



County of Mercer Workforce Development Board

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Christian Estevez
Director

DAN BENSON
County Executive

Keith Secrest
Chairperson

WDB Literacy Committee ♦ Interim Chairperson: Keith Secrest

September 11, 2024 (rescheduled from September 4, 2024)

9:30 a.m. ♦ Zoom Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

Keith Secrest, Chair (Kinetics Industries); **Lori Johansson** (College of NJ); **Lorena Morales** (LALDEF); **Cindy Jackson** (Child Care Connection); **Jill Marcus** (MCCC); **Rafael Agliata** (MCCC)

WDB Staff: Virgen Velez, Christian Estevez- incoming WDB Director, Eddie Robberts (MCOTES Director)

Welcome & Introductions

Keith Secrest opened the meeting at approximately 9:34 a.m. and welcomed the group. Introductions were made.

Review and Approval of June 26, 2024 Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Keith Secrest & seconded by Cindy Jackson. The motion passed and the minutes were approved as circulated.

WDB Issues/Updates

Title II Consortium - Jill Marcus

- ✓ Received a bum in our funding for PY 25.
- ✓ Started both GED and ESL classes
- ✓ Running about 14 ESL classes and 8 GED. The average size of the classes is 25.
- ✓ Plenty of instructors but not enough funding.

Notice of Grant Opportunity (NGO) – Virgen Velez

- Replaces WLL (Workforce Learning Link) funding
- Few people interested in literacy skills and a few, not many for ESL
- For the Adult Literacy Innovations Initiative, the WDB's are the ones eligible to apply for \$500,000 max for 23 months. They expect to start November 1st thru September 30, 2026.
- The Purpose is to provide adult, digital, & family literacy; building partnerships, provide the skills, training & work experience to assist individuals obtain/retain employment.
- We have a short window for Proposals, that are due: September 30 at 3:00 p.m.
- Everything that is in the WLL will be removed by the State and will have to be included in the NGO.

PY 2023 – 2026 Committee Goals:

- Early Mercer Reads (EMR)
- Recruitment - Identify agencies/populations (TASK, Rescue Mission, Daylight/Twilight)

Announcements – Agency/Community Events

- Job and Career Fair will be on October 16, 2024 from 3:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment - Jill Marcus made a motion to adjourn, Lori Johansson seconded. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:15 a.m.

Next Meeting Dates – Quarterly - First Wednesday Quarterly 12:00 - 1:00

- December 4, 2024
- March 5, 2025
- June 4, 2025