

## WDB COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT, LITERACY, & DISABILITY

August 21, 2025

### Participants

Julie DeLaurentis, Co-Chair  
Joann Gattinelli, Commissioner  
Stephanie Buscher, GC Div. Social Services  
Danielle Fithian, Goodwill Industries  
Michelle Pandolfo, GC Human & Special Services  
Michelle Shirey, GC WDB  
Joe Spencer, RCSJ  
JaNea Wilson, NJLWD  
Bridget DiGiambattista, WDB Staff

Fran Harwell, Co-Chair  
Alicia Battaglia, Commissioner Aide  
Lorrie Covolessky, Abilities Solutions  
Kim Gober, GC Housing Authority  
Nicole Quinn, Literacy NJ  
Stacey Smith, DVRS  
Alisha Thompson, DWD  
Shannon O'Brien, WDB Staff

Michelle introduced Fran Harwell and Julie DeLaurentis as new co-chairs of this committee.

Commissioner Gattinelli welcomed the new co-chairs acknowledging their commitment to the community.

Fran opened the meeting at 8:30 am.

A motion to approve May 15, 2025 meeting minutes was made by A. Thompson, seconded by J. Spencer.

### Status of Reports

Title II Services – Joe S. reported the Title II program remains currently on hold, however we received a letter indicating funding will be reinstated which will allow for programming start in October. We received a total of 309 applications and of those 309 applicants 254 participated in their program, this is 119% toward their goal, surpassing their goal for the Title II fiscal year. Measurable skill gains goal was 56% and they reached 66%. They were contracted to serve 37 clients and they enrolled 45 for integrated education & training. Joe reported they did very well partnering with Rastelli Food Group by providing ESL classes for their employees and ServeSafe training for food handling.

Literacy NJ – Nicole Q. reported they served 92 students which was significant increase from last year. They are continuing with ESL & GED prep classes both in person and online. They have job readiness courses going on and still working on citizenship prep classes.

Project Search – Stacey reported Project SEARCH Class of 2026 Signing Ceremony was held on August 19 at Jefferson Washington Township Hospital for the students starting upcoming school year.

### Old Business

Michelle reported each WDB committee has been asked to create new goals and objectives and this committee still needs to complete that task. Since this committee focuses on community outreach, we would like to hold a support agency listening session for all members of this committee to better understand the needs of our community and how we can share our resources across our agencies. We would like to hold this meeting before the next Community Needs Assessment meeting scheduled in November. It was suggested the listening session be in-person in mid-October and a poll will be sent to the committee members.

A motion for adjournment was made by S. O'Brien, seconded by L. Covolessky.

The next meeting will be November 20, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bridget A. DiGiambattista, WDB Staff