

Interface Advisory Board Meeting Minutes; November 6, 2014

Present: Myrna Pinckney, Myles Brackman, Ed Hoff, Al Sczweck, Vicky Gaddy, Esther Portnoy, Donna Scalia, Julie Piano, Bert Kormann, Ellen Kurtz,

1. Meeting called to order 9:05 am
2. CARF
Vocational Rehabilitation and 2 other departments were surveyed by CARF on October 16 & 17. Staff have been preparing for 6 months, with the payoff being NO DEFICIENCIES within the department. The Vocational Evaluation Services are approved for a 3 year renewal as required by NJDVRS.
3. Trial Work Experience was one of the suggestions from CARF. Myrna Pinckney added that TWE has been little utilized service that is being revitalized. Voc Rehab will explore eligibility to provide the services that are very similar to our Career Development Program for adults referred by DVR. The TWE goal is to provide adults with little to no work experiences with on the job experience at a variety of locations and positions. Will reach out to DVR Central Office for further information.
4. Vicky Gaddy suggested that the science community has many programs for students interested in science. The discussion focused on how Lab students might get extended time at companies to develop internship related skill builders. Since Volunteering is not permitted at private sector companies, non-profit organizations need to be contacted, and at higher levels (executive buy-in) All members of the Board supported that the department must increase visibility of all its programs, increase networking and start with a newsletter, print or electronic. Particular attention must be given to the many successes we had in Voc Rehab. YOU-TUBE?
5. Ed Hoff added that NJ TRANSIT is ripe with opportunities for employment, explore website, particularly with the adult CDP clients served. Ed also recommended that Interface invite Cliff Sanders of the NJ Center for Independent Living to work in unison on the vocational outcomes of our mutual clientele.
6. Bert Kormann announced that in preparation for the upcoming Career Options Day and for networking, the list of NJ Federal Contractors is being searched for contact information so the dept. can reach out to them consistent with our previous discussion on the 7% Rule of the USDOL. Vicky Gaddy suggests that SHRM should also be involved.
7. Ellen Kurtz announced that an worksite is being worked on at Donna Scalia's office in Edison with the US DOL Office on apprenticeship.

8. Al Sczweck introduced an article written by the Editor of Diversity Inc magazine Luke Visconti.. The article had high praise for JFK's Rehabilitation Services. Staff will reach out to the gentleman for assistance at the Interface Board level.

9. Program Updates:

High School Career Development program: 41 students are enrolled in Edison, 3 in Brick, nearly equaling the number that were in program last year. Referrals are still being received. Ellen shared about the upcoming activities for Thanksgiving, and that several students will be introduced to the Board in the December meeting.

Computer Application Training / Lab Assistant Training programs: Board members were invited to the November 20 Graduation ceremony at the JFK conference Center. 10 graduates out of 20 are participating with guest speakers; one is a retiring person that got employment at a later age after completing CAT. The other is a 69 year old woman that was just hired at Qualcare, JFK's employee insurer.

The training programs will be submitting to the County of Middlesex for the Master Contract in order to be eligible to receive referrals for training. The training programs will adjust the groups to include the new requisites for all training programs to provide Work Readiness and Ethics training.

Next meeting scheduled December 4, 2014

Minutes Submitted by Bert Kormann, JFK Vocational Rehabilitation Dept. Clinical Supervisor