

MINUTES

GSETA Operations Committee

08/01/2022

Call to Order – Fran Kuhn

1. Fran called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.
2. Motion to approve June minutes made by Davidene Alpart. Second was made by Kelly O'Neill - McGuire. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Lesley Hirsch - NJDOL

1. Demand Occupations list. Nothing really changed except that there are more Demand Occupations.
2. Digital technology and Digital Skills are now very important, and they have all been added to the List.
3. The New Demand Occupations List is up on the website and will be on the new system once it is up and running
4. The waiver is still the same. Letters from 2 employers in your region saying that it is in demand and contact the LMI office (Lesley or Jason) for back up information for the request.
5. ETPL applications ETA – send information to Lesley and she will look into it. PCS and ETPL procedures have been overhauled. Every month there is a compliance check and if the school is not in compliance they are suspended. There is a skeleton crew at the state, and there are some gaps. Ask the schools to check their Private Career School Status also.
6. The WDB's cannot be notified at this time if a school is suspended. In the new process, there will be a procedure put into place.
7. There is no way that the state can come down on training providers for not meeting placement data. Both Youth and WFNJ contracts are no longer on the ETPL.
8. Registered Apprenticeship must be on the ETPL as soon as they are active as RA – Do the RA Sponsor's need to be on the ETPL? Lesley will respond to Fran and get the information out to everyone.
9. OJTs are NOT on the ETPL
10. The Digital System is not going live until everyone has had the opportunity to be trained - Live. One is training providers, one is the workforce community, and the DOL staff need to be trained. We will be notified at least 2 weeks in advance of the training. All training will be on video.
11. The new system will be 2 new systems – (1) NJ training explorer (rolled out soft launch next week) User acceptance training will be done with a few people for feedback. It is agile product development and will always be evolving (2) SAGE will be adapted for a training provider system. If they are approved, they will be able to log in. If they are new, they will apply through SAGE. The system will be totally paperless. Trying to go completely digital. IGX. The state expects "bumps" NJTOPPS will not come down until the IGX system is fully functioning. If the state has to take TOPPS down in steps, they will.
12. https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/ETA/advisories/TEGL/2021/TEGL_8-19_Change-1.pdf
13. [https://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/TEGL/TEGL_8-19_Attachment I acc.pdf](https://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/TEGL/TEGL_8-19_Attachment_I_acc.pdf)
14. Here's the new ETPL policy highlighting that youth and WFNJ providers no longer need to be listed on ETPL, in alignment with USDOL policy: <https://www.nj.gov/labor/wioa/documents/resources/WD-PY22-1ETPLRequirementsandMonitoringProcedures.pdf>

15. Quality Assurance is key, and providers must secure data and get it in by the end of this year. If they do not have their data in the system, they will get a warning. You will be getting evaluated and if you do not do well and are in the bottom 10% you have 2 years to get into the top 90% or you will be removed. Continuous learning and protection of good training providers is the key.
16. Infrastructure, Construction and Jobs Act passed in November 2021 gives money to all states (billions) and it is quite possible that it will affect the labor demand list.
17. There is a gainful employment bill that was passed by the Governor last week. This will protect consumers from price gouging in training.

Work First NJ – Melissa Moody & Ahmad McDougle

1. Senate Bill No. 1642 – moving quickly through the process. The bill revises various requirements for cash assistance benefits under the Work First NJ programs.
2. Tiered CWEP programming. Pathway to Success. CWEP for 30-60 days and then move to an OJT and then to unsubsidized employment with work opportunities tax credit. Return and Earn type marketing package. Ahmad will be working on a policy that will help locals to roll out Bill No 1642.
3. The policy will include language about local areas funding OJT
4. Assessments during the process (internship (CWEP), OJT, WOTC) and a continuum process.
5. Core VS Non-Core is federal so we cannot control those pieces.
6. Value added piece needs to be a focus to “sell” the opportunity to employers. Fran has a cheat sheet for the WOTC.
7. The biggest problem is engaging customers in work activities (whether job or training)
8. If there are any best practices out there, please share.
9. There is no update in re-engaging E-Time.
10. SAIF responsibility? Jennifer Gecka (sp?) who oversees SAIF as of July 1st after a second outreach, they can refer to the CWA for a closure of the case for non-compliance. End of June there was a directive sent to all
11. TL’s – CWA or MWA with SAIF can determine closure.
12. The communication can be shared with the WDB’s.

Sarah Singer Quast

1. 2 New Policies rolled out (1) Youth/WFNJ Provider not directly providing occupational skills training are not on the ETPL (2) Monitoring policy which will be launching a new budget tool and performance indicator model.
2. An email was sent to all WDB directors on Friday and Sabrina and Mark Van Campen presented to the MIS committee about the new Youth provider SSTs that were newly completed and rolled out. The policy group will present to the GSETA Youth committee next month.
3. 2 new team members Cheryl Neas and Stephen Epstein.
4. Work Based Learning conversation – information on transitional employment policy and incumbent worker training (involving non-profits and government entities) is needed for the local areas. Federal language was ambiguous and that made the local area ambiguous. The primary focus for incumbent worker training is for layoff aversion.
5. County and Municipal government for CDL training that must be done through private training providers.

6. We need this to be a usable easy process for the employers in our regions. A master template is on NJDOL's radar.
7. Middlesex would like to launch their WBL activities in September. They have outreach materials being developed for their hard launch.
8. Gloucester contracts with their County Community College to provide incumbent worker training. Do not have the staff to provide OJT and are relying on the State staff for OJT's.
9. Staff capacity is very limited statewide therefore OJTs are not done through our ITA staff.
10. Job Developers are necessary. Atlantic County has currently 2 but will be adding to the list. Middlesex County is looking to add another WBL/Job Developer staff person to take care of the administrative tasks of the WBL.
11. Ocean has a Business Services Unit (Job Developer and Coordinator) – Youth Work Experience and WBL activities
12. Atlantic has made sure that the Business Services staff do not delineate between their employer (state vs. county). They are a business services team.
13. Mercer is under the Department of Economic Development. The BSR and the Business representative work hand in hand
14. MOU/IFA's will be coming back around in the Fall

Adjourn & Next Meeting

1. Professional Development and the importance of Professional Development. The GSETA Professional Development team will be working on ideas for training for the upcoming year.
2. Wellness Wednesdays was well received in Passaic County and would like those to continue.
3. Training staff on working with individuals with disabilities and/or working with special populations
4. Local Governance will be a focus
5. Leadership training will be also looked at
6. What skills are necessary for frontline staff to help them be successful.
7. Statewide structure for employment specialist orientation
8. State is working on a tool that has training programs and opportunities for staff in the next couple of weeks. It will help local areas with training staff. E.g., WBL training videos will be housed there.

Adjourn & Next Meeting

Best Practices will be on upcoming agendas.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:50 AM

Next Meeting: The next meeting date is September ?, 2022.