



Workforce Development Board
County of Middlesex

LITERACY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 10, 2019
550 Jersey Avenue
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
9:30 a.m.

Attendance

Present: Gloria Aftanski, Roseann Bucciarelli, Jill D'Amico, Jasmina Dizdarevic & Margarita Mercado

Staff & Guests: Shamara Gatling-Davila; Guest: Catherine Henderson

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 9:40am. Gloria asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Review of Minutes from September 10, 2019 Meeting

Roseann made the first motion and Gloria seconded to approve minutes. Margarita abstained.

2020 Census Presentation(s)

Census Grant Process from Catherine at United Way: There were two opportunities to apply for the Complete Count Census Grant. 1) For the counties of NJ up to \$400,000 and 2) for non-profits up to \$50,000. The decision on who is awarded will be based on the strength of the application and the amount of hard to count areas within the applicant's area. Some factors that make areas hard to count are: People are hard to locate, people are hard to contact, people are hard to interview due to language barriers, people do not trust the government and children ages 0-5 years old. In New Jersey, 5.2% of children ages 0-5 years old were not counted. There was a list of nine elements that needed to be represented in the application. The state has not yet identified the grant recipients, but the work is being done. United Way is currently working with various municipalities in Middlesex County to assist in their complete count efforts.

Census Presentation by Jose with the US Census. He primarily works out of the NY Regional Center. The Census count started in 1790. It happens every ten years. There are approximately 330 million people in the United States. Help is needed to adequately count that many people. Five percent of children under the age of 5 are not adequately counted in the Census. Educating people on the importance of Census is crucial.

Census is about fair representation. The amount of people counted will determine the number of representatives in Congress. In the past 30 years, NJ lost 3 seats in Congress already due to dwindling numbers in the Census. NJ now has 12 representatives.

The Census information is not shared with ICE and the question about citizenship has been removed from the Census. It is not used to have people deported. For the first time in history, the Census can

be completed online. Those that might be fearful of completing the Census with a representative should feel more comfortable completing it online. People will still be able to use the phone and mail-in options to complete the Census. There are 12 languages available for the phone and online options. April 1, 2020, is Census Day. For those that are unsure who should be identified as a person residing in your home, list all individuals that are in your home on April 1, 2020. It is important to retain your 12-digit code after completing the Census. The 12-digit code is needed for any future questions you may have in regards to your Census submission. Paper ballots and in person Census representatives will start to go out when addresses are not accounted for by the end of April.

Status of Agency Directory from Literacy NJ

Jessica from Literacy NJ emailed a rough draft of the literacy directory. She asked for it to be distributed amongst the committee. All feedback should be emailed to her.

New or Old Business

The New Brunswick Adult Learning Center has Spring Registration on January 15, 2020, from 9:30am to 4:00pm. If you know of anyone, share the registration information.

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned.

<p style="text-align: center;">NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2020 – 9:30AM ROOM G 550 JERSEY AVENUE, NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ 08901</p>
