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Workforce Development Disabilities Committee Meeting 10am May 22, 2019
ACEA Conference Room 2009-B Hamilton Mall May Landing NJ

Attendance

Donald Campbell (phone in) Joe Ingemi Pat Jones Rhonda Lowery Nina Stolzenberg
Michael Margraf Lin DiRenzo Stephanie Koch

Minutes

This meeting was called to order at 10am by the committee Chair Joe Ingemi giving an overview of the agenda.

Rhonda Lowery Executive Director- The Opioid grant is scheduled to begin on June 1, 2019 and at this time Nina Stolzenberg will give this report; this grant services the drug abuser and the family by linking them to services of which they are eligible for, these services will also interact with the business community as well. Lowery stated that there will be a follow up meeting regarding this program in July 2019. Ingemi affirmed that the committee would support this by sharing the program services with their constituents.

Lowery continued her report citing that Atlantic County Workforce Development Board was awarded the GAINS grant to which Ideal Institute of Technology will host a portion of training; we are hopeful for the success of each training. USDOL will assist us in the correct process. We currently have three employers and we endeavor to meet all criteria with the apprenticeship.

Old Business

Autism & Technology Jobs- Autism SAP is the best route to explore although they are not local it could be a great asset. Stephanie Koch of JEVS is here to give insight. JEVS is a partner with DVRS which provides fee for service programs which are those that are not at a school. Project Success, a program offering of [JEVS hire Ability](#) (an affiliate agency of JEVS Human Services) offers an empowering, customized employment program that assists young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder in the successful transition to the world of work, and builds on individual long-term vocational goals.

Services

- Vocational assessment and guidance to discover the right career choice, based on an individual's interests and abilities
- Personalized support from job coaches and job developers
- Development of work-readiness and personal interaction skills through classroom learning and individual coaching
- Volunteer internships to gain real work experience
- Development and practice of interviewing skills
- Support in finding and keeping a job in the participant's field of interest

Eligibility

- Atlantic County residents ages 16 to 24, who are out of school, and diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

In order for this to be a success, customers must be referred by DVRS. Lin DiRenzo suggested that child study teams be contacted. Koch cites that the level of service for this is 10 customers however the challenge is the out of school youth as well as participants has the fear of losing benefits should they participate in this program. Pat Jones informed the committee that her agency can locate participants as well as host a meeting. Koch concluded that the referral process will be developed and the program is currently housed at the AC Pal Center. Ingemi asked the committee to think of ways to assist.

Chair Report

Transportation & Ride Share- it is the intentions to invite agencies such as Uber, Lyft, etc. to our meeting to inquire as to what services they are willing to offer the customers we serve. Atlantic County should indeed welcome these agencies as well. Lowery added that she would inquire with the director of Atlantic County transportation. Ingemi also inquired of the as to the tracking of higher education, Lin DiRenzo cited that the Dept. of Education has a specialist; data is gathered and tracked regarding students with disabilities. This information will be shared with the committee.

Disabilities Luncheon- according to Rhonda Lowery, this year's luncheon will be different from the previous; families will be invited in order for them to get familiar with various services offered to individuals with disabilities with a focus on transportation challenges for the disabled population. Stephanie Koch added that Stockton has an abilities fair in the month of July therefore this committee should attend to possibly gain ideas.

Agenda item IV was tabled until the next meeting.

Adjourned 11am

