

3 of 59 obtained jobs
2 of 59 passed High School Equivalency
5 of 59 enrolled in post-secondary education
7 of 59 transferred to learning link

Ms. Kozek also stated that word about the bi-lingual blackjack program's success is getting out. ESL students involved in and completing this program have obtained jobs 100% of the time. Credential gained from the training includes the Guest Service Professional and qualifications to be a blackjack dealer. Atlantic Cape is expanding the program and adding the game of Roulette as individuals who have two games in their skill set are more employable than those with just one. Atlantic Cape plans 2 blackjack classes and 2 roulette classes for the coming program year. She also stated that the Title II literacy program will offer 4 morning ESL classes and 6 evening classes beginning in late summer. She believes that those classes will be full by the second week of August. There are several other local organizations that are offering ESL classes on a limited basis.

Ken Olivenbaum, Chief Examiner for the high school equivalency exam provided his report and updated committee members in the status of the HSE exam. He stated that there were no changes to the current system. Although there was some discussion regarding the possibility that all testing sites would have to offer all three tests, Ken explained that because the process was going so well for the southern region of the state, that no changes would be made. There are no changes in the price of testing. He indicated that over the past two months and going forward he sees an increase in the number of tests being taken because of demand from youth services and youth corps, and the Atlantic Cape GED class because of a private donation that the college received to fund the cost of the high school equivalency exam for their students. Initial results for those students have been very positive. Mr. Olivenbaum's data on test sessions and test results are included as attachments to the minutes.

Mr. Olivenbaum gave a brief history of the CASAS implementation and stated that Dan Adams has been instrumental in educating everyone in how best to manage the system. New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development has mandated the statewide use of CASAS during the coming program year. Barb Kozek will be a designated trainer for New Jersey and may be going to California to obtain her certification from CASAS's home office.

Rhonda Lowery introduced Nandi Singh, who is a new member of the Atlantic County Workforce Development Board and a new member of the Literacy Sub-Committee. Ms. Singh stated she is a life-long learner who is currently operating the Kumon school in Northfield. Ms. Singh stated she was a professor in India then continued her interest in education in the United States. She engaged in a brief discussion describing the challenges of working with ESL learners who want to pursue the HSE diploma. Barb Kozek offered to help address the challenges by connecting students to the Atlantic Cape ESL classrooms to help them understand the barriers they face without mastery of the English language. Welcome Nandi.

Marian Woodson-stated that all contracted vendors have their customers signed up for literacy assessments through the streamlined registration process and the use of Google Docs to schedule testing. She said that with a few exceptions, this process is going well.

Rhonda Lowery reported on the current status of the Summer Youth Employment Program stating that the program currently had 200 youth registered and 60 employers with completed work site agreements because of the new eligibility criteria, the number of eligible youth has increased. She also stated that Atlantic County has not yet received its notice of award for literacy for PY 19.

Ms. Lowery informed all committee members that they are eligible for scholarships are available for board and committee members if they are interested in attending the GSETA annual conference in October. She also mentioned that Atlantic County has received a GAINS apprenticeship grant and was taking referrals from youth providers for placement consideration.

Barb Kozek also mentioned that the Atlantic Cape was operating a literacy grant with the Atlantic County Free Public Library through the NJLWD funded program as well as a grant for ESL services funded by the Dollar General Grant. The classes provided through these grants include:

8 basic computer literacy classes

8 guest service classes
2 ESL afternoon classes per week
1 ESL Saturday class.

In addition, the Oceanside Family Success Center holds an ESL class one day a week and an additional class is sponsored by TD Bank one night per week.

Rhonda Lowery concluded by saying that the agency is planning all new furniture for the supplemental learning lab and the learning link. New classroom furniture in room 206 with a desk for the teacher, new computers and new cubicles for the computers on the wall. The student work tables will be smaller and will be more flexible in how they can be used. The current hope is to complete all work within 1 week of the start date.

Although out of order, the minutes of the prior meeting were briefly discussed. Motion to approve minutes made by Barb Kozek and seconded by Marian Woodson.

Meeting adjourned at 3:27 pm- motion made by Barb Kozek and seconded by Marian Woodson.

Respectfully submitted,

Francis Kuhn