

The Atlantic County WDB Adult Literacy Committee Meeting was called to order on August 4th, 2020th at 2:35 PM. Present were Francis Kuhn, Carol Spina, Dan Adams, Marian Woodson, Ken Olivenbaum and Pat Constantino.

Partner updates

- Ken Olivenbaum reported on status of TASC testing. Return to testing has had to address safety and security concerns and is progressing slowly. In compliance with CDC protocol, 12 seat testing room will be reduced to 4 to meet social distancing requirements. Ken reported that he has deep concerns regarding the Virtual testing option as he feels that there is too much room for the security of the test and the process to be compromised. At present he estimates that there are approximately 20 individuals who are waiting to be scheduled with the majority being youth who are participating in Youth Corp or Ideal OSY program. Pre-COVID-19 were contacted and scheduled individually for this week.
- Dan Adams informed the committee that he has completed a first draft of Operational Procedures Manual for Testing- both TASC and CASAS. He will distribute via email after the meeting and is asking for comments additions.
Dan also discussed plans for the soft opening of testing activities both TASC and HSE indicating coordination with security and creation of a Google doc page for scheduling are in place.
- Fran Kuhn reported on the state of the county with regard to unemployment. Atlantic County leads the country with a 34.3 % unemployment rate and that the statistic becomes worse if you consider Atlantic City alone which is experiencing a staggering 46% UNEMPLOYMENT RATE. He informed the committee that due to budgetary concerns funding for the Supplemental Learning Labs has been decreased but indicated that the resource would be offering 2 sessions daily 8:30-12:30 and 12:00-4:00 with a new Level of Service for 80. Fran discussed the need to again determine where the jobs are in the City and County and what skills are needed to access those jobs explaining that virtual training using Metrix and Skill Up will be options to develop new skills. He also recognizes the digital Literacy divide was exacerbated by the fact that 23% of county residents did not have access to internet.
- Carol Spina- if capacity is an issue the church could be utilized for community after hours and offered access to equipment use noting that she was able to acquire 55 Chromebooks (and had 44 laptops) with CARES act funding.
- Marian reported that Johnathan Cohen had sent reports yesterday and that PY19-20 end of year reports were available and that she would send them out after this meeting. All work first NJ activities are still on hold and that there is currently no funding for those activities. Carol Spina –will be rejoining the literacy committee and is also working with Fran on BY –Laws

Old Business -NA

New Business- NA

Adjournment: 3:41pm.

Next proposed meeting date to be November 10th,2020