



State Council for Adult Literacy Education Services

Meeting Minutes
Department of Labor
13th Floor Auditorium
Trenton, NJ 08625
Wednesday, September 7, 2016

Attendance: Hal Beder-Acting Chair, Jean Baptiste-Department of Corrections, Larry Breeden-Department of Education, Kate Butler-Department of Community Affairs, Nancy Fisher-Jewish Vocational Services, Renee Ingram-Department of Human Services, Mimi Lee-New Jersey State Library, Christina Quin-Office of the Secretary of Higher Education, Julio Sabater-Workforce Advantage USA, Barry Semple-Co-Chair, Jessica Tomkins, LITERACY New Jersey, Howard Miller-New Jersey Department of Labor & Workforce Development, Gary Altman-State Employment & Training Commission

Welcome and Introduction

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair Hal Beder at 10:05 a.m. Acting Chair Beder announced that, in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act of 1978, notice of this meeting was submitted to the Trenton Times and Star Ledger and was posted on the SETC website. The members in attendance were asked to introduce themselves and the organizations they are each representing.

Hal Beder began by bringing the new attendees up to date with Adult Literacy and the State Plan. He explained that there is a task group that has worked hard in the last two years to provide a report which was accepted by the SETC and is available on the website. He stated that this meeting should serve as exploratory to determine SCALES role moving forward.

Acting Chair Hal Beder made a motion to approve the minutes. Nancy Fisher seconded the motion. The meeting minutes for the June 8, 2016 were unanimously approved.

SETC Update

Gary Altman informed the Committee that Kirk Lew has left the SETC staff for other employment. He will keep members informed on the replacement process and look for SCALES Committee input regarding qualified candidates. Gary reported that the Combined State Plan document was submitted to the USDOL last spring was *substantially approved*.



Included in the USDOL comments were questions concerning combined responses from the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development (Division of Vocational Rehabilitation) and the Department of Human Services (Commission on the Blind and Visually Impaired). These sections were subsequently separated.

USDOL is scheduled to visit SETC and the Department of Labor and Workforce Development next week to review the plan, any modifications to the plan, and the transition to WIOA. SETC has a significant role under WIOA which also empowers local workforce boards by making them partners with chief local elected officials. SETC is reviewing a One Stop Certification process where local boards assess One Stop Operators and the quality of services being provided to client customers and business customers. Mr. Altman, explained that the WIOA law requires competitive selection of One Stop Operators for the program year that begins July 1, 2017.

LWD Update

Howard Miller from LWD Workforce Development and Economic Opportunity was asked to explain WIOA changes under Title II and how it will impact adult education and literacy services. The law, passed in 2014 was to have regulations in place 180 days later. The final operational regulations were published in August 2016 but will not be formal until October due to a 60-day sitting requirement. Mr. Miller indicated that the State Department of Labor and Workforce Development is and will remain the issuer of the Title II grant. Regional workforce plans are due in by October and local plans in mid to late December.

WIOA Regulations-Implications for Title II

For Title II to be operational, Howard must submit a Request for Proposal that people can respond to and a checklist screening can be done to determine if there is alignment.

All applicants must have equal access to apply and cannot be forced into a consortium. Single entities must have equal access to apply for a grant. If an applying entity fails its demonstrated performance standards, which LWD measures, they will be denied.

Mr. Miller explained that for a consortium to be successful, they must work along with their Local Workforce Board and have an articulated proposal to be in alignment with their plans. Contracts are issued by LWD, which has oversight resources and grant managers.

Responding to a question regarding whether a literacy provider could join with the Committee in crafting the plan, Mr. Miller explained that we would run into legal



problems if you have someone who is benefiting from the plan decide how it should be aligned. He then began to explain the impact of the federal regulations with regards to the application timeline. Instead of waiting until NJ receives financing in April, Mr. Miller recommends that the business unit start handling the application pool in January allowing contracts to be issued in June for continuity of service.

Mr. Miller also shared with attendees that there is a financial capstone for literacy services that the State sets aside. With WIA it was 10%. WIOA allows for the potential of setting aside 20%.

New Business/Information Sharing

Chair Hal Beder stated that the SCALES mission to focus on in the near future should be a master plan with three parts:

1. reaching out to low level learners,
2. professional development, and
3. connections.

There was some discussion regarding the need for SCALES to be more supportive of local plans and the need for a content standard that all should comply with. There was a recommendation for a task force to help with professional development. Also mentioned for future discussion is the need for a “We Believe” policy statement regarding the system.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:55.

