

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT/LITERACY/DISABILITY

July 26, 2018

Members Present

Dr. W. King, Chair
Tom Brown, MASCEC
Heather Faulkner, GC Housing Authority
Kimberly Quigley, St. John of God
Wanda Rogers, DWD
Stacey Smith, DVRS
Bridget DiGiambattista, WDB Staff

Tom Bianco, Co-Chair
Lorrie Covolesky, Abilities Solutions
Lisa Fiorile, NJLWD
Ana Rivera, The Arc Gloucester
Brigette Satchell, RCGC
Eileen Gallo, WDB Staff

Members Absent

Mark Boyd, Goodwill Industries
Heather Candelaria, CBVI
Dennis Cook, RCGC
Rev. Frazier, FBO
Gina Hoffman, Mosaic Family Success Ctr.
Jennifer Mauro, Goodwill Industries
Scott Raynor, Elwyn NJ
Theresa Rohlfing, Ctr. for Independent Living
Jeffrey Shisler, Goodwill Industries
John Zukauskas, NewPoint Behavioral

Euletta Campbell, Nat'l Coalition 100 Black Women
Ray Childs, GC DoC
Matt Ford, Literacy NJ
Stephen Goodman, VOA
Angela Lucas, HireAbility
Calvin McFarland, GC Human & Disability Svrs.
Gina Ridge, Ctr. for Family Services
Michelle Shirey, GC Workforce Devel. Board
Denise Taguwa, NJLWD

Dr. King opened meeting at 8:30 am.

A motion to approve May 24, 2018 minutes was made by A. Rivera, seconded by K. Quigley.

Status

Intellectual Assessment – Eileen reported we will be changing from the current TABE test which take up to 6 hours to complete to CASAS, which takes about 3 hours to complete. They will begin using CASAS January 2019, all training vendors will be notified.

Funding Status – Eileen reported we received less funding for Workforce Learning Link, total received is \$48,000 (down from \$71,000). Eileen stated we will apply for additional funding in October, if it becomes available.

Title II Services – Brigette reported their goal for the year was to serve 281 customers and they served a total of 319. They had to adjust the hours and number of weeks they offer adult high school program held during the evening to two 12 week sessions. They continue to offer scaled back services at St. Matt's during day & evening, they currently have 4 people enrolled at St. Matt's but expect that to increase in the fall.

HSE/TASC – they were notified pricing will increase by \$10.00 effective immediately and they expect another price increase in January 2019.

The Glassboro Library grant ended and they have not determined they will reapply. For the year, they saw 13 ESL students, 25 for HSE however, retention was not good only 2 out of the 25 received their HSE.

Workforce Learning Link

Lisa reported the following:

Total number referred by AJC to WLL or Title II – 81 (77 was target)

Number of participants moving into post-secondary education/training – 3

Number of participants moving into employment – 30

Number or percentage of participants increased literacy attainment and obtained computer literacy certification – 31

Agency Updates

MASCEC – Tom reported there are 6 females from Gloucester County and 2 males from Gloucester County participating in their program at the Salem County Correctional facility. Tom will meet with John DeSant, Social Worker from Gloucester County to discuss certificate programs that may be of interest for Gloucester County inmates. Eileen stated a meeting will be scheduled with John, Ray & VOA to discuss additional services available. MASCEC would like to do GJobs while inmate is still incarcerated, since the structure of the program penalizes the inmate. Eileen stated this has been discussed at GSETA meetings but nothing has been done to date.

Eileen stated she is still looking into that to see if they can get the credit for time served.

Heather asked if the inmates are allowed to start application process for services while still incarcerated, Eileen stated the WDB would have to put together a plan and apply for a waiver. Eileen will schedule a meeting with VOA, Tom Brown, and Heather Faulkner to further discuss.

Abilities Solutions – Lorrie reported funding for extended employment /shelter employment dollars were restored for upcoming budget year. Abilities Solutions has a dancer on behalf of the agency for the Gloucester County Dancing with the Stars, the dance recently held a casino night fundraiser. The next Vetability luncheon will be held August 9th at the VFW in Westville. The agency recently underwent a financial, a DVR extended employment annual, & DDD supportive employment audits and all were successful. The CARF review will be held this coming October.

DVRS – Stacey reported there is no director or no assistant director of field offices. There is no word on filling supervisor position at Thorofare office. There are 5 eligible individuals involved with Fed Cap program and 1 has been hired. For the month of June, they had 90 referrals and also reached their number for goals. They have Project Search with Jefferson and TD Bank. DVR & DDD will allow them to have blended program, which will allow young adults who have exited the school system, to work at the Jefferson Stratford location.

The Arc – Ana reported they continue the transition from day services to achievement centers focusing on employment related services. The transition to fee for service is going very well, particularly residential programs. They are currently assessing their workforce and identifying needs of their staff for training. They will be opening 2 new group homes which will create employment opportunities. The homes will be located in Glassboro, for 4 individuals with intellectual disabilities and Deptford, which will be a medical group home for 5 individuals. They held a fundraiser for an employee who lost their home to a fire in June, if anyone would like to help by contributing would be appreciated.

St. John of God – Kim reported they have hired a Program Manager to oversee adult services, vocational rehabilitation, day care, and early intervention services. They are moving along with fee for service but finding reimbursement is ‘rocky.’ They are looking to hire for a day habilitation specialist position and asl job coaches. They also have open referrals for extended employment.

GC Housing – Heather reported they have 1 pending family for home ownership and 1 family graduated the self-sufficiency program. They are still accepting applications for veterans under voucher program.

Eileen reported the WDB is still waiting on MOU to be signed. She received the administrative instructions for workforce learning link which is due August 25. The AJC will have a Migrant Farmworker review audit conducted in August. The auditors will sit in on RESEA workshop, talk with some of the staff, and visit a local farm. A rep from Pathstone National Farmworker, part of senior worker program & also deal with Migrant Farmworker program will visit the AJC on 7/23 to give presentation.

Tom reported the Pureland Shuttle had a .52% increase for month of June, the average ridership for June 2018 is 176. The unemployment rate for Gloucester County is down to 3.7%. Working with Amazon for their new facility in West Deptford. The Disability Employment Job Fair will be held July 27, 2018 at the GC Clayton Complex, we have 18 employers are registered to participate. The DAC Business Card Exchange will be held August 16, 8:30 am at Camden County College, will be hosted by Rhonda Rogers from HireAbility.

A motion for adjournment was made by T. Bianco, seconded by W. Rogers.

The next meeting will be held September 27, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridget A. DiGiambattista, WDB Staff