

MINUTES

GSETA Operations Committee

04/04/2022

WFNJ Updates: What is working? Policy updates

1. Greater Raritan – since February they have 245 referrals for the 4-work job readiness program. They have both in person and virtual. 1 person has attended in person – 18 virtual. Have a chrome book loaner and hot spot loaner program that is facilitated by their library.
2. Camden – 57 referred, 6 attended and they are in person
3. Monmouth – March referrals =26; 8 attended – in person
4. Ocean – 50 GA referrals with 5 attendees; 50 TANF with 3 attendees
5. Passaic – confusion at the Board of Social Services (new mgmt.) and although Melissa Moody and Melissa Brown had a meeting “soup to nuts” with regulations and responsibilities but still a problem

Work First NJ – Melissa Moody

1. Excused Absence Guidance is still in review – final status
2. SNAP Participation is NOT mandatory.
3. CWA’s have indicated to the State that they are under the impression that there are no activities available.
4. Several areas have indicated that there CWA stated that there are quotas based on the CSA

Work First NJ – Ahmad McDougle

1. The relationships between the local CWA leadership and the WDB leadership needs to be worked on. And the communication with all levels need to be improved.
2. NJDOL will allow 5% (up to \$30,000) of the WDB SNAP allocation and WDB TANF allocation (total \$60,000) can be used for marketing and outreach for SNAP and TANF. A budget and short narrative MUST be presented to Ahmad and his team. Must create a strategy and a budget for each funding stream and all materials must be separate. This could include material for the CWA’s and re-education of work activities. Can use media consultants/multimedia companies. Examples were asked for.
3. All no-cost extensions to 09/30/2022 need to be requested ASAP but no later than 06/15/2022 (mention Public Health Emergency in your reasoning). If you are looking at technology incentives you must include your plan.
4. Laptop Loaner Program – you can use your current allocations. Must respond to the 7 questions that were listed in the NGO for the same. Also need to be sure to have an insurance carrier involved. If you are having issues with your purchasing department, contact Ahmad. Mercer, Greater Raritan, Atlantic have a program in place. GEO tracking is necessary.
5. Incentive program to keep the technology may be allowable to incentivize customer success. All proposals to do this should be sent to Melissa and Ahmad – only allowable for TANF with SNAP/TANF funding. If you would like to expand to SNAP you must use outside funding.

Work-Based Learning: Training and Policy Updates – Sarah Singer Quast

1. An email was sent out regarding training dates that will be run through the GSETA Institute. Invoices will be prepared and sent out to mirror the NOA information. Local area representatives, BSR's, and state employees should attend.
2. State is looking to hire contract policy staff
3. Exit interviews for the monitoring should be finishing up this week. Trying to resolve most of the items that were "findings" before sending final letters to the WDB chairs and the Local Elected Officials. Going to try to establish on site visits/monitoring for PY 22.

GSETA Professional Development Institute – Pat Fenn

1. Wellness Wednesday's are free – encourage your local staff to participate in these one-hour sessions.
2. Angry Client training will be re-run on April 20th for those that could not get into the first round. Considering holding a 3 hour in person training session.
3. 04/27/22 Self Awareness and Self Compassion training will be held
4. IT programs will be scheduled

Open Discussion

1. Hold Backs – Ocean, Passaic, and Greater Raritan have all used holdbacks in their ITA's
2. Leslie Hirsch is looking to update the ETPL

Next Meeting

Monday, May 2, 2022