



Meeting Minutes

One-Stop Career Center Committee **Marie Betlow, Chair**

November 10, 2009 at Wachovia Bank, Mansfield Township

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m.

Attendees: Marie Betlow (Committee Chair), Anntionette Blackston, Olga Burns, Michele Coneys (for Elaine Muller), Leslie Drew, Ray Gara, Robert Goltz, Migdalia Hernandez (for Eric Dillard), Ken Nerbak, Jack Patten (WIB Director), Anbarasan Sivaraman, Bill Weightman.

One Stop Operator Report

Olga Burns reported that the Summer Youth Employment Program was extended through October 31 for 18 program participants. Two of these are in On-the-Job training: one as a weatherization technician at NORWESCAP and one as a maintenance person at the Boonton Housing Authority. The Boonton Housing Authority is so pleased with the participant's performance that they have provided him with an apartment as part of his employment agreement.

Olga also reported on a study being conducted by Princeton and Cornell Universities regarding the unemployed. The study will take place over 12 weeks and will be carried out by the Industrial Relations Section at Princeton University and the Survey Research Institute at Cornell University. The goal of the study is to learn more about how unemployed workers use their time and what strategies they use to search for jobs. Ultimately, the researchers would like to learn which search methods are most effective. Workers invited to participate in the study will be asked to complete a short online interview each week for a period of 12 weeks and will be compensated for participating. Participation in the study is voluntary.

Reporting on PY 2009 Learning Link funding, Olga stated:

- Learning Links are funded by the Supplemental Workforce Administrative Fund for Basic Skills using funds redirected from the Unemployment Compensation Fund.
- Supplemental Workforce Administrative Fund for Basic Skills **cannot** be used for any program or purpose other than the Learning Link.
- The WIB **cannot** move Learning Link funding to other programs
- It cost approximately \$200K annually to fund the three MSW Learning Links
- The Learning Link Notice of Obligation for Program Year 2009 (Fiscal Year 2010) is for \$99,108.

- The WIB has approximately \$52K in carry over funds from previous **years**, not from Program Year 2008 alone.
- Carry over funds are “subject to rescission and **may** be reissued as Program Year 2009 funds.”
- On November 4, The WIB and ETS requested that NJLWD provide an immediate determination of availability of carry over funds.
- With the projected carry over funds, the Learning Links can operate until mid April 2010.
- The WIB and ETS are seeking additional funds from NJLWD to operate the Learning Links from April 17 to June 30, 2010.

WIA Funding / Legislative Update

Jack Patten reported that Congress will probably not address workforce legislation until early next year. All indications are that funding will be flat for Program Year 2010, but there may be additional American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding to address current high unemployment rates.

Health Service Site Administrator Update

Jack Patten informed the group that the North Jersey Partners WIRED grant has funded 1,000 e-Learning licenses for use by the Morris-Sussex-Warren Health Service Site Administrator. The Administrator, Robert Spellman, is distributing the licenses to healthcare facilities in the WIB area. Genesis Healthcare, Van Dyck Long-Term Care and Morris View Healthcare Center are major recipients of the first group of licenses.

Business Resource Center Update

Ken Nerbak reported on the RETURN-to-Work program, which offers On-the-Job Training (OJT) grants to partially reimburse employers for the training costs needed to bring a newly hired employee up to the skill level necessary to successfully perform the job. Eligibility is limited to unemployment insurance exhaustees.

Under the RETURN-to-Work program, private sector employers can be reimbursed for a portion of an eligible new employee’s hourly wage rate for up to twelve weeks. The employer can receive a grant to reimburse costs of \$5.00 per hour toward the pay of a newly-hired worker, to partially defray the extraordinary costs of on-the-job training. The maximum grant is \$2,400 for each new worker hired. To be eligible for a RETURN-to-Work grant, employers must provide full-time employment (thirty-two to forty hours a week) and pay new hires at least \$15.00 per hour for a period of twelve weeks, and must guarantee the new hires at least twelve additional weeks of employment after the reimbursement period.

Ken also reported on a series of job fairs targeted to workers who earned \$50,000 or more annually in their previous job. The events have drawn up to 450 jobseekers and 30 companies. Numbers of hires resulting from these job fairs will be reported as soon as the data is available.

Ken also noted that the Business Resource Center Representatives will be working closely with New Jersey Economic Development to target retention of current employers and to attract new employers to New Jersey.

ARRA Status Report

Jack Patten presented the following ARRA report to the Committee:

	Allocation	\$ Expended / Obligated	% Expended / Obligated
Adult	\$165,660	\$146,307	88%
Youth	\$387,780	\$332,175	85%
Dislocated Worker	\$1,456,962	\$1,193,985	82%

The Committee agreed that ARRA expenditures are ahead of schedule and that the WIB could use additional funding to serve Dislocated Workers and Adults.

Next Scheduled Meeting

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2010.