

Atlantic Cape May Workforce Development Board

Atlantic Cape May WDB
One Stop Career Center
2 South Main St.
Pleasantville, NJ 08232

Phone: (609) 485-0153
Fax: (609) 485-0067

Atlantic Cape Workforce Development Board **Literacy Workforce Committee Meeting**

Atlantic County One Stop Career Center
2nd Floor Conference Room
2 South Main Street, Pleasantville, NJ 08232

January 26, 2016 at 2:30 p.m.

Members:

Pamela Grites
Fran Kuhn

Ellen Hohmann
Elena Peeples

Rhonda Lowery

Caroline Koch

Proxy

Barbara Kozek for Donna Vassallo

Staff:

Stacy Forman

Minutes:

The Literacy Workforce Committee of the Atlantic Cape May Workforce Development Board (WDB) met on Tuesday, January 26, 2016 at 2:30 p.m. at Atlantic County One Stop Career Center, New Jersey. Ellen Hohmann, Chair of the Committee called the meeting to order at 2:39 p.m. Introductions were made. The October minutes were approved with a correction to the spelling of Ellen Hohmann's last name.

Consortium Grant

Barbara Kozek, Atlantic Cape Community College reported that the consortium will meet or exceed the level of service for this program year. Ms. Kozek explained that the consortium grant includes two HSE classes; offered through a blended model, combining computer-based self study and classroom instruction. She reported that there are 12 clients enrolled in the evening and nine in the day class. Four clients have passed all five modules and there are eight TANF/GA clients waiting "needs based" funding to register for the exam. Fran Kuhn asked how time is tracked. Ms. Kozek replied that a report is run every Monday. There is time kept for the log-in period and also for the time on task. She counts the time of task for attendance. Caroline Koch asked when classes begin. Ms. Kozek replied that classes are open enrollment. Ms. Kozek spoke about the funding mechanism behind the purchase (ACNEG funds has been used) of licenses/software and the clients successes. She indicated that the college would like to continue utilizing the program and will consider a \$5,000 to \$8,000 investment to do so.

There is a wait list for ESL. The college is starting a class in March, which will open about 150 seats. Ms. Koch asked about eligibility. Ms. Kozek spoke about the 050 and 060 credit classes and financial aid issues. It was reported that the 050 and 060 class will transition to the Continuing Education Department at a more affordable rate with opportunity to transfer to the credit side for continuation of ESL services and eligibility for financial aid.

Workforce Learning Links

Ms. Kozek reported that as of last Thursday, there were no students in the Wildwood Link. She stated that Cape May County Technical School has experienced low enrollments as well. The group considered several reasons for the fewer enrollments. It was agreed that the link is under-utilized. Mr. Kuhn stated that the Office of Workforce Development is TABE testing individuals, which should result in some referrals; he clarified that individuals qualified for training may not need remediation. In the absence of Alicia Oatman, Cape May County One Stop Coordinator, Ms. Lowery reported

that the WFNJ contract has just started in Cape May County, so the link should experience an increase in enrollments in the upcoming month.

Fran Kuhn, Atlantic County One Stop Coordinator reported that the Pleasantville Link has about 45 enrollments, but few attend consistently. He explained that the largest population utilizing the link is WFNJ clients. He stated that the adult/dislocated worker population is probably using the ACNEG literacy services, which has resulted in fewer clients using the learning link services. Ms. Lowery added that test takers are scoring better and don't need remediation to enter training.

Supplemental Learning Lab

Ms. Kozek stated that this lab primarily functions to assist those with a high school diploma, interested in training. The lab has received 62 referrals with 14 meeting the criteria for active enrollment and four cases closed with positive outcomes. For the first time in over five years, the lab has no wait list. She attributed this to the addition of the TANF/ABE class.

TANF/ABE Class

Ms. Kozek reported that the college instructs those enrolled with Stockton on Tuesdays and Thursdays and those with America Works on Mondays and Wednesdays. She added that to date, there have been 37 referrals, 28 have shown and 27 referred back to case managers for being late and leaving early. Only one, to date has been sanctioned.

HSE

In the absence of Ken Olivenbaum, Atlantic County TASC Administrator, Mr. Kuhn reported that the updated version of the TASC is being worked on. It appears that the difficulty level is not increasing at this time. Mr. Kuhn spoke about re-allocation of space to make the testing environment user friendly. He also shared statistics.

In the absence of a representative from the Cape May County Technical School, this topic was tabled until the next meeting.

Literacy Partner Updates

Pathstone Corporation

Elena Peeples reported that the farm worker program continues. She reported that the food pantry in Hammonton is open one day per week, because demand is lower in the winter season. Ms. Peeples reported that Cumberland County College will offer the HSE in English/Spanish concurrently with open dates through April. Mr. Kuhn asked about the impact of taking the test in Spanish. Ms. Peeples replied that the certificate doesn't distinguish the difference, but the transcript does. There was a discussion about why individuals choose to take the HSE in Spanish and why some that participate in classes may choose to take the test in English. Ms. Lowery asked if CCC just started offering the test. Ms. Peeples replied that CCC ran it as a pilot program last year; the need is still there. CCC has 17 test computers and provides the test once per month on a first come, first serve basis. Naomi Watts is the contact and an email will be forwarded with all the contact information.

Atlantic City Library

Caroline Koch distributed information about the walk-in computer classes and ESL classes being held at the library. She reported that Literacy Volunteers is now at the library holding group classes.

Literacy Volunteers Cape Atlantic

Pamela Grites spoke about the group classes at the Atlantic City Library stating they're for individuals at a 5th grade level or lower. Ms. Grites spoke about the program model and successes of group tutoring. She reported on partnerships with the City of Pleasantville and the Pleasantville Housing Authority; utilization of space allows for larger groups. Ms. Grites reported that LVA is working with the Head Start program and providing ESL in Linwood. It was noted that the two largest ESL population seeking services are primarily Hispanic and Asian. Ms. Kozek reported that LVA is doing a great

job in the consortium partnership. She stated the NJLWD is looking at this local area LVA as a best practice in moving away from one-on-one tutoring to group tutoring.

She reported that LVA is holding a tutor training session, but cited that it's becoming more difficult to recruit tutors. Some recruitment suggestions were shared (chambers of commerce). Ms. Lowery stated she would help facilitate a discussion with the Atlantic City Chamber of Commerce.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Mr. Kuhn reported that the SNAP (Food Stamps) population (1st group: 2,400) is now required to participate in a work activity. He explained the state waiver was not renewed and as such SNAP recipients without dependents will need approximately 20 hours per week of activity (10 hours of self directed job search/10 hours of classroom activity). The NJLWD is considering a partnership with the community colleges, but nothing has been decided yet.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:49 p.m. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 26, 2016 at 2:30 p.m. at the Atlantic County One Stop Career Center in Pleasantville, New Jersey. All meeting correspondence will be e-mailed.