

**Community Needs Assessment/Literacy/Disability  
January 25, 2018**

**Members Present**

Dr. W. King, FBO	Tom Bianco, Co-Chair
Tom Brown, MASCEC	Ray Childs, GC DoC
Lorrie Covolessky, Abilities Solutions	Joseph Ferrari, DWD
Lisa Fiorile, NJLWD	Matt Ford, Literacy NJ
Gina Hoffman, Mosaic Family Success Center	Jim Kneubuehl, Abilities Solutions
Jerry Knast, St. John of God	Quincy Lee, NJLWD
Jennifer Mauro, Goodwill Industries	Lisa Cerny, GC DHS & Disability
Stacey Smith, DVRS	Leta Aiken-Walton, Ctr. for Indep. Living
Eileen Gallo, WDB Staff	Bridget DiGiambattista, WDB Staff

**Members Absent**

Euletta Campbell, Nat'l Coalition 100 Black Women	Dennis Cook, RCGC
Heather Faulkner, GC Housing Authority	Rev. A. Frazier, FBO
Kim Gober, GC Housing Authority	Stephen Goodman, VOA
Angela Lucas, HireAbility	Gina Ridge, Center for Family Services
Ana Rivera, The Arc Gloucester	Michelle Shirey, WDB Director
John Zukauskas, NewPoint Behavioral	

**Visitors**

Deb Rabottino, RCGC	Allen Samuels, Elwyn NJ
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Dr. King opened the meeting at 8:30 am.

A motion to approve November 30, 2017 meeting minutes was made by T. Bianco, seconded by J. Kneubuehl.

**Status**

Title II - Deb reported for adult education they have currently serving 123 clients; 10 students are enrolled at St. Matthew's; 4 students enrolled at Glassboro High School for ESL; 21 high school equivalency day students on main campus and 18 enrolled at night; the ESL day program has 31 and evening ESL has 29 students enrolled. A customer service program will be starting for ESL students. HSE graduation ceremony has been scheduled for May 8, 2018.

Workforce Learning Link

Lisa reported the following:

Total Number referred by AJC to WLL or Title II – 27 since July 2017  
Number of participants moving into post-secondary education/training - 1  
Number of participants moving into employment – 6  
Number or percentage of participants increased literacy attainment and obtained computer literacy certification – 3 completions

Numbers have increased in the learning lab, mostly adults looking to improve computer skills.

Literacy NJ – Matt reported they have a need for volunteers and have started partnership with Rowan University Writing Center, the staff of 15 will be volunteering. Beginning week of Jan. 29, they will begin

recruitment for next training session starting March 15, 2018. Year to date they have served 68 students, 2 obtained HSE and 2 obtained citizenship. Currently assessment community needs for calendar year 2018.

### **Disability Issues - Agency Updates**

Goodwill Industries – Jennifer reported they are running an adult literacy program that combines free basic skills prep for HiSet test or 30 college credit route partnering with Camden County College at Stratford location. If individual completes college credit route, the individual is submitted to Dept. of Education for receipt of high school diploma. They will have first students graduating this spring that participated in 30 college credit route. They partner with DVRS to provide job coaching, transitional work experience, PVE's. They now offer computer training program certification in Stratford location. St. John of God – Jerry reported they had annual 511 WIOA counseling for clients recently and completed everyone. Staff has received training in their DVD program for shift from state contracts for fee for service. On Jan. 29, 2018, they have their first individual transferring from state contract to Medicaid fee for service.

Elwyn NJ – Allen reported they have been working with adult with developmental disabilities & were conducting vocational work but with conversion of fee for service they have had to stop a lot of vocational work. They currently have over a dozen individuals that have already converted into fee for service.

Human & Disability Services – Lisa reported the point in time count (census of homeless) was held Jan. 24, they found 3 encampments. There were 3 street outreach teams and had cooperation from several municipalities. An allocations meeting is scheduled, the state was late in giving award for social services for the homeless which covers those not eligible for social services funding therefore they are not eligible for TANF or GA. A webinar is scheduled regarding ABLE and establishing ABLE accounts. GC Special Transportation has subcontracted out vocational routes, the new vendor is Senior Citizens United for Community Service. Lisa recently attended a meeting at Salem County Jail regarding medically assisted treatment in the jail, a grant was offered by Dept. of Corrections and we received \$200,000 for Salem County jail. Medically assisted treatment will be for any inmate in the correctional facility that is interested in 'no longer using', they will be offered methadone or vivitrol and it will be covered by the grant. They will be linked to community services upon release and ensure they follow through in outpatient treatment. Upon inmates' release, MidAtlantic will handle inmates from Salem County and VOA will handle inmates from Gloucester County and will partner when assistance is needed.

MidAtlantic – Tom reported has a part time substance abuse counselor in the jail. The job readiness program is now offered full time, Monday-Friday.

Mosaic Family Success Center – Gina reported they offer free job readiness workshops and programing to the community.

Ctr. for Indep. Living – Leta reported they provide housing information, job training, and help with Access link.

Abilities Solutions – Lorrie reported the Center has a lot of work so much so they are running extra shifts. They have a school program at the Center and they are working with the school districts on a transition plan for students they are serving.

Jim reported employment service division placed over 120 people. They have 180 people being supported in long term follow-up. The veterans program has served over 800 vets in some capacity to date. Jim announced he will no longer be participating on this committee, Lorrie will be his replacement.

DVRS – Stacey reported still has vacant supervisory positions in both Thorofare and Burlington offices. The Thorofare numbers are not good, she is in need of counselors. In order to help market DVRS services, her counselors are willing to visit to provide presentation.

Ex-Offenders/Re-Entry

Ray reported March 21, 2018 will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Re-Entry Simulation at Rutgers-Camden. Salem Correctional Jail held a job training graduation on Jan. 5, 2018, 8 Gloucester County residents graduated.

Quincy reported for December there were 30 clients scheduled for probation/reentry program, 14 out the 30 showed. They are working on ideas to increase the participation. He attended recent drug court and a total of 85 participate. Dr. King asked for drug court schedule as he would like to attend.

VOA Safe & Return Program – Covers 4 counties-Cumberland, Camden, Gloucester, & Salem to provide services once inmate is released from correctional facility.

Pureland Shuttle – Month of December 2018 total ridership is 3,502, 2,077 one way passenger trips, 1,425 internal shuttle.

Eileen announced the AJC Open House will be Feb. 21, 9:00 – 11:00.

Debbie announced a reverse job fair will be held April 20, 2018 at the Adult Center for Transition.

A motion for adjournment was made by T. Bianco, seconded by J. Kneubuehl.

The next meeting will be March 22, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridget A. DiGiambattista, WDB Staff