Minutes

GSETA Operations Committee

08/07/2023

# Call to Order – Virgen Velez

1. Fran Kuhn called the meeting to order at 10:01 am.
2. Approval of minutes: Fran did not send out the minutes so we cannot vote on them today.

# WFNJ/SNAP/GA – Jennifer Gietka, Alecia Eubanks, Melissa Moody

1. Ms. Eubanks stated that there is support to keep the CSA’s virtual/telephonically.
2. DFD will not require in person CSA. SNAP E&T is voluntary, however there is a work requirement. If a person does not meet the work requirement, there is no disqualification. The Work First NJ population must meet their work requirement and there will be disqualification if they do not meet their work requirement. The conversation should not be about sanctioning. We should be marketing our activities to get people involved voluntarily.
3. SAIF clients and vendors are encouraged to comply. If there is non-compliance, they are closed.
4. Alecia has contacted other states to see what works. What do we do to prevent sanctioning?
5. What works without the ability to sanction or engage the population in person?
   1. Bergen County brings in guest speakers – e.g., financial literacy, nutritionist, resume writing to the Jeopardy game, Tammy Molinelli does a mindfulness workshop, etc. Many people need mental health assistance. Bergen does an exit interview.
   2. Greater Raritan – We have spoken about the innovative ways to serve customers. The vagueness with which we are working with that is causing the issues. DFD and DOL are 2 separate entities and there is not a lot of concrete technical assistance. We need structure and framework.
   3. Cumberland – What is the service delivery module in place? There is a 60-month time limit. The challenge is the activities in place. Remote is not an option as there are issues with cell service and internet access. There are no remote jobs. People need to have the skills to work in person, have childcare in place, have transportation. There needs to be intensive case management in place. We need to change in thought, change in action, and responsibility. Think about it from a modal service delivery perspective.
   4. Mercer – Core vs non-core. Number of hours allowed.
   5. Atlantic – We need to change the system significantly. We need to get past the legacy of putting people in a work activity for the sake of the work activity. We need to get individuals into long term self-sustaining employment. Atlantic is working with Stockton University to hold focus groups to find out what the client needs to move from reliance on public assistance to gainful employment. There needs to be assistance on transitioning customers to the affordable care act.
   6. Cape May – The CWA not seeing customers face to face, helps with time management. There is case management face to face. The referrals to the Job Center are very few due to deferrals and no shows. When housing is tied to benefits it is difficult to encourage individuals to get off of assistance.
   7. Camden – Firm believer in face to face as the best way to serve individuals. Philosophically, not working face to face and developing a relationship or engaging individuals is harmful to assisting them. There needs to be a stick and a carrot (not just carrots).
   8. Greater Raritan – Solution based. What can we use as monetary incentives for meeting benchmarks. If individuals can be externally motivated, we can get them in the door. Can we use our allocation to provide benchmark incentives?
6. There is a small caseload of TANF, but we get the most money for TANF. SNAP is our largest caseload and where most of the money is coming in. Where is the money going?
7. The sanction piece is still there. The sanction has changed to just a pro-rata system and not a suspension.
8. Summer Youth Employment Program does not affect the TANF household benefits.

# IGX Update

1. IGX Help is the way to get help. IGX Help is looked at every day.
2. Do not contact Nancy Hiller or anyone.
3. Fran will send out Lesley Hirsch’s email regarding a message regarding IGX.
4. Committee members have emailed IGX for help and there has never been a response.
5. Vendors should put as much information in the summary of the ETPL (hours of training).
6. Raul Ludizaca – someone who was not showing as active on AOSOS prior to the person clearing the cache/cookies.

# Professional Development Institute – Fran Kuhn

1. Conference Update (at the Hard Rock Hotel)– The catalog went out.

# CASAS Vs. TABE

1. Virgen wanted to know about what others are doing for testing.
2. Atlantic County feels TABE is more difficult and is sticking with CASAS.
3. Most people on the call are sticking with CASAS.
4. Bergen has a math bootcamp for individuals who need to take the Math portion.

# Open Discussion

1. High School Equivalency? Atlantic County is having issues with Pearson Vue. Greater Raritan also has issues with them as they work through a PO process.
2. Jaimie Gomez has customers take the HSE online.

# Adjourn & Next Meeting

* Meeting Adjourned at 11:30 AM. Next Meeting: The next meeting date is September, 2023.