

**Union County Workforce Investment Board
One-Stop Committee Meeting
193 Morris Avenue, Springfield, NJ
10:00am Friday, June 20, 2014**

Committee Members Present

Glenn Nacion, Trinitas Regional Medical Center (Chair)
James Brady, The Savor Group, LLC
Pat Dobson, Plainfield One Stop, NJ Dept. of Labor and Workforce Development
Alberto Gonclaves, AZAD Companies
Jean Koszulinski, Union County One Stop Operator
Rossi Jackson, One-Stop Career Center, Elizabeth Office Manager
Guy McCombs, Community Outreach Consultant

Staff

Antonio Rivera, Director, Workforce Investment Board
Elizabeth Paskewich, Workforce Investment Board

Meeting Summary

The One Stop Committee meeting was called to order by Committee Chair, Glenn Nacion.

Mr. Glenn Nacion made a motion to approve meeting minutes from December 13, 2013. Minutes were approved by James Brady and second by Jean Koszulinski.

Mr. Antonio Rivera discussed with the Committee the Quantitative and Qualitative measures bring used to evaluate the One Stop Career Centers. The state has left the WIB in charge of initiating this evaluation. This included evaluation of all components of the One Stop. We currently have the quantitative element under control. Futureworks is the instrument provided to crunch the numbers for the One Stops statewide. This program provides us with the access to see how we are doing compared to other areas.

Mr. Jean Koszulinski reviewed the findings with the Committee. He noted that there is incremental improvement each year. Which means you would always have to do better than you did the previous year. This becomes challenging as it could make services more number based than client based. Currently based on the most recent Futureworks reports pulled and the Balanced Scorecard performance Accountability we are meeting all Performance Measure and excelling in most. Compared to other state areas we are also exceeding measures. Mr. Koszulinski continued to review and explain the different component areas of Futureworks data.

Mr. Antonio Rivera mentions that current legislation puts a lot of emphasis on Out of School Youth. This is difficult population as schools have not been providing the One Stops and WIB with a list of students drop outs, as they are legally supposed to do. The WIB and One Stops

need to make a point to start reaching out to the schools and the Attorney General to get this communication restarted with the schools. This is a systemic problem with in all NJ WIB areas.

Qualitatively, Union County would still like to work with the Heldrich Center. This evaluation is essential as it will look at policy and practice. A summary and proposal from the Heldrich Center was supposed to be available for today's meeting, but they have not made themselves available to provide it. The dialogue is still continuing. Overall, the One Stops are on target for Performance standards. The evaluation focus will remain on systemic changes that benefit the client and aren't based around performance numbers.

Mr. James Brady mentioned he found a book by Mary Gatto, "All I Want is a Job" regarding New Jersey One Stops. This book states that One Stops are not serving the population well. While this book was geared towards Women, it does pose the question of is this system working?

Mr. Koszulinski agreed and mentioned that maybe that book is correct. Due to the recession there has been a new breed of client at the One Stop, and maybe the case managers aren't equipped to handle the new clientele, modification needs to be made.

Mr. Rivera discussed a new plan that would help with that potential modification. He mentioned that the WIB is currently in negotiations to take over the Retail Skills Center at the Jersey Gardens Mall. The restructure would rebrand the Retail Skills Center to a Workforce Innovation Business Center. The focus of this center would be Occupation Skills training and Business resources. This would be a great opportunity to develop a new model. The model will be flexible to accommodate for the changing market. The resolution will go in front of the Freeholder next Thursday, June 26th and WIB support would be welcomed.

Another part of this component will be Entrepreneurship training, which will be run by the Union County Economic Development Corporation. This training will not only be run out of the Workforce Innovation Business Center but out of their Cranford office as well. This additional flexibility with location will be great for Middle Union County residents who might not have previously used county resources due to location.

Mr. Jean Koszulinski reminded the committee that the One-Stops are comprised of many partners, such as NJ Dept of Labor and Workforce Development Employment Services, Unemployment, DVR, Reconnections, etc, all of which provide important resources to our clients. The focus is often on Workforce Development and the others areas need not to be neglected, as they provide important resources.

Ms. Pat Dobson stated that at the Plainfield One Stop she conducted an unofficial survey and found that close to 60 % of the clients served are ex-offenders. This needs to be recognized when determining how to best serve them. Ms. Dobson also stated that there seems to be some slight age discrimination within employers as well, which has made re-

employment difficult for some. In an employer's market employers that were previously friendly to these populations are no longer hiring, employer lists need to be re-evaluated.

The next meeting is scheduled for 9:00am, at Trinitas Regional Medical Center Williamson Street Campus Board Room on Sept 19, 2014.

Meeting adjourned at 10:18AM.