

Middlesex County Workforce Investment Board

Literacy Committee

Meeting of March 12, 2013

Present: Gloria Aftanski, Baden Almonor, Marlene Lederman, Senovia Robles, Melissa Cohen, Jessica Tomkins

Staff: Jane Brady

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Jane reminded the members that they had been sent the updated Goals and that the goals had been approved by the WIB at their meeting in January.

The two (2) Learning Links have enrolled approximately 120 participants to date with a goal of 165 for this program year. Jane indicated that the 55+ program for low income seniors has not been utilizing the Learning Link for basic computer skills but will start doing so.

Marlene reported that the consortium for the Title II funds is over-subscribed except for the higher level folks taking the GED. South River is closing their program next week as they are out of money.

A lengthy discussion was held concerning the lack of information on what New Jersey will use starting in January of 2014 for an alternative adult high school diploma as NJ will not make a decision on what test will be used until after the election per our information from the state. The committee decided to endorse a letter sent to the Commissioner of Education Cerf from the Morris/Sussex/Warren Literacy Committee that outlines all the issues and concerns rather than writing another letter with the same information. This letter will be sent to Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, Chair of the Assembly Education Committee, as Jane spoke with him about the issue last week. He stated he may hold a public hearing on the situation. If we do not know until late November, there is no way the adult schools can plan their courses or prepare to offer the test in the early part of 2014.

It was also suggested that someone from NJALL present this topic at one of the Governor's town hall meetings or on his radio talk show. Jessica will suggest that to NJALL.

Marlene informed the committee that the rules are also changing for adult high schools. There is no longer an application process and anyone can open an adult high school. There is no approval process. An adult high school can charge for the courses. This Literacy Committee will work on this issue after we react to the GED situation. In this county, both New Brunswick and Perth Amboy intend to continue to offer free adult high school classes as they have in the past.

The Committee reviewed all the recommendations in the SCALES literacy report. Suggestions were made by the committee that will be placed in a letter that the committee will submit to the SETC and Commissioner of Labor Wirths.

A copy of all the correspondence noted above will be included with the official copy of the minutes which are kept in the files of the WIB Director at 550 Jersey Avenue, New Brunswick.

The next Literacy Committee meeting is June 11, 2013.

Submitted by

Jane Brady