



**Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Conference Call
Wednesday, March 7, 2018
10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

Caller Attendance:

Acting Chair, Hal Beder; Nancy Fisher; JoAnne Hala; Julio Sabater; Bridgette Satchell; Barry Semple; Danielle Jubanyik; Gary Altman; and, Jessica Tompkins

Due to bad weather the February Committee meeting needed to be postponed. A March 7 Conference Call was scheduled to offer members the opportunity to be current. No voting items were included in the discussion

The call was scheduled to begin at 10:00 am. Due to poor phone transmission, a second conference line was used and the call got underway at approximately 10:15 am.

Acting Chair Hal Beder started the call and asked Gary Altman of the SETC staff to provide an update. Mr. Altman discussed the most recent meeting of the Title I/II Work Group. The session focused on the subjects of technology, occupational training and credentials. There appears to be an opportunity to better align data-reporting as a number of providers invest resources in staff with data functions. Software was also discussed from the perspective of the system, Aztec, which is supported by State dollars and other systems which some local consortia may be funding. Discussion included assessing the literacy software to see if it is worthwhile and whether consideration should be given to looking at different related software.

Other subjects discussed included fund-braiding, accountability, and concerns related to the reporting of credentials. Better fund-braiding may further resources; assignation of accountability should improve results; and, allowing providers to report all credentials received should result in more accurate reporting and more reflective results.

Mr. Altman provided a brief summary regarding executive management changes at the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development. With a new administration, there is a new Commissioner, Robert Asaro-Angelo, new Deputy Commissioner, Paul Yuen and Chief of Staff, Julie Diaz. Assistant Commissioner will be



filled and when the positions are announced, the information shall be shared with the Council.

SETC staff and its workforce partners are currently working on a modification to the NJ State Combined Plan. The document considers changes over the past two years and is scheduled to be made available for public comment in the near future. The members of SCALES will be included in the distribution.

Danielle Jubanyik provided an update regarding operational matters. Recently a meeting was held with local partners regarding changes to the TABE test. Partners are concerned that due to new timelines related to testing that students may be dissuaded from participating or may quit midway. LWD staff will confer with the testing company while staff also researches other options including different tests.

Ms. Jubanyik discussed the continuing RFP for Title II services. The solicitation is forthcoming for existing providers and there will be a related Technical Assistance session upcoming.

There was discussion regarding a recent report issued by the Center for Women and Work at Rutgers University. The report cited the recent fall-off in the attainment of high-school equivalencies. Council members were not surprised by the findings, but cite contributing factors like the focus on College/Career Readiness. We will reach out to the Center to see if they will join the Council for its next meeting in April.

Concerns were raised regarding changes in TABE testing. While expected, there have been changes in the TABE test. Increased difficulty in the exam and a longer test appear to be having a negative impact on students within the system. Ms. Jubanyik referenced a recent meeting where State and local representatives met with a representative of the TABE examination to voice their respective concerns. The representative is taking the comments under advisement.

There was discussion regarding program integration. On the subject of Title II services and their interaction with Learning Links programming, Ms. Jubanyik indicated that the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development was looking to improve coordination between the efforts.



Mr. Sabater voiced questions regarding the various tests made available specifically referencing the focus of the tests and what they intend to measure. He then discussed the Integrated Education and Training services (IET). There was concern regarding the student limitation of the program and how there are others who may benefit from what is available, but that providers are limited to who they may be able to serve. There was a recommendation that the service be expanded beyond the Civics students where it is currently limited.

Barry Semple raised a question regarding program performance. Ms. Jubanyik indicated that it is the job responsibility for one of her staff members. Mr. Semple also requested some updated information regarding the status of each local literacy committee and the relationship between the local Title I and II programs. Mr. Sabater suggested that it be expanded to the Talent Development Centers as well.

Acting Chair Beder recommended using the GED discussion as the *tip of the iceberg*. Suggesting it is a good issue with hard data, it may also allow us to delve deeper into the subject of literacy. The recommendation was to use the next meeting to reflect on that subject to help determine where the Council should go in the future.

As a last matter, Barry Semple mentioned State Assembly Bill Number A484. The bill discusses literacy and includes a public delivery system (adult high schools, vocational schools and community colleges are all mentioned). It was requested that a copy of the bill be shared with Council members.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 4 at the New Jersey Law Center.



State Council for Adult Literacy Education Services