Minutes

GSETA Operations Committee

03/06/2023

# Call to Order – Fran Kuhn

1. Fran called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.
2. Approval of minutes: Motion – Monica Mulligan, Second – Kelly O’Neill-McGuire.

# Literacy – Dr. Danielle Jubanyik

1. HiSet ongoing problems with the Administrator (Nationwide problem)
2. PSI who took over the company was very understaffed
3. Assistant Commissioner of NJDOE met with the VP of PSI where NJ was assured that they will do better
4. Consideration resting with the DOE Commissioner of whether or not to continue with HiSet
5. Danielle sent an email to the Title II directors asking that they send letters if they wish to put their input/viewpoint in front of the Commissioner of DOE
6. Gary Altman had invited them to the SETC meeting however they did not show
7. There will be a GED conference this summer in New York
8. Do not dump money into HiSet in the product as we do not know how long it will be available
9. The GED is costly ($144 per test) the “disenfranchised” will lose out
10. The Workforce Learning Link – hit with COVID (1) more funding will be coming and available in SAGE for the current fiscal year (doubling what you had)
11. WLL moved under Sheri Jenkins
12. WLL are not required. Applications will be put out for non-traditional training ideas (laptop loaner programs, family literacy programs, the physical links will be fading out).
* Tracking will still be required
* Currently most areas have been using WIOA funds to supplement the Links – Based on this the customers must be WIOA eligible.
* Learning Links should be available both virtual and physical
* Andre Williams is no longer in the field.
* Areas should be thinking about doing different things to offer the Link offerings
* Contact Danielle if you are interested in piloting something
* CASAS testing for youth – it is off putting for youth. Need to be sure that it is explained well.
* TABE tests will be allowed to be used as of 07/01/23 – both testing tools will be allowable.

# Using WIOA for targeted outreach -

1. Workforce GPS Seminar transcript of the October 2022 webinar were sent out by Fran
2. Good explanation of how you can let people know about the One Stop
3. Misunderstanding with most of us about using our money to market our services.
4. You can market your programs to specific populations if you follow the seminar guidelines.
5. Larry Sternbach copied the Arizona marketing “Truck Yeah” for CDL A training. The in-person sessions were better attended than the virtual. This is a targeted program that was done through Constant Contact. They will now expand to a health care program. The targeting of specific programs is working better than just generally marketing the One Stop.
6. Fran Kuhn is looking at doing this, however it is taking an extreme amount of education to the office of internal audit. They have finally agreed to this. Fran is going to be doing this for Casino Dealers (now on the demand list since he did an exception). The program is called “Let’s make a Dealer” there are about 500 openings currently. Short turn around time (4-6 weeks) and $10,000.
7. This is an option to get us out there to outreach to the community and customers. We should all be doing this. If you can talk about this to employers and employer needs, then you can do this. You cannot advertise specific to your agency unless you go out and state the “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_County WDB has received an award for the 2022-2023 program year for the following…..”. Read the transcript for more information and explorations of using.
* Bergen uses it for their bus that goes out into the community.

# Changes in Operating Practices

1. Atlantic County – will be going to in person RESEA orientation beginning this month. County and ES staff are doing this jointly. They will also maintain the virtual/hybrid sessions. GA Protocol is in person. They did not agree to do this virtually. Fran suggests going to CBOs to engage customers.
2. Greater Raritan – Hybrid provision of services. They are seeing that given the option, customers are choosing to remain virtual. Have implemented evening hours but they are not being used as they thought would happen. Offered an Open House to both customers.
3. Sabrina Sullivan wanted to know if anyone offer 1:1 virtual meeting during the orientation to assist with the eligibility? Ocean does and it is working well.
4. Essex County – some staff have relocated to the Welfare office temporarily to engage customers. Additionally, they offer both options to customers regarding virtual and in-person.
5. 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.
6. Bergen has a mobile van that goes out into the community to engage customers. Very successful with providing mini job fairs for employers. Send out welcome letter to WFNJ customers who are referred to workforce readiness. They are also going to more Chamber meetings.
7. Morris/Sussex/Warren – are still virtual at this time. They also have a mobile outreach available with the County.
8. Essex in conversation with a virtual reality company to offer virtual services.

# Work First NJ

1. We are currently in unchartered territory regarding voluntary activities
2. The State is working on sanctioning for non-compliance
3. We will probably be in a voluntary status for the remainder of the year
4. If you can justify the service (eligibility of the population) you can run special programs. Atlantic County is running an ESL program through his Community Success Centers
5. Look at this creatively and market the opportunities
6. Cash benefits are being “lost” in all areas for time limits. Cases are being closed by the CWA staff and should be processing the paperwork
7. Challenge is to engage the population from public assistance to unsubsidized employment
8. Everyone we can get with the carrot we have them – we need the “stick” to get people in. We cannot spend money if we cannot get them interested in engagement.
9. Financial Literacy program in Bergen – they are working with a bank since September. They have also added nutrition training. CWEPS are rising. It is all about the people that leads the program. They do not have big numbers. The challenge is engaging more people.
10. Fran is working with Conover (on-line) foundations for success program and putting together a resume however once they are moved to a work activity, they lose them. The only population that is regularly showing up is the SAIF participants. Therefore, they are connecting them to the CWEP provider starting next week.
11. Monica Mulligan asked about incentives. WFNJ $ cannot be used for incentives. The Workgroup has NOT met. The Labor partners are not being cooperative to get a meeting on the calendar.
12. Transitional jobs with supports to help clients understand that they are not jeopardizing their benefits.
13. Governor’s proposed budget eliminates the 28-day GA protocol. They do have to change the regulations. Alicia will be on the April call to discuss.

# Open Discussion

1. BETA version of AOSOS is out. There are a lot of concerns regarding the new version. The new version is very challenging.
2. At the MIS meeting everyone was told to use the old version until further notice.
3. Larry would like someone to be on the call to discuss. No one knows who took over for Jacqui but Fran will look into it and extend an invite.

# Adjourn & Next Meeting

* Meeting Adjourned at 11:30 AM. Next Meeting: The next meeting date is April 3rd .