

MINUTES

GSETA Operations Committee

05/12/2025

Call to Order & Review of Minutes

1. Fran Kuhn called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. The minutes were reviewed and a motion by Davie Alpart motion, Jaimie Gomez, second. All approved.

Review of Demand Occupation List and Waivers – Lesley Hirsch

1. A presentation of a slide deck was presented by Lesley.
2. The Demand Occupation List establishes ITA eligibility under WIOA
3. New approach with two qualifying criteria that differs from previous methodology that attempted to measure supply/demand gaps.
4. There are now 149 occupations on the 2024 list. 53 occupations were removed but 75 were added.
5. Growth in Healthcare. EMT is back on the list.
6. Notable removals: Network Support Specialist, Network Administrators, Network Architects and Nursing Assistants. However, CHHA's are still on. You can submit waivers – please submit by June 1st.
7. Waiver process: Only the WDBs may request local and regional waivers. Two methods to demonstrate demand: employer letters (min of 2) with hiring evidence and regional labor market information showing stronger local demand. Submit requests to the Center of Occupational Employment Information. 30- day determination period. Guidelines for the waiver process on <https://nj.gov/labor/career-services/tools-support/demand-occupations/waivers.shtml>.
8. 5 waivers that will not be needed: HVAC Technicians, Construction Laborers, Machinists, Medical Secretaries, Medical Records Specialists. There are other waivers that need to be re-submitted. There will be a letter notifying the local areas about which waivers that will be expiring. www.nj.gov/labor/career-services/tools-support/demand-occupations/wivers.shtml
9. Fran asked about the job posting from Light Cast. Each local area will receive the first 500 for their area. Only Atlantic County has gotten their first 500. It is an on-line job posting search.
10. Fran also asked about a policy that the WIOA POD is writing, it should have mention to the waiver request process.
11. Waivers should go to Nanci Hillier and Jason Timeon.
12. The updates will be on the training explorer on July 1, 2025.
13. Please be sure that CIP Codes match the actual occupational training.
14. Fran asked about the Work Based Learning and the Demand List. It will be checked with the policy message.

Draft Policy Discussion: All Areas Proposed – Kendra Lee/and group

1. RISE day 2 are this week.
2. The Strategic Plan Update Template will be sent by the end of the week.
3. The budget template is still not out yet. It will be due 2 weeks after the receipt of the template. Hoping to get it out by the end of the day.

4. Share the invite with the appropriate staff.
5. The turn around time was very short.
6. Some individuals were able to sit down in a 2-hour meeting to discuss.
7. ITA policy – increase the maximum amount of the ITA to \$7500.00. Regional discussion was had to discuss the maximum amount. Lesley would like a list of programs that you would like to compare statewide and regionally.
8. Beth Rodgers – spoke about the CDL A and B program. Some of her vendors are lumping them together. Beth also asked if a vendor wants to increase their costs, they should show why – inflation, costs, certifications, etc. Lesley will alert the DOE regarding if there is a change in tuition.
9. The updated Consumer Report Card will be updated and up in June.
10. Monica VanPelt – asked if employment and wage rate will be available for the program. Yes – this will be all used in the Consumer Report Card. There are several items that are taken into consideration for the Consumer Report Card. The Report Card will be up in the next couple of months.
11. Fran wants to have samples of the master contracts. At a minimum regional master contract. If you have a template, send to Nanci Hiller and Lesley Hirsch.
12. The stackable credentials should be shut down. We are paying for several credentials when a person only completes one. This should be addressed in the ITA and not necessarily the Master Agreement. We should modularize the course and the payment schedule.

Work First NJ Funding Discussion – Sherie Jenkins

1. Work First NJ will be given a no cost extension this year, because both the fiscal departments in DHS and DOL. The funding year is October 1 through September 30. It cannot be aligned with WIOA.
2. Letters will be going out today explaining all of this. You will have spending authority through September 30th. If you need to meet with Sherie you must have your proposed budgets to Sherie and schedule a meeting.
3. They are aligning with the Federal Fiscal Year.
4. Planning estimates are NOT available. Do not anticipate the same amount of funding from the state. Employment is the name of the game. Contracts should be focused on employment goals. Not only employment but employment and retention (employment at the second quarter).
5. Jaime Gomez -funds must be obligated by September 30th and fully expended by December 31st.
6. All WFNJ RFPS should be suspended.
7. Howard Weiss – Kendra should pause the budget based on this news. Sherie says that Kendra and Sara are aware.

Digital Equity Discussion

1. Due date has passed. Panel review is done.
2. Executive Review has begun. It will take about 30 days.
3. NJDOL received about 28 applications for this grant.

Topics From NAWDP: Apprenticeship, SCSEP, Others

1. Fran found the conference very valuable.
2. Co-enrollment is all over the map all over the Country.

Open Discussion:

1. Kelly Oneill McGuire – question regarding Industry Valued Credentials. Send the question to Lesley.
2. Meeting was adjourned at 11:36 am.
3. Next meeting is on June 2, 2025 at 10:00 am.