Minutes

GSETA Operations Committee

12/05/2022

# Call to Order – Fran Kuhn

1. Fran called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.
2. Table the approval of minutes until the committee receives and reviews.

# Work First NJ – Michelle Lowe, Melissa Moody & Ahmad McDougle

1. We recently learned that there are significant changes to the sanction process
2. History – came out in the budget language from the Governor. It is a surprise to everyone.
3. Different from the legislative process.
4. Same language is in the Work First NJ Reform Language.
5. This is not effective as of yet.
6. Only applies to the TANF population.
7. Because of the States antiquated system the changes are not in place. No sanctions are in place.
8. Will be in place “sometime in 2023”.
9. Importance of engaging the population – first we need to get their attention. How do we get clients attention to participate?
10. The State is extending the pro-rata for 6 months instead of the 1–2-month pro-rata. There is no rational for this extension.
11. Time Limits – are time limit hearings proceeding? yes, it went back to normal July 1st. No one has seen changes as of yet. Atlantic County has been Time Limiting folks since August/September.
12. Regardless of whether sanctions are in place the “clock” is still ticking.
13. Continue to make a good faith effort to get people into work activities. Should go back to the pre pandemic service provisions and offer work activities.
14. The biggest problem is engaging customers in work activities (whether job or training)! It has been 3 years that customers do not HAVE to participate.
15. Lynda Wolf has seen an increase in participation since September.
16. Encourage engagement in different formats and positive marketing.
17. Melissa Moody and Ahmad McDougle will be at the National SNAP E&T conference next week.
18. Can we utilize incentives for this population?
19. We have to change the culture from “Gotcha” to helping you.
20. Retaining customers in a program is very difficult. Voluntary is not giving us our numbers and the money is quite a lot and will go away if policy is not changed.
21. Why are clients dropping out? Childcare, pressing issues at home, transportation, etc.
22. Case management training is necessary for the One Stop and the Board of Social Services. For some cases case management needs to be very intensive. You cannot make people want what you want for them. Case management needs to know how to meet people where they are.
23. Concern regarding working and losing benefits (GA right away TANF 3 months). Transition planning needs to be integrated into programs and services. Financial Literacy and transitional coaching is necessary.
24. GA “first aid kit” and how do we help them be successful at their Time Limit.
25. Helpful to have a comprehensive list of transition supports/transitional benefits and time frames.

# One Stop Re-Opening

1. Atlantic County – UI is on the first floor, and they are limiting access to the One Stop. There are small groups of GA programs, however there is no incentive to stay in the program. The One-Stop numbers for the second floor, are steady.
2. Greater Raritan is getting customers from UI as well. Greater Raritan brought back the Jersey Job club about 4 months ago – hybrid format.
3. Essex County – there have been a small increase in walk ins. Trying to put together a flow for GA programming. Trying to track the flow and the number of clients assigned to the program.
4. Atlantic went out to the Family Success Centers to reach out to the clients. Atlantic ES has staff scheduling meetings at those locations. There is a real need to engage customers out in the community. You need a champion from the community partners.
5. Bergen will be going to the Meadowlands Family Success Center.

# Adjourn & Next Meeting

* High School Equivalency and PSI – “things are getting better” working out the bugs in the next month. Larry Breeden did suggest that you may want to go back to the GED. Essex is providing the GED if anyone needs help, they will help you. GED cost is $124.
* Happy Holidays to everyone!
* Meeting Adjourned at 11:00 AM. Next Meeting: The next meeting date is January 9th. We will be virtual, and we will be moving to a hybrid format.