



Joint Newark and Essex County

Literacy Committee/ Workforce Investment Board Essex County College July 8, 2019

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Sternstein, Lynn

LaCasa
ECWDB
JVS

Vera, Ana L.
Weiss, Howard
Wright, Tanya

FOCUS
ECWDB
ECC

Welcome

Lynn Sternstein opened the meeting with introductions.

Minutes from the May meeting were approved.

One-Stop Update

Howard stated that we are working on the update to the local plan and will send out the section that pertains to the Literacy Committee as soon as it is complete.

Testing Update:

Lynn stated that there are various trainings for CASAS. One to be set up as a testing site, one to be a coordinator and another to be a proctor of the test. She added that there are only two of them that have to be trained in everything. The test is now harder and it will be more difficult for there to be gains. Howard stated that every single person now has to be retested. Betty was trying to give everyone a post-test with the 9/10 before the end of June. Lynn stated that they did the same regardless of how far into the program they were because they are either above or below sixth grade.

The state mandated CASAS at the end of April. Originally we were allowed to post-test people through the fall with TABE and then they cut it off after the state mandated CASAS.

Wendy stated that it is not an urgent need for her to get the testing up and running because the out of school youth program doesn't start until September and the Welfare to Work customers will be pre-tested first and they will post-test them four (4) months later. She stated that she is post testing them with the TABE 9/10 on paper. Howard stated that Trenton is saying you are supposed to re-test them with CASAS. Howard stated Danielle's position is that everyone should have started using the 11/12 starting in April and completely stop using 9/10. They are extending the use of the 11/12. Wendy stated that she got the extension for the summer and got more new clients today. Wendy stated that they don't need to know what form she used as she gets scores from the county not knowing which test was given. Lynn stated that Julius has told her that that information is not referenced to be provided in the contract. Getting more information can only help the client. CASAS has a built in locator.

Howard stated that this is a conversation to have with Betty on what information to provide to the vendors so they can properly post-test the clients. Wendy stated that after they test they print out an assessment and provide the student and case manager a copy.

There was a discussion about Best Plus and how it is an oral test and very subjective.

There was discussion on how much easier it is to administer the test on-line and that once centers are set up they will see the benefits. Wendy stated that she needs to make sure that the staff are all doing everything the same way and that she usually gives a midway test as well.

Wendy suggested that the committee start collecting data on the test and compile it for dissemination at the WDB meeting. We therefore need to be clear on what data we should collect. Everyone should be prepared to discuss what data to collect at the next meeting.

Howard will check with Apryl regarding the contact for “Leaders for Life” they are doing ABE for youth and are becoming a testing site.

Wendy stated for the ETPL they don’t enter a WIOA Title II client because all that information is in LACES. Now they don’t even have to enter walk-ins. Welfare to Work clients do need to be entered as do the Newark Youth clients.

Consortium Update:

Since the last time we met, the Consortia funding came through and it amounted to two million fifty-nine thousand five hundred seventy-three dollars (\$2,059,573.) It is an increase over last year. Wendy reminded everyone that this money was already earmarked but there will likely be a fight for funding in the near future.

Meet & Greet

It was decided to schedule a meet and greet. Each organization would do a ten (10) minute presentation. It was decided that September 24th would be a good date. A session in the morning and another in the afternoon. We would host it at 50 South Clinton. Howard stated he needed to talk to Julius to approve the staff attending this event and to host it. There will be an organization meeting scheduled for August 19th. Howard is to find out who is responsible for the bus cards.

There is also a lot of moving counselors around with the reorganization of GA.

There was also complaints regarding “e-time” because the vendors are no longer entering information. They fill out a form manually for the county to enter the information in and it is rarely completed in a timely manner. Then the client receives a letter stating that they are not in compliance and it also affects the vendors billing.

Adjournment

There being no further business the Literacy meeting was adjourned at 12:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Janine Schaeffer

Next Meeting Date: August 19th, 2019, JVS East Orange