

WDB COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT, LITERACY, & DISABILITY

August 21, 2025

Participants

Julie DeLaurentis, Co-Chair	Fran Harwell, Co-Chair
Joann Gattinelli, Commissioner	Alicia Battaglia, Commissioner Aide
Stephanie Buscher, GC Div. Social Services	Lorrie Covolesky, Abilities Solutions
Danielle Fithian, Goodwill Industries	Kim Gober, GC Housing Authority
Michelle Pandolfo, GC Human & Special Services	Nicole Quinn, Literacy NJ
Michelle Shirey, GC WDB	Stacey Smith, DVRS
Joe Spencer, RCSJ	Alisha Thompson, DWD
JaNea Wilson, NJLWD	Shannon O'Brien, WDB Staff
Bridget DiGiambattista, 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. Covolesky.

The next meeting will be November 20, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,
Bridget A. DiGiambattista, WDB Staff