



Joint Newark and Essex County

Literacy Committee/ Workforce Investment Board Training Inc., Newark, NJ March 11, 2019

<i>Bailey, Sadiayah</i>	Newark Youth One Stop	<i>Nieves, Sweet</i>	Newark Works
<i>Beckford, Jasmyne</i>	NWDB	<i>Schaeffer, Janine</i>	ECWDB
<i>Carvajal, Allyson</i>	LWD	<i>Sternstein, Lynn</i>	JVS
<i>Celestin, Judith</i>	ECC	<i>Weiss, Howard</i>	ECWDB
<i>Melendez, Wendy</i>	LaCasa	<i>Wright, Tanya</i>	ECC
<i>Mirda, Betty</i>	DEDE-EC		

Welcome

Lynn Sternstein opened the meeting with introductions. **Minutes from the January meeting were approved.**

Testing Update:

Lynn stated that we now know what everyone will be doing. Essex County College and JVS will be going to CASAS online. Training Inc. will stay with TABE paper and LaCasa with TABE online. The County of Essex is likely going with CASAS online, however the County owns a lot of administrations for TABE. She stated definitely for the WIOA clients they will be moving to CASAS. The County Votech School will be a HiSet Testing Center.

For the Hi-Set test, every other state that uses it has an 8 level to pass. NJ was requiring a 9. They have been arguing that it didn't make sense to do something so off from the rest of the county. The actual test was telling people that they passed and they didn't find out until they didn't receive their diploma. But now the State is retroactively applying the 8 level to pass to those who took it since January 2019.

There was an issue regarding the GA clients being able to use their work related expense money, just like TANF clients in order to pay for the test (\$104.99). They are trying to get that put in writing. Allyson stated that she would prefer different funding be used instead of that money because there is a \$500 lifetime limit. She added that for "needs based work support" they must be "WorkFirst" if not, then they would need to be under WIOA. There was also a discussion about whether those individuals would be enrolled and counted in the WIOA numbers. Allyson also stated that the way the regulation reads that it would not likely be able to be used in this way. She further stated that if there is a need for this, there are ways to include it in a partner contract.

Consortium Update:

Judy stated that there will be some profession development training coming up March 22nd. CASAS training is April 11th and LACES April 26th.

HSE Update

Wendy stated that the number of people getting tested is dropping. Betty thinks the word got out about how hard it is. They both agreed the majority taking the test are youth. Wendy stated she didn't know what was going on but she had twelve (12) out of twenty (20) take the test last month. She also stated that November and December are normally slow months with the holidays, but it has not picked up January, February and so far in March the numbers are almost half of what they were.

Betty stated that the Youth Program pays the students \$1000.00 if they pass the test. Up to age 24 is considered a "Youth". They would take the TABE test, be referred to Apryl and be deemed eligible. Judy mentioned there is confusion when she calls the One Stop sometimes. Betty believes that it is because a TANF or GA client is required to be in certain activities and are only able to use fifteen (15) hours a week for school. So this type of client either has to have a job, CWEP or another activity for twenty (20) hours a week. Allyson stated that anytime someone is designated as WorkFirst everything must be coordinated through their case manager and they should be identified as such first. Sometimes it happens in the middle of the process for another program like when their unemployment runs out then they need to stop and open up a case and then the person would need to be enrolled back in.

Judy stated that the counselors are giving the clients the schedule and it was intended to be for counselors only. Allyson agreed that it was time to do some training for the case management staff. Howard did state that the staff should know what the impacts are on unemployment, WIOA and WFNJ. Allyson asked for an itemized list of concerns that perhaps technical assistance can address. Howard said specifically there are problems with other funding sources in particular. Allyson stated that there will always be new initiatives but the challenge is how to incorporate them as to not interrupt the existing processes. She thinks there is an opportunity to cross train but there is also changes in slot management. Howard said that we need to identify who is the responsible person to identify the other 20 hours of activity. Howard also brought up that many times with a referral the funding source used is not identified. Allyson stated that some agencies that need to have the information that is in AOSOS do not have access. Howard stated that it is ridiculous more than half of the agencies that need it do not have access to AOSOS. Howard said the Title II vendors could put information in the system.

Howard read from the instructions for the local plan update: "Describe how the local board will coordinate workforce development activities carried out under this Title (II) in the local area with the provision of Adult Education and Literacy activities, Title II in the local area including a description of how the local board will carry out a review of local applications submitted under Title II." He further went on "describe how the local board will work in conjunction with the local Title II providers to coordinate workforce development activities in the local area by integrating the provision of Adult education and literacy activities under WIOA, Title II, this includes but is not limited to integrated education training (IETs) and implementation of the career pathways model. Include an outline of how the local area will coordinate testing between workforce development, One-Stop Career Center and Adult education providers. Coordination includes partner referrals must go beyond that process to demonstrate a collaborative effort to ensure quality and timeliness of service to the customer... This section must include a description of how the local area will effectively refer One Stop clients to WIOA Title II programs and how Title II program recipients will access One Stop Career Center services..." The plan modification is due to the state on May 10th with the approval at the June 20th WDB meeting and must be out for public comment by June 30th. Howard stated that he would email that section of the plan to that deals with literacy to Lynn and she can send it out to everyone.

Howard stated that you will be getting new goals, even though you are a literacy program the measurements will be the same as ours. While you don't have a goal, they will have the actual number achieved.

Wendy asked Judy to bring the report for the next meeting. Howard also stated that they need to look at the potential for co-enrollment. Jasmyne stated that Newark has already updated their plan.

NJALL Update

Wendy stated that the conference is coming up on May 10th. The 2019 scholarship is due the end of April.

SCALES

Lynn stated that Nancy sent an update that Danielle is now officially the new State Director. There is a new white paper in draft stage, which looks at the integration of the system. Wendy added that they should have input.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted by
Janine Schaeffer

Next Meeting Date: May 13th, 2019, JVS, Livingston