



2 South Main Street 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Pleasantville, NJ 08232  
 Telephone: 609.485.0153 Fax: 609.485.0067

Literacy Committee Meeting  
 Atlantic County Workforce Development Board  
 May 11, 2021

Attendance:

Francis Kuhn, Exe. Dir.	Pat Constantino, Chair	Greg Freelon	Barbara Kozek
Marion Woodson	Dan Adams	Ken Olivenbaum	Joe Ingemi

The Chair of the committee, Pat Constantino, called the meeting to order at 2:40pm. After a brief review of committee members in attendance, the Chair asked if everyone had a chance to review the minutes from the March 2, 2021 meeting. Ms. Kozek had one correction to the spelling of the casino game Baccarat. Mr. Adams noted the correction and Ms. Constantino made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Kozek seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

The meeting started with a discussion led by Mr. Kuhn on blended funding for literacy services. Currently as explained, the One Stop operates a Learning Link and Learning Lab. Two remedial academic classrooms for different academic levels. The Learning Link is for grades 6<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> and the Learning Lab is for clients below the 6<sup>th</sup> grade level academically. Mr. Kuhn explain that with a blending of funding sources , an eligibility component is required in accordance with title 2 funding he noted that's our primary focus title one money is to address the gaps in learning a brief discussion followed among the committee members .

Skewed asked miss Kozak if she had the funding levels for the current and the prior year miss Kozak reported that funding for the supplemental learning link for 2021 is \$58,800 in 2019 the funding level was \$78,000.

Ms. Constantino and Dan Adams briefly reviewed the CASAS schedules reflecting tests taken and a brief profile of clients and the allocation of funds along with test results. Ms. Kozek noted the scores on average seen higher then pre-pandemic times; Mr. Adams said he also noted the high scores and that he was attributing it to the students coming through the One Stop are more motivated than the average students in pre-pandemic times. Mr. Kuhn added that he noticed the higher grades an agreed with Mr. Adams and Ms. Kozek that the students coming into the Learning Link are much more motivated during the pandemic than "normal times"; a brief discussion followed with Barbara Kozak noting she has used a combination of TABE and CASAS exams to get the students to achieve the required scores in order for the client to move on with their training.

The committee discussed the programs available to aid students in achieving higher assessment scores. Ms. Kozek noted that she has been utilizing Aztec during these times of COVID to help students achieve better scores which will allow them to get into the training program of their choice. The discussion continued with academic levels being achieved and those required to get into a good training program with a career path. Greg Freelon, a WDB Board Member sat in on the literacy committee meeting to get a better feel and understanding of how the WDB operates. Mr. Freelon noted that the program called "Flocabulary", which was created by a group of young people in Brooklyn. Mr. Freelon noted that the program was hip-hop oriented and covered all major aspects of mathematics and language arts. While the program is attention getting for adults, it is just as much so for fourth and fifth graders. Ms. Kozek asked if there was a fee associated with the program. Mr. Freelon noted that while many of the programs are free, some come with nominal costs. A brief discussion followed.

The next item on the agenda was the Learning Link. Marion Woodson noted that Jane Satterthwaite was working with students in both "in-classroom" and in a virtual setting. Ms. Woodson noted that there were 6 new enrollments in the month of April and a total enrollment of the Learning Link of 36. Ms. Kozek continued with a review of the activity in the Learning Lab in the City at the Worthington Center. She noted that students are not progressing in the virtual environment as well as the student in the classroom. Ms. Kozek stated that Terry has been calling students participating in the virtual program; trying to get them back into the classroom, as classroom students are doing much better than virtual students as proven by academic testing. A brief discussion followed regarding the Level of Service and how students are being counted. It appears we are duplicating the student count on actual students in attendance in the Learning Link. Ms. Woodson said she would review the counting process with Ms. Satterthwaite and get the count straightened out between student in enrolled and student attendance daily.

A discussion followed regarding the High School Equivalency exam. Ms. Kozek reviewed the "GED" classes being offered in Atlantic City since August 21, 2020. Three classes and a Supplemental class are being offered in person in a classroom setting. Ms. Kozek noted that the classes are being videoed and are being streamed live for those students wanting to do the program virtually.

Ms. Kozek offered the following statistics of the programs at Atlantic Cape Community College:

**Title II**

Title II contracted LOS: 658

Students severed: 435

66.1% of contracted LOS

The schools' ESL Program has met 5 of the 6 ELS Levels, but none of the ABE EFL's.

Measurable Skill Gains: 70.1%

58.6% passed an occupational skills or training exam.

64 students got at least 1 industry recognized credential.

New Title Grant has been submitted for July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2025.

Allocation is: \$720,556. (\$46,749 more than FY 2021)

**Supplemental Grant**

LOS: 48

13 completed as follows

4 Employment

3 dropped for non-attendance

3 referred to GED Class or WLL

3 referred for training

Ken Olivenbaum, our Chief Examiner, reviewed the process being utilized to administer TASC or the High School Equivalency exam during the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Olivenbaum reviewed the numbers test administrations and registrations over the past three months. Ms. Kozek reviewed the Level of Service for the various programs/classes offered at Atlantic Cape Community College. Ms. Kozek reviewed the \$500,000.00 grant the school just received for training. Classes being offered include casino table games, including Blackjack, Roulette and Bokhara. In addition, the grant will cover training programs in medical training and some culinary arts.

After a few questions on the classes at Atlantic Cape Community College; a motion was made to introduce New Business. Having no New Business, Ms. Constantino made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded, and the meeting ended at 3:30pm.

The next meeting date is scheduled for August 24<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting ended at 3:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Adams