

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT/DISABILITY/LITERACY

January 24, 2019

Members Present

Dr. W. King, Chair	Tom Brown, MASCEC
Lorrie Covolesky, Abilities Solutions	Matt Ford, Literacy NJ
Quincy Lee, NJLWD	Calvin McFarland, GC Human & Disability Srvs.
Kimberly Quigley, St. John of God	Wanda Rogers, DWD
Theresa Rohlfing, Ctr. For Independent Living	Brigette Satchell, RCGC
Stacey Smith, DVRS	John Zukauskas, NewPoint Behavioral
Eileen Gallo, WDB Staff	Bridget DiGiambattista, WDB Staff

Members Absent

Tom Bianco, Co-Chair	Mark Boyd, Goodwill Industries
Euletta Campbell, Nat'l Coalition of 100 Black Women	Heather Candelaria, CBVI
Dennis Cook, RCGC	Heather Faulkner, GC Housing Authority
Rev. A. Frazier, FBO	Kim Gober, GC Housing Authority
Stephen Goodman, Volunteers of America	Gina Hoffman, Mosaic Family Success Ctr.
Angela Lucas, HireAbility	Jennifer Mauro, Goodwill Industries
Scott Raynor, Elwyn NJ	Gina Ridge, Center for Family Services
Ana Rivera, The Arc Gloucester	Michelle Shirey, WDB Director
Jeffery Shisler, Goodwill Industries	Karen Spieker, The Arc Gloucester
Denise Taguwa, NJLWD	

Dr. King opened the meeting at 8:35 am.

A motion to approve Sept. 27, 2018 minutes was made by B. Satchell, seconded by S. Smith.

M. Shirey & T. Bianco were not able to attend, both were attending off site meeting.

Status

Title II - Brigette reported for Title II as of end of December, they served 165 clients, 79 of them were preparing for HSE, 86 were ESL students, and this puts them at 61% of their goal to meet by end of June. With ESL program this year they had to incorporate training for advanced level students. The ESL classes are filling up, the April day and evening classes are both filled already. They may need to refer students to Literacy NJ for some of their smaller discussion groups. The had 9 students passed ServeSafe Food Manager program and 5 students passed guest services gold certification program. They are helping these individuals find employment in these areas. She reported one of the students from ServeSafe course was able to get a better full time job as a result of taking this course. St. Matt's currently has 5 students actively enrolled and the next start date will be in February. HSE & TASC testing fees have increased and now cost over \$100 and they are anticipating another increase over the next year.

WLL – Eileen reported to date 38 students have been served, we have a target of 48 so we are about 80% of goal. As of December, 10 students entered employment; 0 entered post-secondary; outcome attainment is 30%; educational gains we have 12% registered towards 30% target. In February, a client from January will get ABE and has 13 new referrals for computer literacy.

Literacy NJ – Matt reported they have 61 students served this year out of goal of 100. They are addressing the increase in demand by moving from one on one tutoring to small group classes. The classes are being offered in Glassboro & Woodbury. They are implementing a job readiness program to begin in March, which will be a 10 week course on essential skills such as resume writing, interview skills, etc. Spring tutor training for new volunteers will start in March.

CASAS Assessment – Eileen reported we are using CASAS and the youth will start using in May. The issue we are noticing is that it is registering the math portion, however the US Dept. of Education will not allow the CASAS test to be verified for the math portion. Eileen stated she has been told by Joe F. from the AJC all the clients are doing well with the CASAS test. It will now register CASAS scores into OSOS and any type of gains for Title II (math piece). We will be registering the language and reading portion of the CASAS test.

Agency Updates

MASCEC – Tom reported 15 inmates are currently in the program at Salem Correctional facility; 10 are from Gloucester County. Several inmates recently took ServSafe Food Handlers course and all passed. A ServeSafe Manager level test will be offered soon and 9 inmates are preparing to take this test. Eileen asked Tom if the inmates have access to computers and internet for job searching, Tom responded they have laptops but have very limited access to the internet.

Abilities Solutions – Lorrie reported the CARF survey is complete and they have been approved for their 3 year accreditation. All trainees and extended employment program are required to meet with DVRS annually and they are underway with Section 511 meetings. Vетability Program – they have a veterans only support group scheduled for Feb. 14 at the Westville VFW. They have a lot of work still ongoing in their production department. School to Career Transition Program will be holding an open house for school districts to attend on Feb. 21 at Abilities Solutions.

DVRS – Stacey reported the Thorofare office has a new supervisor and also a new counselor. Referrals numbers continue to be low but anticipates the new supervisor will be able to network in the community. The Section 511 interviews are ongoing with Abilities Solutions and will be working with St. John of God to set up the Section 511 interviews. FedCap has hired a new person to oversee the Amazon program and they are ready to start recruiting for a March hiring. Project Search with Jefferson and TD Bank continues going well.

St. John of God – Kimberly reported they are preparing for the Section 511 with DVRS. They are waiting to hear from DVR central office regarding community based work evaluations. Most staff at SJOG has been cross-trained to provide community based services. They are looking for referrals in the extended and supportive employment programs. Kim reported she is having issue with people getting to work mid-day. Access Link is not reliable, their clients are either arriving way too early or late. She would like to know if anyone has used UBER or LYFT that are wheelchair accessible. Stacey and Lorrie have both clients use them as well as hiring driving services.

Human Services & Transportation – Calvin reported Point in Time count (surveying of homeless) was done Jan. 23, 2019, a state & county report will be compiled. A webinar on Social Services for the homeless and the affect the government shutdown is having on the homeless funding. From February 4-February 8, the Dept. of Community Affairs will be accepting pre-applications for section 8 vouchers, clients will be able to submit applications electronically. However, there are only 311 applications that will be accepted for Gloucester County.

Center for Independent Living – Theresa reported their agency will help individuals fill out section 8 vouchers applications if they are having difficulty filling out online application. She reported their INR numbers are up.

NewPoint Behavioral - John reported they currently have waitlist of 289 clients, 225 are adults and 64 are children. They are seeing a lot of clients that are out of county. Staffing issues are a concern due to various issues at their center which can impact ability to deliver services.

AJC - Wanda reported Jan. 15, ACE info session was held at RCGC, 35 attended, 13 were AJC clients; 12 from that session are scheduled to take CASAS testing at AJC. Quincy reported 30 people attended the info session held on Jan. 23 and 28 signed up to take CASAS test at AJC.

Probation – Quincy reported for the Oct. class, 15 were scheduled and none showed. For Dec. class 4 were scheduled and none showed. The next class is scheduled for Feb. 12 and 15 are currently scheduled to attend.

A motion for adjournment was made.

The next meeting will be March 28, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridget A. DiGiambattista, WDB Staff