

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT / ADULT LITERACY / DISABILITY ISSUES

April 20, 2023

Zoom Participants

Tom Bianco, Co-Chair	Kasmire Blazie, NJLWD
Stephanie Buscher, GC Div. Social Services	Lorrie Covolesky, Abilities Solutions
Glen Donelson, MidAtlantic States Career & Educ. Ctr.	Amy Charlesworth, RCSJ
Joseph Ferrari, DWD	Lois Forman, Jewish Family & Children Service
Frances Harwell, FBO	Lani Allen, MidAtlantic States Career & Edu. Ctr.
Adam Morina, RCSJ	Andrea Rivera, DVRS
Michelle Shirey, RCSJ Workforce Innovation	John Thompson, Ctr. for Family Services
Crystal Torres, Ctr. for People in Transition	Christina Velazquez, GC Economic Development
Allison Spinelli, WDB Staff	Bridget DiGiambattista, WDB Staff

Tom opened the meeting at 8:30 am.

A motion to approve February 16, 2023 minutes was made by G. Donelson, seconded by L. Covelsky.

Adult Literacy

Joe S. reported for RCSJ/CTE on base to exceed NJ Div. of Labor goal, they have total of 217 students for Title 2 program and 45 enrolled to start next week. They have 8 students referred by DWD, 3 are ABE seeking HSE; 2 will be taking test. They have 2 ESL students from the Ukraine, they continue to see influx of students from Ukraine and have accommodated their needs. They have 3 students enrolled in PC program for learning link. Graduation for HSE students is scheduled for June 8, 11:00 am.

WLL Activities

Kasmire B. reported January – March they had 3 new clients for computer literacy. She met with DVRS staff about available learning link services.

Literacy NJ – Joe S. reported Rebecca is no longer with Literacy NJ. He will forward new director info.

Ex-Offenders – Re-Entry

Glen D. reported they are working with NJDOL and Probation for all of southern New Jersey, with a goal of 125 but have surpassed that goal and are working with 250. They have assisted in obtaining employment for approximately 50. They are working with 2 companies for wind industry training.

Disability Issues

Agency Updates

Abilities Solutions – Lorrie C. reported there is no wait list for services. Abilities Solutions has been participating in resource fairs and if anyone would like them to present services at any agencies / organizations to please reach out to her. Also, if anyone is interested in a tour of Abilities Solutions they'd be happy to accommodate.

Jewish Family & Children Service – Lois F. reported they are having a vocation breakfast on May 5 where they recognize employers and clients in supportive employment program who have been successfully employed and maintaining employment. The Camden County WDB is having a veteran's event on June 8 at Cooper Hospital.

DVRS – Andrea R. reported DVRS is still accepting applications for 2023-2024 Project Search. Andrea stated DVRS is available to provide presentation either in-person, virtual, or evening hours to talk about their services to any one interested.

CDBG – Christina V. reported RFP will be released early week of 4/24/23, the CDBG funds will be the set aside portion for funding public services. Any non-profits can apply as long as 51% of beneficiaries are of low-mod income or presumed to be low-mod income as in disabled, migrant households, literacy. This will also cover operational costs.

A motion for adjournment was made by G. Donelson, seconded by L. Covelsky.

The next meeting will be held July 20, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridget A. DiGiambattista, WDB Staff