



Meeting Minutes

Department of Labor & Workforce Development
13th Floor Auditorium
Wednesday, July 11, 2018

Attendance:

Hal Beder-Acting Chair, **Barry Semple**-Co-Chair, **Gary Altman**-Acting Executive Director-SETC, **Renee Ingram**-Department of Human Services, **Brigette Satchell**-Rowan College at Gloucester County, **Julio Sabater**-Workforce Advantage, **Danielle Jubanyik**-LWD-Acting State Director for Adult Education & Literacy Services, **JoAnn Brooks**-SETC

Welcome/Introductions

Acting Chair Hal Beder opened the meeting at 10:09 and asked members and guests around the table to introduce themselves. He began the meeting with the topic of GED testing which was discussed at the last SCALES meeting. At that meeting, the concern was that the GED testing for secondary education has dropped by about 50% due to the fact that:

- they are too hard
- they cost too much
- there is not enough access available to them.

He told the group that he had attended the NJALL Convention in New York and learned that the State of New York uses the TABE exam and pays the fee. Also in NY, access is not a problem and the test is easier than the GED. He suggested looking deeper into career pathways to determine whether demand is the problem.

Acting Executive Director Gary Altman told the group of an article he came across this morning which focused on workforce needs and programing indicating that overemphasis on credential requirements could be what's pushing people away and unnecessarily restricts workers and employers. He will share the report with members.

LWD Acting State Director Dr. Danielle Jubanyik read from an email she received from CT Hemingway-Turner of GED Testing Service:

Since GED Testing Service announced the passing score change in January 2016, the new passing score has been adopted by every state that uses the GED test (39 out of 40 states plus D.C.), and in addition we believe that a student who earns a GED



credential based on a 145 passing score in a neighboring state (CT, MA, PA, etc) could use that credential to get a job or be accepted into a NJ college --while a student in NJ who scored 145 on the same exact test would be denied the job/college entry and a HS equivalency credential. Since we announced the passing score change the average passing scores on each subject have continued to rise- shown below. This shows that the average passing scores are strong and well above the passing score level of 145.

-Math: 153

-Reasoning Through Language Arts: 155

-Science: 155

-Social Studies: 155

If the passing score is changed to 145 in New Jersey, and test-takers from 2014 to year-to-date 2018 are grandfathered in (as they were in other states when the change went into effect), it will make a significant difference in the lives of many NJ residents.

-Approximately 300-350 individuals will become passers and qualify for a HS equivalency credential

-Approximately 900 individuals will now be passers in a specific subject area(s) that they weren't previously, and this could give them momentum to continue testing or come back to complete testing and earn a credential

-This will have a positive economic impact with these individuals now having the ability to enter postsecondary, obtain a new job or a job promotion.

And as a side note, we get approximately 2-3 calls or emails each month from either a reporter, student or parent in NJ to inquire or complain about the higher passing score in NJ.

Update

Dr. Jubanyik provided an update to members.

The WIOA Title II Adult Literacy Grant is now in its 2nd year of the 3-year continuation grant, NOAs have been provided and a small increase in funding was received from Washington. The USDOL will begin monitoring of states and their grantees. Six states have been chosen, New Jersey was not chosen for this round but was given a monitoring tool called OCTAE at the last Directors' Roundtable. This tool provides guidance on the regulations established by WIOA, to assist in carrying out the performance accountability requirements and will be helpful for keeping in compliance. The next Directors' Roundtable will take place on October 18, 2018 at NJ LWD. Dr. Jubanyik offered to take any questions or concerns to the meeting.



Dr. Jubanyik met with Hugh Bailey, Assistant Commissioner for Workforce Development and Title I/II partners to discuss needs, challenges, software changes and discuss the possibility of having FY20 Learning Links allocations given to Title II providers for use in maximizing the effectiveness of the Workforce Learning Links. The group will reconvene to discuss potential benefits and challenges, and to draft potential language for the NGO 3rd continuation grant year.

Discussion took place regarding creating a more standardized system to best utilize resources in bringing services where they are most needed because every area has difference needs.

Dr. Jubanyik discussed the Community Library Adult Literacy & Career Pathway Grant Program which is now a supplement to existing Adult Literacy services. Libraries throughout New Jersey are being used as additional avenues for the provision of literacy & career pathway training. This compliments the Title II system, advances grade level, connects and increases enrollment in career pathway opportunities and provides credential or technical certification. Libraries are easily accessible to local residents and offer a unique learning environment.

Approval of Minutes

Acting Chair Beder asked for a motion to approve the minutes from September 6, 2017 and from April 4, 2018. Co-Chair Barry Semple made a motion to approve them and was seconded by Bridgett Satchell.

Literacy Review

Members discussed the difficulty in serving the needs of employers wanting workers with better literacy and basic skills. A number of incumbent workers are being left behind. Employers may benefit from funding for customized training in literacy.

LWD WIOA Plan Approval

Acting Executive Director Altman explained the Modification to the NJ Workforce Plan updated the discussion of WIOA One Stop Operator competitive selection. Where the original plan included a 2-year period of approval, based upon input from local boards, an area may renew their agreements with the Operator for two additional 1-year



periods. The extension must be based upon satisfactory performance as defined in local agreements and as agreed upon by the local Workforce Development Board. That process must include the satisfactory completion of a One-Stop Certification process as established under SETC Policy.

Next Steps

Co-Chair Semple made a suggestion to members to share their thoughts on the key issues discussed this meeting and send to Gary for planning discussion at a future meeting.

Closing

Mr. Beder asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was provided by Bridgette Satchell and seconded by Dr. Jubanyik. The meeting adjourned at 11:30.

The next SCALES meeting is scheduled for September 5, 2018