Minutes

GSETA Operations Committee

11/06/2023

# Call to Order – Fran Kuhn

1. Allison Spinelli called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.
2. Approval of minutes: Monica Mulligan motion to approve, Howard Weiss Second.

# DFD Updates- Jennifer Gietka, Alecia Eubanks, Melissa Moody

1. Nothing has transpired since the last meeting.
2. Bobbi-Jo Taylor, Cape May – did not realize that incentives were only allowed for TANF customers. Incentives cannot be authorized for SNAP.
3. Davidene Alpart – are there any updates on the sanctioning? SNAP will never go back to being mandatory. The statewide waiver for ABAWDS will be lost January 31, 2024. 20-hour mandatory activity by February 1st. GA is currently mandatory. Let Melissa know if you are not receiving referrals. The new TANF customer sanctioning should be in place by the end of the year. There is a pro-rata piece. If there is a sanction for TANF, the child share will NOT be impacted.
4. The state is looking to do an ABAWD refresher training before the end of the year. It will be for everyone at the same time.
5. Larry Sternbach, Monmouth County – Returned a lot of TANF money last year. What can we do with our money that can be effective. What is working and what is not working? Are there any innovative programs that you have seen? Melissa will put together something from her travels. Most of what she has heard, the most impactful piece of participation was case management. Put support behind the individual to give them help (transportation, childcare, etc.). They need an individual to cheerlead for them. Individuals who successfully complete the program and the actual participant becomes a trainer or an instructor also give the participants hope that they too can be successful (e.g., ESL trainers).
6. Less job search, less job search training. Focus on soft skills (digital literacy) and intensive case management. Start with what supports do you need to be successful and focus on that.

# Co-Enrollment – Questions for Sara Singer Quast

1. Howard Weiss – May be push back from other agencies and our own MIS divisions. What are the implications for co-enrollment of our Work First NJ customers. There are a lot of questions regarding co-enrollment.
2. Apryl Caldwell – have the unions been informed of this policy? Individuals may be working out of their job scopes. Asking a staff person from one program to provide eligibility enrollment for all 19 programs is burdensome. This affects job descriptions etc. Who will enforce and monitor this directive?
3. What is the actual definition of co-enrollment?
4. There needs to be discussion regarding AOSOS and LOOPs and other databases that will be integral in the co-enrollment process.
5. Paul Grzella – Shouldn’t our local policy follow the state policy. The WDB should have oversight of this policy.
6. What is the impact on our performance metrics? The state could ask for a waiver on those. The bigger concern is the mechanics of this policy.
7. Send all questions or concerns regarding this policy to Fran and copy Kim Liguori.

# Discussion of MOU development – impact on Operations

1. Tabled to next month.

# TEGL 3-23

1. This is the TEGL on allowable outreach activities.
2. This is a shift for us. There are several areas across the country that have been outreaching for a long time. The outreach should focus on a population or a specific program. Can GSETA put together something for us to understand better? Also bring up at Wednesday’s membership meeting.
3. As long as you have a local policy in place you can use funds for outreach.

# NGOs – Pathways to Recovery, JOBS, LiLA, SNAP STEPS, Bridges, etc.

1. A partner chart was sent out to everyone regarding who has been awarded the grants. If you did not receive, please reach out to Fran.
2. The WDB should be a “real” partner in any grant applications – not an afterthought.

# Adjourn & Next Meeting

* Meeting Adjourned at 10:49 AM. Next Meeting: The next meeting date is December 4, 2023.