



Atlantic County Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes October 19, 2021

**Attendance**

Fran K. Kuhn	Dhara Bechman	James Waters	Marian Woodson
MaryAnn McGhee (Co-Chair)	Dir. Forrest Gilmore		

**Absent:**

Gerald DelRosso	Daniel Kelly	Johnson Cabral	Stephanie Koch
Dhiren Parikh	Paul McClellan	Garvin Torrie	
Riaz Rajput			

The meeting came to order at 2:40pm

Mr. Kuhn began the meeting with a motion to approved minutes from the previous meeting. Motioned by Marion W. and Second by Jim W. No discussion the minutes were approved.

Marion W. discussed the One Stop report and appeared very pleased with the program numbers. Mr. Kuhn concluded with facts surrounding the youth returning and the possibility of increased numbers in the next year participation. The committee members received the data in their packets.

Marion W. agreed and reported the retest numbers for HSE were 28 passing. The enrollments at this location were 40, which is considered good due to virtual processing. DVR, which has been working totally virtual was also doing very well, however, service numbers were not available.

Marion W. reported that the employment specialist is contacting everyone on the current unemployment list. The one thing missing from the sheets were the numbers for the Summer Youth Employment Services. They are as follows: 8 for session one; session two 31 total= 39. Mr. Kuhn explained wage competition and funding as a problem with this program.

Mr. Kuhn reported that the reopening of State employment services was delayed. The department of Labor gave the numbers for the loss of unemployment benefits, it appears to be 8,200 people. By taking a percentage of this number it reflects approximately 600 people. After having a meeting with Hugh Baily, Mr. Kuhn confirmed a pending marketing campaign about the reopening of unemployment. Security in and around the building were discussed as a major issue that needs to be addressed.

Mr. Kuhn confirmed the award of two youth contracts with Ideal Institute and the Jewish Family Services. In addition, Atlantic Cape was awarded a literacy contract to supply supplemental learning to 1- 6 grade level and ESL populations. Mr. Kuhn shared that WDB is working on a digital literacy program.

Mr. Kuhn made several statements regarding WFNJ work activity mandates and when the State will remove waiver guidelines.

Mr. Gilmore confirmed a county discussion revising work mandates with the State and voluntary activities within the County. Offering a pilot program for community-based organizations with smaller grant amounts to the community was a great suggestion that Mr. Kuhn took an interest in.



Mr. Kuhn added working with Volunteers of America, who can assist the re-entry populations with special circumstances; can be a first step in the community.

Dhara Bachman gave the committee an update from Ideal Institute in the absence of Ren. The agency was able to convert all course curriculum online in person and hybrid. Ideal is offering free GED classes to anyone in the community, with five (GED) adults graduating.

Mr. Kuhn offered information on Ideal's Occupational Partnership Grant award involving On-the-Job training opportunities in the construction industry.

Forrest Gilmore commented on the plan to return to mandated services, however, he stated that the leadership in DFD were downplaying the use of sanctions, at least for the first few months.

The meeting ended at 4:05pm.

Respectfully,

WDB Staff