



Joint Newark and Essex County

Literacy Committee/ Workforce Investment Board JVS, East Orange, NJ January 7, 2019

<i>Barcelos, Cristhian</i>	LVA, NCC	<i>Schaeffer, Janine</i>	ECWDB
<i>Carvajal, Allyson</i>	LWD	<i>Sternstein, Lynn</i>	JVS
<i>Celestin, Judith</i>	ECC	<i>Torres, Deyka</i>	ECST
<i>Fisher, Nancy</i>	JVS ret.	<i>Vera, Ana</i>	FOCUS
<i>Mirda, Betty</i>	DEDE-EC	<i>Weiss, Howard</i>	ECWDB

Welcome

Lynn Sternstein opened the meeting with introductions.

Minutes from the November meeting were approved.

Testing

Lynn stated that after the last meeting she felt she needed to make a chart of what agency is doing what test (see handout). Betty believes the County will be going to CASAS as they are looking how to convert the current computers to Windows 10. If you have a CD ROM drive it is easier. Betty stated that even the training video requires Windows 10 to watch. Betty sent an email to Maxine McCormick asking her when exactly they will still have access to 9/10 because originally they stated through February 2019. She has not heard anything about it being active through July 1st. Two counties have already testing on CASAS. Judy stated that they were always told that the TASC is a placement test so how do you now tell students that if you pay for it and take it at a center you will have your High School Diploma.

Lynn asked for some consortium wide training with CASAS but they are waiting for approval of the math section. Judy stated that she was advised not to do the training because it is long and difficult, before the math gets approved.

Howard stated that in a worst case scenario you could still give the old math test but just not report its results. There was discussion regarding the effect of an extended government shutdown. Judy stated that for our purposes you only need the reading score so you can use CASAS. Judy stated that she is only required to put one (1) score in the system.

Consortium Update

Judy stated that she was being audited during the last Literacy Committee meeting. They were looking at their IETs (Integrated Educational Training with the Civic/ESL population) to make sure they were aligned with a vocation that leads to a certification. Lynn stated that this is challenging because this group is low level English language learners. Each Consortia had to put forth two (2) options for IET and one of which is Serve Safe (safe food handling) and the other is Microsoft Office.

Lynn stated that she did it a little differently adding on four (4) weeks to the Civic portion and they would come five (5) times a week. They would start watching the videos and the teacher would stop it and explain slower. Towards the end they would be watching the videos on their own. Judy stated that she spoke to someone in another consortia and that group gave the TABE test first in order to weed out students that wouldn't do well.

The first class they had seventeen (17) people sign up and thirteen (13) people passed. The next group was twenty-six (26) signed up and twenty-two (22) passed. Cristhian Barcelos added that all of his teachers teach ServeSafe and the higher level learners always do better. There is no requirement regarding the outcomes of this population. Judy stated that this is very expensive to do this type of training. It was discussed that Microsoft training costs approximately \$200 per person and Serve Safe training costs about \$50 per person.

Howard stated that the Office of Apprenticeship should take some of their money and put it into the Title II training programs.

Lynn stated that in her ABE program they are dealing with a lot of mental health issues and disabilities. Howard stated that it could get worse because they are talking about using common measures for DVR and Title II. Howard asked if the consortium gets a report detailing the common measure outcomes for consortium customers. The common measures are retention in employment, wages. Judy stated that they get a report card with their target but not seeing income.

Lynn asked how can they, as a group ask for more funding because they are not getting adequate amounts to do the training. Judy stated that she was told to get the funding from the One-Stops. It was Danielle Jubanyjk that stated to get the funding from the local areas. Cristhian stated that most of their students will not qualify for anything because they are not at a ninth grade level. Lynn agreed that if they use the same WIOA guidelines not a single person will qualify. Howard stated he will call Danielle to discuss this issue. Judy added that most of the ESL students are employed. The discussion ensued that there are two different reports that do not have similar information. Howard stated that the earnings is an aggregated amount that is nine (9) months down the road. Allyson stated that Hugh Bailey is very much for integrated systems. She stated that there is a lot of technical assistance available and that the result might be the levels projected downwards. Hugh Bailey has been a champion of WIOA Youth (16-24 years old) and there is a focus on apprenticeship. Lynn stated that is not the population that they serve. Judy stated that she will invite Howard to the next Consortia meeting with the state.

HSE Update

The County Votech school will be a Hi-Set testing center. Lynn stated NJ requires a higher total score than the rest of the country to pass. So there could be a case where the test says they pass but they didn't meet the requirements for NJ. Betty stated that the next versions of the TASC are coming out the week of January 22nd. Judy stated that the test is not getting harder but the individual questions could be harder and it depends what version they are given. Howard asked about time for the test and each section is different one hundred five (105) minutes for math, one hundred ten (110) writing, seventy-five (75) for science, eighty-five (85) for reading and eighty-five (85) social studies and they never put the two (2) longest together and it's over a three (3) day period. Lynn stated that for the County the TANF population can just go in and take the test without all the barriers of the TABE score and TANF will pay for it. GA and SNAP programs do not pay for it and it is unfair, Howard stated that he will talk to Julius and reach out to Human Services because they have plenty of money to pay for it.

NJALL Update

Cristhian stated that Danielle is supposed to be coming to the next meeting. They are also working on other state funding for literacy beyond Title II. Nancy Fisher added that there are some beneficial webinars that are free and pretty good that everyone should watch out for. She also stated that SCALES is looking in to the literacy impact on the earning power of students.

Betty stated that even to apply for a job today they are moving to all on-line applications. She doesn't understand how they are still seeing students who cannot use a computer. Howard added that that population will be aging out soon. Cristhian stated that they run computer classes all the time and they are not full.

Adjournment

There being no further business the Literacy meeting was adjourned at 12:10 am.

Respectfully submitted by
Janine Schaeffer

Next Meeting Date: March 11th, 2019, Training Inc.