

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE
October 27, 2011

Members Present

Dr. W. King, Chair
Rick DeCosta, GC Special Transportation
Rev. Frazier, FBO
Edward Green, DVRS
Hazel Lee-Briggs, Ctr. For Indep. Living
John Zukauskas, NewPoint Behavioral
Bridget DiGiambattista, WIB Staff

Tom Brown, Mid-Atlantic States Career
Joe Frattali, WIB Director
Edith Giberson, Abilities Center
Theresa Rohlfling, Ctr. For Indep. Living
Brigette Satchell, GCC
Eileen Gallo, WIB Staff

Members Absent

Mark Boyd, Goodwill
Muncie Buckalew, St. John of God
John DeSant, GC DoC
Cristin Farney, Devereux
Jim Kneubuehl, Abilities Center
Susan Perron, Abilities Center
Scott Raynor, Business
Joye Tillman, NJ Comm. For Blind

Pat Bruder, EIRC
Ray Childs, GC DoC
Glen Donelson, Mid-Atlantic States Career
Ron Jones, Private
Valoree Luzier, GC DoC
Aaron Ray, NJLWD
Elmoria Thomas, EIRC

Dr. King opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

A motion was made to approve August 2, 2011 meeting minutes.

Status

Disability Issues – concern remains with students receiving proper assessment through ACT. Eileen will schedule a meeting with D. Cook & J. Feder to discuss the concern. Ed suggested possibly more situational assessments, whether using Abilities Center or St. John of God, where we can place individuals in real life experiences, would be beneficial. Eileen asked if we still want to keep on agenda the concern with youth aging out of high school too early or make plans to confront the issue. Dr. King stated we need to gather additional data. Ed stated one of the bigger problems they see with aging out too early is the gap between the ability of DDD to start services and the time they are entering into their (DVRS) or other systems. For example, if they graduate at 18, DDD does not begin offering services until age of 21, so there is a 3 year gap of services. Dr. King stated we then need to think about focusing on an educational process for both parent & student starting about age 14, on their ‘turf’. Theresa reported SPAN (Supporting Parents Advocacy Network) organization will visit ACT and provide a presentation on various topics.

Literacy – We have asked several FBO’s to help provide service to inmates being released that are not on probation, to help them to continue with GED training they were receiving in jail.

Title II – Brigette reported their funding was cut by 33%, however, services have not been affected. ESL services have been reduced in Glassboro & Williamstown. For first quarter of program year they have served 187 customers, which is 40% of goal. Brigette reported 58% of those that took GED between July and September were under 21 years of age, most were between ages 16 – 18. There is a concern with what the next step for this age bracket is, i.e. training, employment, college.

WLL- funding has been cut but have been able to leverage funding with Title II so no services are affected. Four inmates recently passed GED test, 3 currently enrolled, & 5 new will enter the program. From July through September St. Matt's has had 14 customers, 4 new this month.

Mid-Atlantic – Tom reported they have started their 4th class of inmates at the jail, currently have 17 enrolled. To date, they have 3 job placements and only 1 individual has returned to jail. Tom reported they are working on project called New Options Farm, which is a year round greenhouse farm. It will use sustainable energy. They intend the labor force to be mentally & physically disabled, disabled veterans & ex-offenders. They are currently looking for a brownfield site in Gloucester County.

Center for Indep. Living – Theresa announced the next parent support group will focus on educating parents with students who have IEP's. They are working on employment for students that are not going to college. Hazel reported they are no longer getting funding from NJLWD for PSA and want them to prepare the clients for employment.

GC Special Transportation- Rick reported we have been without the Medicaid transportation dollars for about 9 months. The one partial replacement of those funds was the New Freedom grant and also the County has contributed money to help with in transporting students to the ACT program. Their transportation program has shifted from 70% medical to even balance of work related, education, & medical. Year to date through September 2011 non-competitive employment rides are 17,608, competitive rides are 44,606, training & education (ACT) rides are 922. Pureland Shuttle provided rides for 9 Gloucester County residents.

Dr. King asked Eileen if she spoke with Morris Reichman to date regarding tracking inmates with AOSOS, Eileen stated she has not.

A motion for adjournment was made.

The next meeting will be January 26, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridget A. DiGiambattista, WIB Staff