



County of Mercer
Workforce Development Board
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WDB Oversight Committee Meeting
April 19, 2016
Mercer County One-Stop Career Center

Attendees: Keith Secrest, Al Edenzon, Jim Purcell, Liz Muoio, Virgen Velez

The Oversight committee meeting was opened by Keith Secrest, Committee Chair, at 9:15 a.m.

Minutes: Minutes from the meeting of October 20, 2015, were approved with no questions or objections. Jim Purcell moved they be approved, 2nd Al Edenzon.

Update at the One-Stop: Joyce Yon, previously Employment Services Manager, is no longer at the One-Stop. She was reassigned to the Central office at LWD to work on the ABAWDs project until her expected retirement in May.

ABAWD: There is an increase to the WFNJ numbers of people served due to the Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) population. They are now required to participate 20-hours per week in a work activity because the waiver that exempted them from participating in the last few years has ended.

Report: Training Vendor Performance PY 15 3rd Quarter Report (PY 13, PY 14 and PY 15)

Virgen reported that the vendor performance is on par with last year and there is still one quarter left to enroll customers. A surprising result of the performance analysis is that not as many people going into the health care programs as in past years. Virgen suggested that the WDB invite the Health Care Talent Network Coordinator to the next healthcare meeting to discuss the newly created Health Care Talent Development Center at Rutgers, to perhaps help create a framework for the committee's focus for the coming year.

Harris School of Business has had an increase in enrollment because they have been awarding scholarships to students. The One-Stop will pay a maximum of \$4,000 for tuition plus books, supplies, and credentials; the scholarship covers the balance so there is no out of pocket expense to the student.

Training related employment is currently low at 50% due primarily to the low number of exits but that should increase by the end of the year. The WDB set the minimum for continued funding at 60%. Enrollments are on par with last year's training enrollments (110 current 136 last year) which are lower than in previous years. Some factors that contribute to this are fewer people coming in for training, the economy is better, UI is not giving any extensions to receiving unemployment benefits and people need to find a job quicker than before, there is more availability of training programs and federal grants, i.e. Community Colleges in NJ received a \$12-million dollar grant from the federal government and LWD for the Dislocated Worker population.

Virgen has invited the Catherine Starghill, Director of Workforce & Business Services (Talent Training Network Center?) to the next WDB meeting to discuss the increased role of the Talent Networks and the creation of three Talent Development Centers in the areas of health care, advanced manufacturing and one additional area. It was agreed that the focus of training needs to be results oriented.

Report: Common Measures

The only measure not met this quarter was the job retention measures for WIOA Adults. These numbers may get worse under the new WIOA performance measures because data for this measure is now captured in the second quarter after exit instead of the 1st quarter after exit as in WIA. Also trainees will only have 90 days to secure employment after training completion.

The SETC is considering combining Wagner Peyser and WIOA measures. This may significantly change the targets i.e. Entered Employment is set at 51% for WP but 89.9% for WIOA Adults & 92.90% for WD. These numbers are “negotiated” based on the previous year’s results.

Report: PY 14 & PY 15 Expenditures Summary

This report is through February 29, 2016. Most PY 14 WIA and WFNJ funds should be expended by 6/30/16. We expect to have \$20,336 in WLL and \$61,373 in CAVP rescinded. These two categories have limited spending requirements. PY 14 WIOA closes out June 30, 2016.

PY 15 balances in WIOA are still high because we have been utilizing the PY 14 money. PY WIOA closes out June 30, 2017.

We are expecting the allocation to be cut in WFNJ for PY 16 because the number of caseloads receiving cash assistance has been steadily dropping. The RFP for WFNJ work activity programs is due on April 21st, for services be in place by July 1st. LWD is in the process of reorganizing and plans to give the General Assistance case management function to the local areas to administer. To date we do not have any planning estimates on how much to expect.

Report: LWD Proposed One-Stop Center Partner Roles and Responsibilities

LWD is proposing changes in the One Stop partners’ roles and responsibilities. They expect these changes will make the process more efficient and less confusing for the customers. Employment Services would focus on jobs and the local areas (County) would focus on training. Details to be provided at the next meeting (if available)

New Business/Issues

Jim is working on reviewing the Bylaws and the changes to the WDB resulting from the new WIOA legislation.

Next April (2017) is the Election for the Chair and Vice Chair of the WDB and a nomination committee will need to be appointed. Jim said that his term expires next February.

Under WIOA legislation the structure for the Executive Committee has changed to include elected officers, chairs of each committee, and two at-large members. The WDB membership composition continues at a minimum 51% business, however, the total number of Board members required is less. Jim will give an update at the next WDB meeting and get input on business community membership. The board should try to increase participation of business people in the committees as they do not need to be Board members to be on a committee.

WDB Policy Issue: Sensitive Occupations

There needs to be clarification of WDB policy on providing training for sensitive occupations i.e. armed guard training, hazmat materials handling, etc. Discussion focused on the need for the individual to meet all of the requirements prior to their entering training.

Policy: Any individual interesting in training in sensitive occupations i.e. jobs that involve public health, safety of the community, or jobs that require clean backgrounds and/or negative drug screening results, and/or psychological testing such as armed guards, hazmat materials handling, certain health care occupations etc., must meet all of the requirements for enrollment prior to entering training. All necessary testing must be completed and results returned to the One-Stop prior to the individual starting the program. The One-Stop will cover the cost for most testing unless the cost is prohibitive (at the discretion of the One Stop) or testing is included in the cost of training in the school’s fees.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.