



Meeting Minutes

One-Stop Career Center Committee

Marie Betlow, Chair

May 4, 2010 at Wachovia Bank, Mansfield Township

Attendees: Eve Azar, Marie Betlow (Committee Chair), Anntionette Blackston, Donna Buchanan, Olga Burns, John Ciaffone, Michele Coneys (for Elaine Muller), Carl Jablonski, Ken Nerbak, Jack Patten (WIB Director), Lech Szymanski, Bill Weightman.

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

One Stop Operator Report

Olga Burns reported on Project Connect, an initiative sponsored by the NJ DOLWD to offer individuals in need of One-Stop Career Center (OSCC) services increased access through partnerships with community and faith-based organizations. The initiative will expand the reach of OSCCs to underserved populations by providing guided, self-service venues, complimentary to and in concert with the full services offerings at the existing OSCCs. There are three categories of project services:

- Project entry services, which is delivery of workforce information to jobseekers in community based locations,
- Workforce support services, which is provision of information on transportation and childcare alternatives so that OS customers can be job ready and able to work.
- Workforce services for employers and jobseekers, which will entail development of plans for employer outreach to achieve the outcome of job development and placement.

Grantees include: Urban League for Essex County; Jewish Vocational Services of MetroWest, Essex County; and Urban Workforce Advantage. Given the urban location and focus of these grantees, the volume of actual Project Connect services in Morris, Sussex and Warren Counties remains to be seen.

Olga also reported on the Financial Sector National Emergency Grant, which provides \$150,000 to Morris, Sussex and Warren Counties for retraining and reemployment activities for former employees of: Barclays Capital in Florham Park, Mercedes Benz in Parsippany and US Mortgage in Pine Brook. Former employees who were discharged from these companies between July 2008 and June 2009 are eligible for up to \$12,500 in training/employment assistance. Olga noted that the difference in training allowances between the NEG grant and regular WIA funding of \$4,000 could raise questions about the fairness of the disparity between the two program allowances.

One-Stop Disability Program Navigator

Olga introduced new Disability Program Navigator Donna Buchanan.

The Navigator serves as an informed resource on workforce development issues and policies impacting individuals with disabilities who are seeking employment, skill development, job retention assistance, or career advancement through the One-Stop Career Center system.

The Navigator also supports area businesses on disability issues and facilitates job placements for individuals with disabilities.

The Navigator also serves as a resource to the workforce investment community within their service area to ensure the availability of comprehensive knowledge on federal, state, local and private programs that impact the ability of individuals with disabilities to enter and remain in the workforce.

Donna noted that she will be partnering closely with the One-Stop Managers to achieve the Navigator's goals. She mentioned that she has already visited Employment Horizons and found the visit informative and helpful. She said she looks forward to working with other One-Stop Partners to assist persons with disabilities in navigating the One-Stop system.

Health Service Site Administrator Update

Jack Patten reported that Robert Spellman, the WIRED-funded Health Service Site Administrator for Morris, Sussex and Warren Counties, has achieved the following results through distance learning:

- 607 registered students for the online Medical Billing & Coding program at Essex County College
- 355 students have completed the program
- 252 students are still active in the program
- 33% of the completing students received a job or offer letter as a result of the training and certificate they received
- 21% of the completing students received a salary increase
- 86% of the completing students are pursuing additional training and education for the National Certification for Medical Billing & Coding
- 64% of the completing students are pursuing additional education in other healthcare fields
- 1000 Metrix Learning licenses were utilized during the training period.

Business Resource Center Update

Ken Nerbak reported that Business Service Representatives from around the state have partnered for three major job seeker events, one at Middlesex County Community College, one at Monmouth County Community College and one planned for Bergen County Community College. The events have drawn substantial numbers of employers and job seekers. More information on the number of attendees hired will be forthcoming in the near future.

Ken also reported on the Business Outreach Committee, which is hosted by Sean Hendricks of the Dover Business Resource Center. The purpose of the Committee is to unite and coordinate the activities of the various workforce development and economic development entities that provide services to employers. The initial meeting was held on April 28 and all significant workforce development partners were represented. The Committee heard a presentation from Noel McGuire of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority that was both informative and useful in planning a coordinated approach to employer services.

ARRA Status Report

Jack Patten presented the following ARRA Report to the Committee:

	Allocation	\$ Expended/Obligated	% Expended/Obligated
Adult	\$165,660	\$155,674	94%
Youth	\$387,780	\$383,747	99%
Dislocated Worker	\$1,456,962	\$1,416,344	96%

The Committee voted to accept the report. Olga Burns abstained from voting.

New Business

Bill Weightman reported on the job fair held at the Franklin One-Stop CC on April 22. Fifty-six companies participated, over 600 job seekers attended and 50 hires resulting from the job fair have been reported to date. Acting Commissioner of Labor Hal Wirths attended the event, which received substantial media coverage.

Eve Azar informed the group that the Warren County Freeholders recently approved bonding for funds for relocation of Warren County Community College Continuing Education.

The group discussed the effect of NJ Transit route cuts and fare hikes on One-Stop customers. John Ciaffone reported on a TransOptions survey which indicated that 55% of riders on routes serving shopping malls are employees of mall businesses, rather than customers. This information can be valuable in advocating for preserving these routes.

Next Scheduled Meeting

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for August 3, 2010.