

## COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

September 27, 2018

### Members Present

Dr. W. King, Chair  
David Zeck, MASCEC  
Heather Faulkner, GC Housing Authority  
Kimberly Quigley, St. John of God  
Stacey Smith, DVRS  
Theresa Rohlfing, Ctr. For Independent Lvg.  
Bridget DiGiambattista, WDB Staff

Tom Bianco, Co-Chair  
Lorrie Covolessky, Abilities Solutions  
Joseph Ferrari, DWD  
Brigette Satchell, RCGC  
Cathleen Scanlon, St. John of God  
Eileen Gallo, WDB Staff

### Members Absent

Mark Boyd, Goodwill Industries  
Heather Candelaria, CBVI  
Matt Ford, Literacy NJ  
Stephen Goodman, Volunteers of America  
Saranda Karpuzi, Literacy NJ  
Angela Lucas, HireAbility  
Calvin McFarland, GC Human & Disability Svcs.  
Gina Ridge, Center for Family Services  
Michelle Shirey, WDB Director  
Denise Taguwa, NJLWD

Euletta Gordon, Business  
Ray Childs, GC DoC  
Rev. A. Frazier, FBO  
Gina Hoffman, Mosaic Family Success Center  
Quincy Lee, NJLWD  
Jennifer Mauro, Goodwill Industries  
Scott Raynor, ElwynNJ  
Ana Rivera, The Arc Gloucester  
Jeffrey Shisler, Goodwill Industries  
John Zukauskas, Newpoint Behavioral Health

### Visitor

Joni Dolce, Rutgers

Dr. King opened the meeting at 8:30 am.

A motion to approve July 26, 2018 meeting minutes was made by K. Quigley, seconded by H. Faulkner.

### **Status**

WLL – Eileen reported Lisa has been transferred, therefore, no report for this meeting. We only received \$48,000 for the WLL, therefore our level of service is 48 participants for the year. Since we started having Dave attend RESEA's to talk about service, the WLL enrollment has increased. However, due to funding, Dave's hours have decreased and is only attending 2 times (8:30-12:30 a week but someone is following up on other days).

Title II – Brigitte reported Title II program beginning July 1, 2018, they have served 73 students, 37 are working on HSE, 36 working on ESL. They have 10 enrolled at St. Matthew's. They will begin evening ESL & HSE programs next week and anticipate 27 ESL students and 25 HSE students. This year, ESL students must be provided integrated educational training and offer Serve Safe, Customer Service, Gold Front Desk Receptionist with Tourism & Hospitality Group and possibly online banking certificates. They must provide to 65 ESL participants as the IET is only for ESLO and cannot be used for those working on HSE.

Assessments – Joe reported in 2017 acquired the Kuder Assessment, there are 3 assessments parts – career interest assessment; skills career assessment and work value assessment. Since acquiring the Kuder Assessment, 266 customers have completed the assessment.

## **Agency Updates**

GC Housing Authority – Heather reported 3 pending closings for homeownership in the family self-sufficiency program. Last month she reported 1 graduate, they are still accepting applications for camp salute.

MASCEC – David reported the academic career reentry opportunity program at the jail, 5 females have completed, 2 started; 2 males started and 5 completed. Several inmates have expressed interest in the Serve Safe program. Salem Correctional facility held a Resource Day at the jail, several partners participated offering information about their services. The Parolee Employment Placement Program (PEPP) has helped 23 GC parolees with training and employment. The work plus program in Woodbury has had 36 referrals so far in September, 13 have shown. In August they had 5 clients employed and so far in September 2 clients are employed. MASCEC is working with the GC Library System on a new grant, and will work in all the 5 library branches and will work in the jail preparing the inmates with work readiness, this will begin in October. MASCEC is partnering with Philabundance by holding a food distribution on Thursday, Oct. 18 in Woodbury at Harrison & Morton Aves.

Ctr. For Indep. Living – Theresa reported they are looking for 2 students for part time work as IL Specialists. They are losing a lot of schools due to fee for service. A legislative forum to discuss important issues facing those with disabilities will be held on 10/10/18 at the Center and will be funded by Disability Rights of NJ.

St. John of God – Kim reported 100% of the clients in day-hab to Medicaid service, they still have openings in extended employment and taking referrals for supportive employment. They are looking to expand their community based services and are looking for job coaches. Still having issue with ETPL list. Kim introduced new program manager – Cathleen Scanlon.

DVRS – Stacey reported supervisor interviews have been completed and hope to have new supervisor in Thorofare. A new counselor will be starting in Thorofare office by end of month. DVRS fiscal year ends this week, Thorofare office numbers will be very low. October is National Disability Awareness month, and they will be celebrating the Bob Knab inspirational award. Fed Cap program has hired a new person and hope hiring will resume for the certification center. DVRS is working with 2 Project Search-TD Bank and Jefferson Health, the one with Jefferson is a blended program where they work with 3 adults in the school program.

Abilities Solutions – Lorrie reported production work is busy. Abilities Solutions has a dancer on behalf of the agency for the Gloucester County Dancing with the Stars, which will take place 9/27/18. The CARF survey will be held Oct. 10, 11, & 12. The employer appreciation breakfast will be held Oct. 25, 2018. FREE Vetability luncheons are held monthly at the VFW in Westville, the next one will be Oct. 11, 2018.

## **Transportation**

Tom reported Pureland Shuttle had a 7.2% increase in ridership in August. The shuttle service received funding for pilot program to offer Saturday service starting Oct. 6, 2018.

## **New Business**

Pre-Release Services – Eileen reported DFD states that GA 28 day as a pre-release services cannot be provided at correctional facilities. However, it is a LWD decision about the activities that can be done for GA 28. She is in contact with Ex-offender Re-entry services division at LWD, and we are on par with what is being done in Hudson County. It is recommended that Salem/Gloucester pre-release GA 28 Day have a better program than what is offered to ex-offenders at the local AJCs. If MASCEC is interested, they must provide outcomes (jobs), and must show referrals to VOA. Since inmates have to volunteer to participate, we will have ex-offender reps from the AJC from Salem & Gloucester to visit the Salem County Correctional Facility on a monthly basis and talk to the inmates about the services available at the AJC. Once we have stats collected, we can then go the LWD and request that Gloucester/Salem be a pilot program and request DFD and LWD to re-evaluate the interpretation of the GA-28 day work activity.

Changing Educational Assessments – Eileen reported they lowered TABE eligibility from 6<sup>th</sup> grade to 5<sup>th</sup> grade for the YECC. Eileen reported we will be changing from the current TABE test which take up to 7-8 hours to complete compared to CASAS, which takes about 4-5 hours to complete. They will be switching from TABE testing to CASA starting November, 2018.

A motion for adjournment was made by B. Satchell, seconded by K. Quigley.

The next meeting will be held November 29, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridget A. DiGiambattista, WDB Staff