

Atlantic County Workforce Development

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Atlantic County Workforce Development Board Oversight Committee Meeting
2nd Floor Conference Room 2 South Main Street, Pleasantville, NJ 08232
October 19th 2016

Members:

MaryBeth Cordle	Nicole Milan-Tyner	Jim Waters
Paul McClellan	Eric Reynolds	Donna Vassallo
Melanie Milton	Joe Kelly	Dan Kelly

Staff:

Rhonda Lowery
Alicia Oatman
Fran Kuhn

Call to order: Rhonda L.- gave an explanation of this meeting as to who is the Chair (Eric Reynolds). Minutes were approved by the committee.

Eric R.- we are going to look at all the vendors and its functions due to our upcoming certification. Rhonda L. added that WIOA is a 4yr. requirement and the State is 2yrs. One Stop Operations must be RFP and the actual One Stop has to be certified as this is required in order to continue to receive funds. There are 3 WFNJ providers: Stockton, Chamber of Commerce and Ideal. Dhiren P. from Ideal states that they have 24 referrals and from that 10 were referred back, 2 were employed and some are in training. He also expressed that customers are stating that they have been through these classes multiple times therefore they are not engaged and or not interested at all. He states that his concern is that the customers are complaining about how many times they have to keep doing these classes. We also have trouble placing customers in CWEP because the State only allows the sites to be Non-Profit agencies.

There are customers that are referred to us is in search of a change and or want to get off of the system however is they have to do these classes over and over it cause the customers to feel less enthusiastic. Eric R. asked if ONET is used for customers and Marybeth responded yes. Fran added that customers are given skills that will assist them to move forward in the workforce. Fran K further added that it should be explained to customers in full all of the benefits and the time frame that they have in the program as a whole. Rhonda L. stated that if the customers know the system i.e. soft skills/job search and can do all of these things then why aren't they employed, what is keeping them from the job? Rhonda further added that customers need to know that at some point the system benefits will come to an end and they will need a job as well as the longer they are "working the system" it cuts their time short and then when it runs out there is an urgency at that point however because they have not done the necessary steps to ensure that this would not happen the customer is then in a bad state. Dhiren P. responded that its skills or the lack thereof. Marybeth C. says that G-Job should be more that once a year. We also have to ensure that the customer know that this is not tied to Atlantic County, in other words customers need to know that they can work outside of our area and still be successful. Fran K. gave an explanation of the sanction process when a customer is referred back for non-compliance. Sometimes this is a lengthy process due to the letters having to go from our office to the mail carrier, Trenton, AC, then to the customer. Eric R. asks if benefits are affected and the response is yes; depending on the time of the month that the sanctions is imposed. Dan K added that the system is too process driven, the contracts should state that if the LOS is 50, it should matter how you get it as long as you get it. But customers fall by the wayside because of "process". Dan also states that customers will not take a job that is going to cause them to lose all of their benefits if the job is not paying what the household needs to sustain. Small business should pay people according to the value the person is bringing to them. Eric asked if there are benchmarks for activities and Melanie M. responded yes for the following: Attendance 90% or higher, Occupational training, and Post-Secondary Education. Joe K. added that what is the magic number in the whole thing and on the placement side

what is that magic number? Rhonda L. states that there is no number; a customer cannot refuse employment however every household has different circumstances that may possible cause a person to rethink their decision to not work and stay on the system. Dan suggested that when a person gets a job, whatever the salary is that should be deducted from their benefits and then be given the balance so that the household can be maintained at a lower cost to the system. Rhonda L. explained that the TANF customer's benefits are not automatically removed once they are employed. There are other programs and incentives for customers that get employed. GA customer's benefits will be affected; their benefits are \$140 monthly which is taken in increments.

Joe K. suggested what is called "Work Fair" incentive. Rhonda L. states that there is a reduction period: after 6mos. 25% is taken, then 50%, then 75%, etc. This is to ease the customer off of the system. Dhiren P. has created what he calls "Job Workshop" within his curriculum. This a 3 day demo class to explain how a specific job works or to show customers that being in a classroom setting is not that bad. Marybeth C. states that her agency brings in a employer once a week to explain their expertise and to inform customers of the openings they have.

Rhonda L. asked the vendors: What are the process issues between the One Stop and our Case Managers:

Melanie M. America Works- it has been much better. EP's are better although transportation is still an issue. CWEP sites are a barrier as well a stellar sites. SNAP is a big issue as well as timesheets are not being submitted.

Marybeth C. Stockton- customers are having a hard time reading the EP's, they should be given a calendar instead so that it may ensure their participation. Otherwise it's great. I also do not input G-Job, it should be done at the end.

Eric R.- we are now getting more referrals. Does UI a part of the WIOA referral system and does it count? Rhonda L. states what category the customer falls in. This should be coordinated with the training unit. Paul M. agrees with Rhonda L. and these customers are considered co-enrolled. But everything is documented in OSOS.

Joe K.- I have concerns with WIOA regulations regarding the disabled. Elizabeth D and Rhonda L. will look into this.

Adjourned 4pm