



County of Mercer
Workforce Development Board
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WDB Literacy Committee Meeting
April 20, 2016
MCCC Trenton Campus

Attendees: Peg Gould (MCCC), Gay Eagan (Mercer Street Friends), Pat Shump (One Stop), Jan Kleindienst (Lutheran Ministries), Ida B. Malloy (Rescue Mission, Heledona Katra Princeton YWCA)

Staff: Cathe Doolan

The Literacy committee meeting was opened by Peg Gould, at 9:20 a.m.

Minutes: Minutes from the meeting of the last meeting were not available for approval.

Adult Literacy Consortium Update

Peg Gould reported that the National Grant Opportunity (NGO) is expected to be announced within the next 2-weeks. After announcement the committee will need to hold a community meeting to invite all of the interested providers. Peg will meet with MCCC fiscal person to develop the Rubric for the grant. The WDB and Peg need to actively seek more partnerships among the ABE-ESL populations.

Friday is the meeting for the ABS database review. Consortium reports and input of all student data will be reviewed by LWD database Laces NexGen. Last year the consortium received a good database review; this year may not be as favorable because of many challenges faced and with transition into WIOA.

Reporting requirements for the grant are very heavy and the consortium is expecting the dollar per student may change but is hoping the overall amount to stay the same.

Update on Test for Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC)

Traditionally there are 2 testing dates per month for the TASC. There is only 1 testing series scheduled in May and testing center slots are filled (16-seats). There are no dates announced for June or July. Gay said that the Hamilton School system has been accommodating her overflow of students.

There have been complaints by students about difficulty in getting test results. Previously they registered with the system then were able to check their scores on-line. Now they cannot access on-line scores and have had to call admissions for results. Peg reported that there is a communications problem between the 2 databases and the time to process tests. Peg recommended agencies contact Larry Breeden at the NJ Department of Education.

Peg outlined the benchmarks that need to be met for Title II programs, 75% must get a diploma and register in post-secondary training and attain a credential. Discussion around the table arose about the difficulty of getting students to register for post-secondary because of the cost. It was suggested that students attend the Training Orientations at the One-Stop to find out if they would be eligible to get assistance for training programs.

Peg has developed a Workforce Skills curriculum of topic that can be integrated into her ABS programs. She will email this to partners to pilot.

There will be a focus group meeting to do Strategic Planning because of the great need identified for English as Second Language (ESL) training throughout Mercer County. Peg has opened Civics and Career training class (i.e. learn path to citizenship, trip to library to get card, visit to State House, etc.).

Report: Workforce Learning Link

Pat Shump reported on the Learning Link. The Level of Service (LOS) goal was just increased from 74 to 99 students. To date the LL has enrolled 63 students (meeting a 64% of LOS).

The Outcome Goal is that 60% of exited students will enter employment, enroll in training or secondary education or obtain an HSE. The actual number as of March is 25 of 44 student (57%) who exited achieved a positive outcome. (17 were employed, 8 entered training and 0 have obtained the HSE).

The Educational Gains goal is 30% of exited students will achieve at least one educational gain. The actual number is 48% of exited students achieved an educational gain (21 students).

New Business/Issues

Peg asked for input on inviting new providers to join the Literacy Committee or getting providers already on the committee to attend more meetings. Some of the names of organizations that were suggested:

- Isles
- Trenton Area Soup Kitchen
- Latino American Defense Fund has a Welcome Center in Trenton and offers ESL training. Discussion on whether going from undocumented to documented would be enough to allow population to receive services through the NGO program.
- El Centro and Lutheran Ministries are recognized as a path to citizenship providers.
- Daylight/Twilight Program
- Necessary to get representation from the Public Schools
- Technical School
- Organizations that can assist students with expungements
- A Better Way
- Crisis Ministry sometimes can help with driver's license restoration

Other programs and services considered for outreach were:

- Transportation
- Child Care providers
- ABE-HSE-ESL
- Civics organizations
- Driver's License
- Health
- Finance
- Driver Training programs
- Organization that work with abuse
- Violence Reduction Programs
- Trenton Police
- Department of Child and Family Services
- Boys & Girls Club mentorship program is very impressive

Next Meeting: There will be a community meeting when the NGO is released and the WDB will need to provide a Letter of Support.

Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.