

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT/LITERACY/DISABILITY

May 24, 2018

Members Present

Tom Brown, MASCEC
Lorrie Covolesky, Abilities Solutions
Joseph Ferrari, DWD
Matt Ford, Literacy NJ
Alyssa Frasca, Mosaic Family Success Ctr.
Quincy Lee, NJLWD
Kimberly Quigley, St. John of God
Wanda Rogers, DWD
Brigitte Satchell, RCGC
John Furfari, WDB

Ray Childs, GC DoC
Heather Faulkner, GC Housing Authority
Lisa Fiorile, NJLWD
Stephen Goodman, Volunteers of America
Jerry Knast, St. John of God
Calvin McFarland, GC Div. Human & Disability Svcs.
Ana Rivera, The Arc Gloucester
Theresa Rohlfing, Ctr. for Independent Living
Stacey Smith, DVRS
Bridget DiGiambattista, WDB

Members Absent

Dr. W. King, Chair
Mark Boyd, Goodwill Industries
Heather Candelaria, CBVI
Rev. A. Frazier, FBO
Jennifer Mauro, Goodwill Industries
Gina Ridge, Center for Family Services
John Zukauskas, NewPoint Behavioral

Tom Bianco, Co-Chair
Euletta Gordon, Nat'l Coalition of 100 Black Women
Dennis Cook, RCGC
Angela Lucas, HireAbility
Scott Raynor, ElwynNJ
Michelle Shirey, GC Workforce Development Board

In the absence of Dr. King, Chair and Tom Bianco, Co-Chair John F. opened the meeting. Minutes from January 25, 2018 meeting will be presented for approval at July 26, 2018 meeting.

Status

Title II – Brigitte reported RCGC & Literacy NJ partner for upcoming year the funding has been reduced by \$11,000. The goal for this current, they were to serve 280 customer, they served 319 as of end of April. They notice a significant struggle with taking HiSet exam, and the number of test takers is down. St. Matthew's has 4 currently enrolled, on average they have 8 attend. ESL and HSE training at Glassboro Library and they have 9 students participating in ESL held on evenings & Saturdays and 5 students participating in HSE training. They are struggling with getting participants at this location.

Literacy NJ – Matt reported they had volunteer tutor training in April and now have 9 new trained volunteers. They will be adding an evening training session starting next week to train new volunteers. They are working to enhance their HSE offerings for next fiscal year. Starting July 1, Matt will manage Ocean County Literacy program.

Workforce Learning Link

Lisa reported the following:

Total number referred by AJC to WLL or Title II – 73 (twice as much as last year)

Number of participants moving into post-secondary education/training – 4

Number of participants moving into employment – 15

Number or percentage of participants increased literacy attainment and obtained computer literacy certification – 17

Disability Issues

DVRS – Stacey reported they were recently approved to hire 20 vocational counselors across the state, however, since numbers are so low in Thorofare, they will not be hiring. Amazon reach out to DVRS central office to work with program called Fed Cap which is a supportive program where they partnered with Amazon. There is a sortation center that will open in Logan Twp., and the Thorofare DVRS will forward potential applicants to work in the sortation center. All screened & selected applicants will go to a simulation center to see if they have the ability and skills to work in a sortation center. They have also contacted Bankbridge to see if any students may be interested. With Fed Cap program, there will be an embedded job coach on site to work with the individuals. A second Project Search program recently started through Camden County Education Consortium, they will be working with TD Bank.

MASCEC – Tom reported they have job readiness program in Salem County correctional facility that is held Monday through Friday for 8 weeks and currently have 17 inmates participating, 11 are from Gloucester County.

Abilities Solutions – Lorrie reported in March their program outcomes were released for 2017. Since 1996 2289 clients have been placed in community job from their agency, last year they had 124 job placements made through their employment services division. The Vetability program had 55 vets secure employment through that program last year. The agency currently has a lot of work. They are underway with community based work evaluations where they take clients to job sites to assess one on one with evaluator to see how they do in work setting. They recently held 2nd annual career day on April 22 at the Abilities Solutions. Jim & Sharon Kneubuehl have announced their retirements effective June 6, 2018. They will have a dancer on behalf of the agency for the Dancing with the Stars fundraiser in September.

St. John of God – Jerry reported the Brothers who run the program at SJOG will be buying a house in the community and will turn the monastery into a before and after school program for both individuals that attend Bishop Damiano School and children from the community that do not have disabilities by the fall. SJOG is doing cost cutting and 2 program administrators' positions have been eliminated, they are currently looking for a program manager.

GCDoc – Ray reported the Reentry Simulation will be held June 4, 2018 at Rutgers University-Camden.

Ctr. for Independent Living – Theresa reported they are doing Access Link and housing. She meet with DVRS to review career readiness with younger aged clients. They also visited 8-10 job site locations for the clients to see if they may like working at these locations.

AJC – Wanda reported presentations were made at Drug Court on May 8, there were 2 sessions held, 40 attended morning session and 36 attended afternoon session.

Joe reported a new version of TABE was released, he & Eileen recently took the test and took them about 5 hours for them to complete. They may be looking at a more user friendly test called CASAS, which takes about 2.5 hours complete. Eileen spoke with B. Satchell and hope to be using CASAS by 2019. Quincy reported a work order was submitted to State to have internet installed at the AJC in the testing room.

Quincy reported in working with ex-offenders program, they had 2 classes for probation, only 20 attended out of 60 registered. The probation officers are calling their clients the day before class to remind them to attend class. A counselor from DVRS will attend the next drug court session. John recommended using the Engage by Cell to send a reminder, the clients would have to provide their cell numbers in order to receive the notice.

The Arc Gloucester – Ana reported they are in process of transitioning their adult day services over to achievement centers. In addition to day habilitation, they will provide pre-vocational training, career planning and some supportive employment. They will also be looking at businesses to transition them into employment opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

VOA – Stephen reported they have re-entry program opened a new location in Gloucester County. They will offer program called Safe Return, which is for clients who served their full term sentence and are released without any parole services available to them. VOA will get referrals through relationships with police departments and they also do a lot of outreach to find clients. They also have a navigator program to navigate clients to the different services available.

GC Human & Disability Svcs. – Calvin reported they recently received their social services for the homeless contract. They are waiting to hear how much money will come through the emergency food & shelter grant. We are currently a set aside county. There is \$400,000 waiting to be divided between 10 counties and expect it to fund shelter placements, adult placements & prevention services.

Mosaic Family Success Ctr. - Alyssa reported they are focusing on career readiness and resume help. They held a mini job fair on May 14, 4 clients showed up and were placed with temporary positions. They are holding another mini job fair on May 30. On June 29, they are holding a job fair for youth and young adults (16-24). In June, they will revamp resume assistance by expanding to both day & evening hours. They offered an SAT prep class, where 16 students attended.

GC Housing Authority – Heather reported they are working with the vets program and Camp Salute, they have accepting applications for 19 openings at Camp Salute. They are also accepting applications for veterans for section 8 housing.

New Business

Stacey reported the Disability Employment Job Fair & Resource event will be held Friday, July 27, 2018, 9am-12pm at the GC Clayton Complex. Workshops will be held prior to the job fair.

Lisa reported they met with Amazon for the site in West Deptford, they are looking to hire 3,000 people for opening in September 2018. They met with Angels of Mercy and they are holding CNA training, the first session will be June 15. They will hold recruitments at the AJC.

A motion for adjournment was made.

The next meeting will be held July 26, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridget A. DiGiambattista, WDB Staff