



County of Mercer Workforce Development Board

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Virgen Velez
Acting Director

Brian M. Hughes
County Executive

Keith Secret
Chairperson

WDB Literacy Committee ♦ Chairperson: Margaret (Peg) Gould

December 7, 2022 ♦ 9:00 a.m. (Zoom) ♦ Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

Peg Gould (MCCC), **Lori Johansson** (TCNJ Center for Community Engagement), **Keith Secret** (WDB Chair), **Wanda Webster Stansbury** (Center for Child and Family Achievement), **Nancy Thomson** (Child Care Connection)

WDB /One Stop Staff: Virgen Velez

Welcome & Introductions

Peg Gould opened the meeting and welcomed the group. Introductions were made.

Review and Approval of October 5, 2022 Meeting Minutes

- Nancy Thomson made the motion to accept the minutes, Lori Johansson seconded and the minutes were approved

Job Fair Feedback

It was held on October 26th at the Cure Arena 3:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. to allow current employees to seek part-time jobs.

- 108 registered employers and 91 employers from all sectors attended including State and County agencies
- 528 customers registered and 300 attended (estimated)
- Always difficult to determine actual number of individuals that obtained jobs as a result
- The next one will be held in the Spring of 2023 with same format, with more marketing and add a seasonal component because of pending summer jobs surge
- List of employers provided to jobseekers will be revised to include positions where possible

Programs Update

Media blitz will announce the reopening of the One Stop in January for walk-in services and training opportunities.

WLL (Workforce Learning Link)

- Approximately 9 people currently using services to improve scores in order to enter training
- Required level of service for this year is 33 customers
- Expect levels to increase as training opportunities open in January

Title II Consortium

- High School Equivalency program has a low level of enrollment
- Overall there is a trend of age demographics; many 19-21-year-old individuals that were in high school during the pandemic are registering and obtaining their HSE within 5 weeks of enrollment
- MCCC is currently the only Consortium partner offering in-person services; the other 3 partners offer remote-only instructional programs with loaner laptops

Wanda suggested identifying someone who would act as an enrollment and engagement staff person to support partners in increasing registrants by going into the community/neighborhoods to promote programs – a past User of services would be beneficial. Wanda volunteered to mentor any person identified in such a role.

The NJDLWD is hosting a visit from the Washington D.C. Occupational Career and Technical Education Agency (affiliated with the Federal Department of Education). NJ is being monitored for its Title II programs. Peg will attend an “interview” meeting on 12/12/22 at the NJ Dept. of Education.

MCCC is opening its ESL registration the week of December 19th; will close when 150 new students are registered. There are staff shortages. There are currently 100 ESL students enrolled

Registration for new HSE students will occur January 2-4, 2023.

The Consortium continues to work on developing a succinct syllabus to address soft skills teaching/attainment. ESL and HSE teachers from the Consortium will collaborate on this task.

Announcements/Events

- Lori is temporarily organizing all of the 1st year Community Engagement Learning service for 900 students. Contact her to request student volunteers
- Nancy is retiring in February
- CCFA is sponsoring the “Share the Warmth” coat campaign; Gregory and Jefferson school students are recipients and will also receive books

Meeting Adjournment

- Peg Gould made the motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Keith Secret.
- Meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

PY '22 Meeting Dates: 1st Wednesday bi-monthly ♦ 9:00 a.m.

February 1, 2023

April 5, 2023

June 7, 2023