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Atlantic County Workforce Development

One Stop Oversight Committee Minutes

January 20, 2021

**Members Attending:**

Dasha Brown      Natalie Devonish      Fran Kuhn      Ren Parikh      Stacy Forman

Paul McClellan      Jim Waters      Marian Woodson

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes for the October Meeting were reviewed. Paul McClellan made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Jim Waters. Minutes were approved unanimously.

**One Stop Coordinator Report:**

Marian Woodson presented her report. First talking about the participation rate for the TANF population. She stated that the report did not really matter because no one was really tracking it. Fran Kuhn did mention that Atlantic County was in the ‘middle of the pack’ at 3.4% participating. Ms Woodson also stated that although the first floor of the One Stop was currently closed, there still seemed to be a notable number of customers being served. Fran Kuhn indicated that the agency was trying to do more outreach and had been using its databases to send out flyers. He stated that within the past several weeks, the agency had sent out over 4,000 letters to people who have been identified as receiving unemployment. Marian then discussed the services of the New Jersey Youth Corps and indicated that for the most part the youth services were going well. He stated that although services were being delivered virtually, the youth were still doing very well in achieving their high school diploma. He indicated that either 10 or all 11 of the youth in the group had successfully passed the high school equivalency. She then discussed the current service levels of the YouthWorks program and indicated that the programs of ACSSSD, Ideal, Stockton and Atlantic City Boys and Girls Club has been discussed in more detail at the last youth and youth operations meeting.

In discussing Juvenile Justice, she indicated that activity was a bit slow in that area, but that Harborfield had recently reached out to ask about services. Harborfield is the secure juvenile facility in Egg Harbor City.

Ms. Woodson then reviewed the performance data for literacy, where she stated that face-to-face testing had actually increased over the past three months and the testing center was seeing up to five people per session. The lab was handling over 50 tests a month as of the end of December. Literacy services is assisting customers in person, but usually has no more than 3 at a time.

She continued reviewing data for DVR, Ms. Woodson discussed the employment number in the handouts, but stated that the numbers were preliminary and not the complete number.

The report also indicated that there was regular testing for the high school equivalency, but usually one test at a time and no more than three people in the room. The testing numbers indicated that there were two customers who had successfully passed the test.

### **Executive Director's Report:**

Fran Kuhn indicated that the agency was taking steps to increase our contact with current and potential customers by using our databases from both AOSOS and the WFNJ systems. He briefly discussed the challenges with operating during the pandemic and the variables that were involved in delivering services. He also discussed the current contract with Atlantic Cape Community College for the Foundations for Success Program, which targets public assistance recipients and offers them the opportunity to receive preparatory job readiness services voluntarily, but with the added benefit of a success coach. He said that the program was just beginning, but he believed that the new SNAP customers might be interested in the offering. He also talked about the current plan to develop the On-the-Job training program for both the WIOA and Work First populations and the importance of making the connection with the employer. He reaffirmed that the training services needed to result in jobs and the best way for that to happen was to work with the employers.

The director also indicated that as a result of the pandemic and the difficulty that all providers had in obtaining the level of service, the 60% LOS by end of December requirement had been suspended and the end of contract would be extended until the middle of April.

### **Open Discussion:**

The question was raised about access to technology because of limited availability. Fran Kuhn indicated that the county libraries were open Mon.-Friday, 9-5, and that customers could use the computer for an hour at a time. Stacy Forman stated that Stockton is closed, but does allow youth to come on the campus for a brief time to use the computer for assessment. There are still large concerns that the technology will not be readily accessible to customers. There was a brief discussion about the agency developing a loaner program for Chromebooks, but it appeared that there are too many liability barriers to make that happen. Ideal did indicate that they had a loaner program for some youth. If the youth was pursuing a high school diploma and passed it, they could keep the laptop. Ideal does not provide loaner until student is in program for 30 days. Prior to that they work off of their phone. Dasha Brown of Volunteers of America indicated that their offices were open 6 am to 6pm. She indicated that anyone of the youth could use the computers at her location.

There followed some additional discussion about the use of laptops and creating incentives to encourage youth to participate and the challenges associated with that. The meeting concluded with the importance of the Volunteers of America program in acting as a resource for virtual services.

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Francis Kuhn