESL and they test above the highest level of ESL you are to give them a TABE test.

Betty stated that appears that the new version of the TASC is harder. She has seen people who retested score lower. At the moment it could be that they are still collecting data in order to adjust a passing score.

NJALL Update

Christhian Barcelos stated that with all of the changes they are planning some “one pagers.” They are trying to put together some things and there is hope that there will be some support at the State level. He said that the State does claim that they support adult education. It’s not really the state its WIOA Title I and Title II and all the money for the customized training. They have been making a case for that but we will see with the new administration.

One Stop Update

Howard stated that there was a significant change to Sam Okparaeke’s position in that he is now the Deputy County Administrator, Director of Small Business and Affirmative Action and is retaining the position of WDB Director.

There has been an appointment of Hugh Bailey to the position of Assistant Commissioner who previously worked at Philadelphia Works and has experience in employment training.

Lynn stated that she attended the last Business and Economic Development meeting and found that Mitch is having trouble finding people to run an embroidery machine and gave folks a relatively simple test in stringing together paper clips and if they could do that then they could run the machine.

Jasmyne Beckford stated that at the “My Brother’s Keeper” event was very successful. She also stated that the NJMEP which now has the manufacturing talent network and promotes their apprenticeship programs as great opportunities. She also stated that the North Jersey Partners is having a Millennial Event on May 11th 9am-12pm at Montclair State.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted by
Janine Schaeffer

Next Meeting Date: May 14th, 2018