



Meeting Minutes  
Department of Labor  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor conference room  
Trenton, NJ 08625  
Wednesday, October 21, 2015

**Attendance:** **John Bicica**- New Jersey Department of Labor and & Workforce Development, **Hal Beder**-Acting Chair, **Nancy Fisher**- Jewish Vocational Svcs., **Manuel Garcia**- Department of Community Affairs, **Alan Guenther**–Office of the Secretary of Higher Education, **Joanne Hala**- Northern United Way of NJ, **Sheryl Hutchison** – State Employment & Training Commission, **Renee Ingram** Department of Human Services, **Mimi Lee**- New Jersey State Library, **Kirk Lew**- State Employment & Training Commission, **Julio Sabater**- Workforce Advantage USA, **Barry Semple**-Co Chair, **Howard Miller**- New Jersey Department of Labor and & Workforce Development

### **I. Introduction – Chair report**

The meeting was called to order by acting chair Hal Beder at 10:10 a.m. The members in attendance were asked to introduce themselves and the organizations they are each representing. The first order of business was a review of the meeting’s agenda and the goals for the meeting. The goals for the October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting are the following. The first goal is for the group needs to review the PowerPoint that will be used to guide the discussion during the SETC commission meeting on November 10<sup>th</sup>. The key policy initiatives and the language need to help fortify the presentation. SCALES needs to evaluate and possibly modified the presentation based on feedback provide by membership during this meeting. The second goal is for the group to vote on moving the ABE system towards accepting the college and career readiness standards and move away from the Equipped for the Future (EFF) standards. The first item on the agenda was the approval of August 16<sup>th</sup> SCALES meeting minutes. The first motion to accept the meeting minutes was given by Julio S. and the second motion was given by Howard Miller. The council was all in favor of accepting the meeting minutes, with no abstentions.

### **II. Update on WIOA Planning**

Sheryl Hutchison gave brief historical perspective of the work completed to date by SETC, LWD and their various stakeholders. The work to date has led to the



development of the Partnership and Pathways Blueprint document that will be used in the guidance and the development of New Jersey's WIOA combined state plan. The document was created over a 7 month process which required SETC and LWD to collaborate closely with its various workforce partners, through a variety of methods. New Jersey's workforce stakeholders were brought together through the creation of workgroups that were each tasked with analyzing WIOA, as it pertains to their specific area. There were six workgroups created. Those workgroups are; Governance/Planning, Performance, Youth, Disabilities, One Stop Operations, Career Pathways. The workgroups were formed in December of 2014 and met bi-monthly for the next four months. Some workgroups are still meeting on a regular basis. The SETC and LWD hosted a two day WIOA conference at Mercer County Community College's Conference Center. The goal of the conference was to solicit the expertise of a broader audience of workforce partners and stakeholders, in order to gain a better understanding of the system's issues, concerns and local area's promising practices.

The process also included various national experts that represented organizations like the National Skills Coalition and the National Governor's Association. The SETC and LWD were in close contact with USDOL region one representatives to discuss both state and local area concerns. National, state and local area expertise was gathered in a variety of ways and through many different platforms and was used to create the WIOA Blueprint: Partnerships and Pathways.

### **III. SCALES Policy Recommendations**

The SCALES members reviewed the policy recommendation PowerPoint as a collective group. Each slide was reviewed. SCALES members were given the opportunity to provide the group with various forms of feedback. The slides were reviewed for content, grammar, and consistency between PowerPoint and ABE framework document. The group decided that the ABE framework document would be too long a document for presentation to the SETC commission members. Instead of presenting a 10 page document to the SETC, SCALES has decided the streamline the document and will present the policy recommendations as a two page document. Barry Sample has volunteered to take the initial attempt at drafting the document. The PowerPoint was accepted by the SCALES council pending the feedback and corrections given by the group. The two pager would be designed using the ABE framework document and would be guided using the refined PowerPoint presentation. Kirk will work closely with



Barry and Hal to finalize the PowerPoint, two pager, resolutions and general presentation prior to the November 10<sup>th</sup> SETC commission meeting.

#### **IV. College and Career Readiness Standards**

The SCALES council had a discussion about adopting college and career readiness standards for New Jersey’s adult education system. The discussion revolved around creating consistency between K-12 and the adult education system, so that student learners are able to navigate towards post-secondary and sustainable employment. Other concerns centered on consistent curriculum and professional development under a College and Career Readiness standards framework. There were some concerns brought up by SCALES members about the funds being made available to local area literacy consortiums to redesign curriculum to meet the new standards in the future. There are concerns about criteria being created around the College and Career readiness standards that would make it harder to qualify instructors in the adult education system. The council voted to change from Equipped for the future standards to College and Career Readiness Standards.

#### **V. SCALES Next Steps**

The council decided to table this discussion to the next SCALES meeting. The logic behind this decision is the SETC commission meetings vote in regards to the SCALES policy recommendations would guide the council’s next steps.

#### **VI. Comment and Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am. SCALES members were encouraged to attend the November 10<sup>th</sup> SETC commission meeting that would be held at the Law Center in New Brunswick NJ.

**(a) – denotes action required**

**Next Meeting: November 17, 2015**

**NJLWD Labor Building, 1 John Fitch Way, Trenton, NJ**

Compliance with Open Meeting Requirements: In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act of 1978,