



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

Atlantic County One Stop Oversight Meeting Minutes April 13, 2022

**Attendance:**

Fran Kuhn      Sherrise A. Moten      Nina Stolzenberg      Jim Waters      Forrest Gilmore  
 MaryAnn McGhee      Paul McClellan (Proxy Lisa Martinez)      Karen McCormick  
 Ren Parikh

**Absent:**      Mark Ford      Riaz Rajput      Stephanie Koch      Gerald DelRosso      Anne Dillion

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The meeting was called to order by Mr. Kuhn at 3:05pm.

Approval of 1/26/22 minutes: motion by Nina S. second by Jim W. No objections with two abstentions. The motion passes.

**One Stop Activity:**

Mr. Kuhn reported the One Stop Center is open by appointment only for help with unemployment issues. All appointments are scheduled through the call centers. Customers are still unable to schedule their own appointments. Lisa M. (Proxy for Paul McClellan) reported the unemployment attendance numbers were at 90%, and over 200 people served. The staff will be adding a floater of the day to work with the customers to resolve problems. Lisa M. did state again, however, that the One Stop is opened for services by appointment only.

Mr. Kuhn confirmed that we are engaging in virtual employment orientation during the first week of May.

Mr. Kuhn reported Employment and Training has processed **451** for training services.

Enrolled **107** customers of them **45** have completed the process.

Job completion **32**      **18** Industry Valued Jobs      **25** Training related Jobs

**Executive Director’s Report**

Literacy has processed 180 cases, half the tester 90-100 %. The HISET test used 107. The passing rate is 63% The CASAS test results are below 50%.

**WFNF Contracts**

Mr. Kuhn reported that the Employment Specialist Supervisor. Ms. Hemlock will be out and has assigned someone to manage the day to day.

Mr. Kuhn discussed work-based learning as a new philosophical direction for the New Jersey Department of Labor. They have an upcoming mandated training , two 90-minute modules with a third-party trainer. He thought this will work best to identify the employers needs and WFNJ will do a more effective job of meeting those needs of both the customer and the employer.



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Mr. Kuhn shared that Atlantic City Electric is pursuing their next cohort for training. After speaking with Scott Griffin the overseer of the project, the project had 17 people interested with 7 signing up for the test. Since the numbers fell short, he stated we will be looking internally at 13 potentials candidates to share the opportunity. Mr. Kuhn concluded with Atlantic City Electric's starting rate (\$39.00 ), and the increased advantage for referrals to ACE with testing and placement. He encouraged the members to share the information with the community.

Ms. Stolberg stated that Jewish Family Services re-started GED classes in the jail. They have a plan for vocational readiness groups as well. Her program was refunded for pathway for recovery; this is an employment program for people that are impacted by opioid use.

Karen McCormick's Foundation's for Success program is wrapping up the first two cohorts, with 7 referrals and one with a resume from the first cohort, the second cohort has 14 referrals with 7 active participants. The next cohort will begin on the 18<sup>th</sup> . Karen shared issues with logging in, Mr. Kuhn stated that if students are not logging on the site, they will lose their transportation (bus pass).

Ren Parikh (Ideal Technology ) spoke about finally being awarded a contract for WorkFirst New Jersey after five years. Ideal is focused on collaborating with partners in the community to do meaningful work experience .

Mr. Kuhn expressed continuing concern about the lack of consequences for non-compliance with the work-activity requirement. He stated that he anticipates that the requirement might be back in place in June or July.

**Youth-** Cynthia Torres reported that the summer youth program will begin in May. She has already held her first set of information sessions for employers. The youth session will be held within the next ten days. Good news is that the hourly wage will be \$15/hr, 25 hours per week for eight (8) weeks. Mr. Kuhn hopes to fill all 60 slots for this program, then create a program to serve the TANF-eligible youth in a separate program, working at \$15/hr, for 30 hrs per week for three months. This program would be funded by local TANF funds.

**Work-Based Learning-** Mr. Kuhn reported that there has been a shift in training philosophy within the state to focus on work-based learning. This is training directly connected to an employer and employer needs. There will be mandatory state-wide training for all offices in the months of April and May.

**Out of school Youth-** Ren P. reported that Ideal will report 100% LOS. Ren P. wanted to invite the committee to the graduation at the Sheraton. They are anticipating over 100 students at the event. Ren P. also reported a new food truck with 6 students from the Covenant House working on the truck. Ideal received their full accreditation from the state, they will be recognized as an accredited institution. Ideal has a pending agreement with ACCC to accept his students into their college free program. Ideal is proposing 25 students. Ren also mentioned creating a (3) three credit entry level course in entrepreneurship for the college. He agreed to send Karen M. the criteria. Ren P. will be meeting Dr. Gaba to create an articulation agreement.



**Old Business:**

Community Based Organization: Mr. Kuhn spoke of having a presence in the community with the Family Success Centers and how it will be a challenge and a lesson to everyone involved. He stated that Employment Services from the State, will be participating in this opportunity to services five centers in Atlantic County. The plan is to begin in June with at least three days on site. Staff will complete a needs assessment of those areas and identify the services that would benefit each community.

Ren from Ideal ,stated he sought knowledge of the eligibility process and the referral process. He is requesting to put a process together that will allow the Ideal team members to understand County Government Eligibility and a direct referral from Ideal which has 70% population that may meet the states criteria.

Mr. Gilmore shared briefly about the discussion with Mr. Waters regarding the proposal from the CWA to engage/incentives, for families that are progressing and working successfully in a One Stop program. He has been collaborating with the team on the criteria. Mr. Gilmore wanted to ensure that families were tied in with the One Stop while participating in some activities that will move careers. The plan will provide \$1000.00 per workforce development benchmark for up to three benchmarks for a family. He mentions that this is pilot program for families with children not single persons. Mr. Gilmore's thoughts centered on an incentive to get adults in a program to achieve their high school diplomas. In conclusion, he stated that Jim W. has the proposal valued at \$150,000, with 45 to 50 participants.

Mr. Gilmore shared that it would be helpful to connect with Ideal to increase participation due to his targeted group, customer based and proved success rate in th community. He stated that Ren could make recommendations to Jim W. program. Ren P. requested a proposal to review.

New Business: None

Adjournment: Mr. Kuhn called for a motion to adjourn, motion by Ren P. and seconded by Karen M. moved .

The meeting concluded at 3:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted by

Sherrise A. Moten