

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT / LITERACY / DISABILITY
September 26, 2019

Members Present

Kasmire Blazie, NJLWD
Amy Busch, Mosaic Family Success Ctr.
Jim Sinclair, Div. Social Services
Frances Howell, FBO
Crystal Noba, Ctr. for People in Transition
Wanda Rogers, Private
Krista Lope, DVRS
Bridget DiGiambattista, WDB Staff

Tom Brown, MASCEC
Lorrie Covolesky, Abilities Solutions
Heather Faulkner, GC Housing Authority
Wayne Love, FBO
Kimberly Quigley, St. John of God
Brigette Satchell, RCSJ
Eileen Gallo, WDB Staff

Members Absent

Tom Bianco, Co-Chair
Dennis Cook, RCSJ
Matt Ford, Literacy NJ
Derek Gatling, FBO
Jewell Hill, CBVI
Sandra Karpuzi, Literacy NJ
Calvin McFarland, GC Human & Disability Svrs.
Scott Raynor, Elwyn NJ
Theresa Rohlfing, Ctr. for Independent Living
Jeffrey Shisler, Goodwill Industries
Michelle Yeager, Woodbury Public Library

Mark Boyd, Goodwill Industries
Anthony DiFabio, Acenda Integrated Health
Rev. A. Frazier, FBO
Stephen Goodman, Volunteers of America
Angela Lucas, HireAbility
Jennifer Mauro, Goodwill Industries
Christopher McKelvey, NJLWD
Gina Ridge, Center for Family Services
Michelle Shirey, WDB Director
Christina Velazquez, GC Planning
John Zukauskas, Acenda Integrated Health

Visitor

Joseph Spencer, RCSJ
Regina Pryor, NJLWD

Debbie Rabattino, RCSJ

Michelle Shirey & Tom Bianco were not able to attend, as they were attending an offsite meeting.

Eileen opened the meeting at 8:30 am.

A motion to approve July 25, 2019 meeting minutes was made by W. Love, seconded by L. Covolesky.

Status

Title II – Joe reported this fiscal year to date they have 80 ESL students and 62 HSE students enrolled for a total enrollment of 142. They have seen a significant increase in enrollment for ESL. They had 5 individuals since July 1 obtain HSE. They are starting a new pilot for adult education students where they are able to take a 1 credit course called Personal & Professional Branding, provides them with job seeking skills such as - resume writing, interviewing, and using social media.

WLL – Kasmire reported 7/24-9/24 they have 23 new enrolled in computer literacy, 9 currently attending, 1 referred to training, 8 completed and 2 were referred to the college.

Assessment – Eileen reported Kuder assessment training recently held went very well. Eileen asked those present to please refer clients/customers' that are interested in taking the assessment to contact the AJC.

Agency Updates

GC Housing Authority – Heather reported they receive approximately 3,000 applications for the open registration for Section 8 program. They are still accepting applications for veterans and senior citizens. The Family Self Sufficiency program had 3 graduates and 1 homeowner this fiscal year.

St. John of God – Kimberly reported they are still hiring for day hab program. After parent's from the school expressing need for after school care program, they have opened an after school program. The program is for students with disabilities, in addition to staff there is a nurse on site if meds need to be distributed.

MASCEC – Tom reported the program at the correctional facility has lost a few clients due to being discharged. Several female clients took the ServeSafe manager level test and passed. The food distribution program held every Thursday in Woodbury is going well. MASCEC will offer a job fair workshop on Oct. 7, 5:00 pm at the Woodbury site.

ACT – Deb reported the Adult Center for Transition has 40 students enrolled. They have information sessions scheduled for next year-Dec. 10 and Feb. 18. They have 16 ACT students enrolled in the new Personal & Professional Branding course. They have adapted the course according to the students' ability either on line or in person instruction. The ACT has submitted an application to DVRS to become a vendor. They are looking to expand their goods & services programs through Division of Developmental Disabilities. Deb shared they had a non-english speaking autistic client that spent 1 year taking ELS classes in the adult ed program and has transitioned to the ACT program. They also had a student who graduated from ACT program and is now enrolled in adult ed program.

People in Transition - Crystal reported they have free computer literacy courses available to displaced homemakers. They also offer premier case management onsite for displaced homemakers. Their funding is limited for training, but still have funds available for displaced homemakers interested in some certified courses.

Div. Social Services – Jim reported Social Services has no updates.

Abilities Solutions – Lorrie reported he summer youth program ended and went well. They had 26 students participate and the employers gave great feedback. Two of the students were offered full time employment. Work flow in the transitional employment program continues to be strong and there is no waitlist for services. They have a full time job opening for a job coach/job developer.

FBO – Wayne reported the Senior Nutrition site at First Baptist started in July and serve approximately 48 seniors daily, 11:30-12:30. The cost is \$1.25 per person and must be 60 years and older.

Frances reported GC Senior Services rep has volunteered to attend the Bethel AME Church on Oct. 13 for Senior Sunday to speak about services available from GC Senior Services. Eileen stated in 2020 we will have a calendar of community events for us to do outreach, but we need a comprehensive calendar of events provided and based on staff availability we can schedule to attend & talk about the resources/opportunities we have through the WDB and AJC.

Mosaic Family Success Ctr. – Amy reported they are having an Energy Assistance Day on 10/28 for Atlantic City Electric customers.

Acenda Integrated – John reported July 1 Newpoint Behavioral Health Care merged with Robin's Nest, Cape Counseling, & FamCare, they are now called Acenda Integrated Health.

Ex-Offenders – Re-entry

Kasmire reported for Quincy the next class will be held Oct. 1, 2019. The last class had 8 clients scheduled to attend only 1 client reported.

South Jersey Re-Entry Coalition - Eileen stated the coalition has recommended the ex-offenders obtain a library card. They find most ex-offenders go to the library for job searching and MASCEC has an HSE program and they offer job training at the Logan library branch.

The next meeting date falls on Thanksgiving, therefore meetings will resume in 2020 once the meeting schedule is approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridget A. DiGiambattista, WDB Staff