Minutes

GSETA Operations Committee

2/06/2022

# Call to Order – Fran Kuhn

1. Fran called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.
2. Motion to approve 1/9/23 minutes made by Monica Mulligan; seconded by Sandra Bottoni. Motion approved.

# Work First NJ Introduction Sherie Jenkins, NJDOL

1. Sherie Jenkins introduced herself as the Director of Transitional Workforce Services. She has oversight of WFNJ, Literacy and Youth programming.
2. Ms. Jenkins is attending the meeting to listen and learn and appreciates the out-of-the-box thinking by local areas when serving WFNJ customers.
3. Ms. Jenkins asked that Danielle Jubanyik be added to the agenda next month to give an update on WLL funding, as it looks like additional resources will become available.

# Local Area Updates/WFNJ Activities/Fresh Ideas/Best Practices

1. Fran Kuhn reported that Atlantic County is looking to diversify its outreach. They are working with their two family success centers and using funding to support an ESL instructor at one an GED programming at another. They had also released an RFP for transitional jobs but did not get any responses. As a result, they are working with the success coaches from their community college on programming for SNAP customers.
2. Lynda Wolf reported that in Bergen County, the outreach bus is on hiatus due to the cold weather. They have been working with their family success center as well as their libraries for outreach. They have also brought in guest speakers as part of their WFNJ programming to include a nutritionist, a nurse and a program called “Tools and Tiaras” that help to teach customers life skills such as to make small plumbing repairs. Linda also spoke about the success they have had with testimonials. They have two customers that they have filmed given one minute testimonials on the success they have had thanks to the supportive services form the One Stop. They show these to new customers in an effort to inspire and motivate them.
3. Fran Cirii reported that Camden County One Stop and its Board of Social Services are now co-located resulting in great synergy between the two entities. Because of their proximity to the train station, they have done print media at some of the stops to facilitate outreach. Camden County is also taking time to train the staff at the Board of Social Services about the One Stop’s services so that they can provide that information to their customers. They have funded a shuttle service that assists customers with getting to the office and had a presence at county flue and covid shot clinics in order to spread the word about services.
4. Eileen Gallo reported that Gloucester County continues to operate both in-person/virtual and hybrid. The virtual model addresses the childcare and transportation issues that many have due to limited resources for both in the county.
5. Chris Peake reported that Greater Raritan continues with in-person/virtual/hybrid model as well. The WFNJ to-work programming is offered in a synchronous model to in-person students as well as those that are virtual. Referrals from the board of social services come in waves with some months with none/few and others with a long list. Because of significant cuts in WLL funding, the local area is utilizing WIOA Adult funds to support WLL for those that qualify for this funding. Outreach continues to the community as well as the Chromebook program for those who need technology to participate. The local area is using a platform called Snag Pad that helps to track job search, gives job seekers concrete info and feedback on their job search progress and provides reports on progress that can be reviewed by career navigators.
6. Hilda Alonso from Middlesex County reported that the local area continues with virtual work readiness classes and will be moving to a hybrid model in march. Their to-work programming includes career exploration, time management and stress management classes and incorporate SkillUp. They will also be using some of the tools available through LinkedIn.
7. Yolanda Taylor from Monmouth County reported that they are providing services in a hybrid model. They have CWEPs in place. They are providing ESL to refugees from Ukraine. They are utilizing some DFD funds to work with TANF customers.
8. Virgen Velez reported in Mercer County that they are co-located with the board of social services. They have subcontracted for WFNJ services and have none contracts with 6 agencies. Goodwill has two sites in county and they have CWEP placements with that community organization.
9. Kelly O’Neill McGuire reported that Morris/Sussex Warren has been working on their communications through social media. They are working with the county mobile outreach, Navigating Hope, to bring outreach into the community. They are utilizing Conover with their customers. They hope to start their Chromebook program soon, but are waiting for technology to arrive. They are also providing ESL classes to those refugees from Ukraine through the WLL. They are utilizing WIOA funds to help supplement WLL since they have already served more than double their level of service. OJT and IWT are the big focus of the local area.
10. Marsha Armstrong from Newark reported that they have focused their attention to incumbent worker training and have also been working closely with the unhoused. The numbers of those without addresses has risen significantly. They are working with the employers on how to receive these customers as employees. They have also been working with small businesses on OJTs.
11. Roberta Espinal from Passaic County reported that they are receiving about 40-50 referrals per month and have enrolled 62 customers in their Career Showcase. This program assists participants with tracking down the documents they need to obtain employment. They also work on literacy and job matching. They are providing services in person, virtual and in a hybrid model. They are also using Metrix. Davidene Alpart reported that they have a very close collaboration with their board of social services. Roberta is in daily contact with social services. She highlighted the SOAR program, which works with customers living with learning disabilities. Also, the Math Boot Camp helps those who need to clean up their math skills in preparation of taking the CASAS. Roberta also highlighted a WFNJ success story where they worked with the customer to enter training.
12. Kim Liguori reported that Ocean County is providing services in-person, virtual and hybrid. Customers are being referred directly to them from the board. They are doing an orientation with them right from the start to keep folks engaged and get them credentialed. They are working with community partners to bring them on-site to provide information on their services to customers. Working on getting childcare and nutrition as part of their orientation to connect them with services.

# DFD Updates: Melissa Moody

1. There are software system related issues that are not allowing sanctions to start as the system cannot take into consideration the pro-rata change that was put into place with the new budget. They are moving into a new system so they have to band-aid into this to make it work.
2. ABAWDs will be extended at least another year due the waiver that the state received.
3. While case loads are dropping, there are approximately 50,000 SNAP customers that can be engaged and offered services through the voluntary process.
4. DFD is no longer participating in time limit (TL) hearings, as they can only speak to policy not to the specifics of the case. Pre-covid, this was a practice but they felt that they were not adding value to the process. DFD is working within the federal regulations for the TLs.

# ETPL and Waiver Updates: Lesley Hirsch

1. Lesley Hirsch was having technical difficulties and could not log on.
2. Fran Kuhn reported that in Atlantic County they applied for a casino game table waiver. It was granted by the state through a process that took about 2.5 months.
3. Fran Kuhn is looking for information form the state about HVAC relative to the ETPL.

# Adjourn and Next Meeting

1. Meeting Adjourned at 11:27 AM.
2. Next meeting is March 6, 2023 at 10:00AM