

**COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT/LITERACY/DISABILITY**  
**January 30, 2020**

**Members Present**

Tom Bianco, Co-Chair	Kasmire Blazie, NJLWD
Cari Burke, Mosaic Family Success Center	Lorrie Covolessky, Abilities Solutions
Jim Sinclair, Div. Social Services	Stephanie Buscher, Div. Social Services
Heather Falkner, GC Housing Authority	Derek Gatling, FBO
Frances Harwell, FBO	Wayne Love, FBO
Calvin McFarland, GC Human & Disability Services	Crystal Noboa, Ctr. for People in Transition
Kimberly Quigley, St. John of God	Wanda Rogers, Private
Theresa Rohlfing, Ctr. for Independent Living	Brigette Satchell, RCSJ
Michelle Shirey, GC Workforce Development Board	Jeffrey Shisler, Goodwill Industries
Christina Velazquez, GC Planning	Joseph Spencer, RCSJ
Jenn Shaw-Knab, DVRS	JoAnne Dunagan, Acenda Integrated Health
Victoria Carpenter, MASCEC	Deb Rabottino, RCSJ/ACT
Eileen Gallo, WDB Staff	Bridget DiGiambattista, WDB Staff

**Members Absent**

Dennis Cook, RCSJ	Matt Ford, Literacy NJ
Rev. A. Frazier, FBO	Stephen Goodman, Volunteers of America
Jewell Hill, Comm. For Blind & Visually Impaired	Quincy Lee, NJLWD
Angela Lucas, HireAbility	Christopher McKelvey, NJLWD
Scott Raynor, ElwynNJ	Gina Ridge, Center for Family Services
Denise Taguwa, NJLWD	Michelle Yeager, Woodbury Public Library

Tom opened the meeting at 8:30 am

A motion to approve September 26, 2019 minutes was made by B. Satchell, seconded by K. Quigley.

**Status**

Title II – Brigette reported meeting 90% of the level of service goals with 236 served and 18 students attending HSE classes.

WLL – Kasmire reported between 11/21/19-1/24/20 they had 11 new enrolled, 24 currently attending, 1 referred to training, 1 moved into employment, 4 completed and 4 were referred from unemployment to RCSJ. Eileen stated we are meeting 100% of our target but looking at outcome attainment goal we only have 9 students which are only 20% towards 60% of our target and educational gains are 0. Eileen stated this may always be an issue since clients do not want to return once they have achieved their goal. Eileen suggesting making policy and schedule for CASA the week before they are to complete, this way we can record the educational gains. Brigette stated when they see the referrals it is for computer literacy not addressing educational gains. They are looking at CASA scores for educational goals (no longer TABE). Brigette stated when they are being referred, they must have dual goals, this way they will be post-tested mid-way to so see if they made educational gains. Michelle asked if we can goal for all literacy clients. Brigette replied they do this at the college but most of the clients in the learning link are coming through for computer literacy. Joe stated he'd like to like to look at some of the individuals'

records more closely to make sure they are being reported because a significant number of students have been successful.

Assessment – Eileen stated partners are using Kuder and if anyone has questions to let her know.

### **Agency Updates**

DVRS – Jenn reported everything is good at this time.

St. John of God – Kimberly reported they have an opening for a case manager, they are still hiring for bus drivers (split shifts) with CDL-passenger endorsement, and accepting resumes for skill development specialist in the fulfillment center.

GC Planning – Christina reported on an RFP for Census 2020 Outreach mini-grant program. The deadline for submission is February 19, 2020. Every county in NJ received funding to conduct an awareness & education campaign with the intention that the counties would provide sub-awards to non-profits. The grant will be in increments of \$5,000-10,000 each. CDBG will be embarking on their 5-year consolidated plan but will be getting allocation for first of the plan which begins September 1, 2020. She'll be coordinating focus groups and will be sending invites to attend a meeting to discuss where the funds should be focused on.

Abilities Solutions – Lorrie reported they have job openings for a full job coach and a job developer. Workflow is strong and they are accepting referrals to all their programs. She asked if anyone knows veterans that need employment assistance, they can refer to their vetability program.

FBO – Pastor Gatling reported The First Church of Jericho has a senior nutrition site for seniors that are food insecure. They also have a food pantry.

The Arc Gloucester – Tara reported they have a new CEO – Jake Jones, replacing Ana Rivera, who will be retiring. They have job openings for direct support professionals (DSP), team leaders, directors, & assistant residential directors. They also have openings accepting individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities at day services sites.

People in Transition – Crystal reported they are working with 30 individuals, 14 ongoing, 5 individuals in certification programs. They have a small amount of funding for any displaced homemaker that may qualify. There are workshops coming up in February and they are open to the public.

Div. Human & Disability Svcs. – Calvin reported they are preparing for needs assessment through the Dept. of Children & Families. They will be organizing focus groups to look at community needs. The NJ Div. of Family Development is relooking at how hotline and after hour services are referred.

GC Housing Authority – Heather reported they are still accepting veteran applications for Camp Salute. The Family Self Sufficiency program has had 5 graduates to economic independence from the housing voucher program, 1 became a homeowner and gave \$55,000 in graduate funds (escrow).

RCSJ ACT – Debbie reported they are currently interviewing for a part-time instructor for ACT program, they must have a teaching degree and prefer experience in special education. In the next 6 months, they will be looking to hire job coaches and possibly additional part-time instructors. The Reverse Job Fair will be held on March 9, 2020, for ACT graduating students. The reverse job fair invites community businesses in which allows the graduating students to showcase their strengths and show what they can bring to participating businesses or organizations. The visiting employers will have an opportunity to interview the students on site. An information session for ACT September 2020 enrollment will be held Feb. 18, 2020, 6:30 pm.

Ctr. of Independent Living – Theresa reported there have been transportation issues for those with disabilities. She reported Senator Sweeney has put together a panel for NJ Transit, and they took several clients with disabilities to Trenton on Jan. 16, 2020 to voice what barriers they are faced with. She reported Access Link remains an issue because they do not get individuals to work on time.

Michelle S. stated we have a job list that comes out every 2 weeks that has 100's of available job openings, and asked everyone that has job openings to either self-input or forward to WDB and we will make sure to get them loaded.

Michelle asked for a comprehensive calendar of events from everyone. Please email Bridget calendars/flyers so a calendar can be created and every meeting we can hand out a calendar. This will allow us to work together to do outreach, but we need the comprehensive calendar of events so we can schedule to attend & talk about the resources/opportunities we have through the WDB and AJC with the understanding that attendance from WDB/AJC will be based on the availability of staff to attend. Michelle mentioned an email will be sent asking members to forward their events listing/flyers by the end of February so we can have a base type calendar created.

Transportation – Tom reported ridership on the Pureland East-West Shuttle is doing well. Ridership trips one way were 2,778, internal shuttle trips were 1,485, average daily trips were 203, & total ridership for the month was 4,263. On December 15, 2019, a stop was added at the new Inspira Hospital.

#### **Ex-Offenders – Re-Entry**

MASCEC - Victoria reported the PEPP (Parolee Employment Placement Program) covers 5 counties, the program helps parolees find employment, they monitor the parolee for 6 months but they do help others with a background not enrolled in PEPP program.

#### **New Business**

Wayne reported there is a veterans program where they will provide FREE transportation for disabled veterans and their family members anywhere in south jersey. The contact number is 856 313 0059.

A motion for adjournment was made by B. Satchell, seconded by K. Quigley.

The next meeting will be held on April 16, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridget A. DiGiambattista, WDB Staff