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Atlantic County Workforce Development Executive Board Meeting 9am August 29, 2019

Attendance

Pat Constantino James Drew Mark Ford Torrie Garvin
Joe Kelly Rhonda Lowery Riaz Rajput John Fata

Minutes

This meeting was called to order at 9:05am by the Board Chair Riaz Rajput. A motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting was made by Mark Ford and seconded by Torrie Garvin.

John Fata Financial Report

Fiscal Manager John Fata reports that with an \$8 million budget and currently \$6.26 million in expenditures we are at a 70% spending rate. Contracts are \$3.7 million with \$2.2 million spent which puts us at 64%. The Board Chair inquired about two vendors Stockton and the Chamber of which Mr. Fata explained that the employment piece is not applicable for the vendors; job placement could be counted multiple times. Torrie Garvin of Rescare, explained that they refer customers to job placement. Rhonda Lowery, Executive Director, cites that some customers are not ready to enter into job placement therefore they cannot be counted, as only customers who have obtained employment are entered into the system and counted. It is possible, however, to be counted more than one time. Many youth are not necessarily intended to be employed, but rather they are prepared for college, military, etc. Currently the youth numbers for employment are not calculated. Chairman Rajput asked Mr. Fata to explain the meaning of unallocated funds; Mr. Fata responded that basically these are funds that have not be allocated to a specific area. Mark Ford suggested that we advertise on a Billboard for our services, however, Executive Director Lowery states that this would not be permissible as marketing and advertising is not an allowable cost.

Training Report

PY18 Enrolled	210	Completed	117	Employed	29	Training Related Employment	23
PY19 Enrolled	23	Completed	0	Employed	0	Training Related Employment	0

A motion was made by Mark Ford to approve the financial report and seconded by James Drew.

Riaz Rajput Chair Report

It was suggested that a presentation be given regarding the functions of the Workforce Development Board; this is due to new membership. We will also development an acronym list to further assist the Board. This presentation will be given by Rhonda Lowery, Executive Director. A new membership packet should also be planned and developed for the near future. Currently, however, a “New Member” book will be given via email.

Rhonda Lowery Executive Director Report

The Executive Director has submitted a request for Needs Based Funds to be used for public assistance customers for interview clothing and payment for high school equivalency testing. Atlantic County WDB has received these funds in the past and they have been helpful in meeting the needs of the customers. This request for funding is due by 9/11/19. The poles for the line school funded by Atlantic City Electric have not been installed yet, although the class is projected to begin on 9/9/19. In an effort to address the employment opportunities for the trainees, a letter has been sent to electrical subcontractors in South Jersey to consider hiring some of our most qualified candidates. The One Stop renovations, including new computer carrels, computers and painting, are complete in the Learning Link and Supplemental Learning Lab and both rooms are up and running. Summer Youth will complete their last day today with a “pretzel party” as a celebration and exit interviews will be scheduled. The GAINS grant is in the final stages of approval by USDOL. Once this is completed and approved, the employers will begin interviewing apprentice candidates. Ideal Institute of Technology will facilitate the educational portion, or related technical instruction, that is a requirement of the registered apprenticeship program. During the September Full Board meeting a proposal to return the income eligibility levels to the Lower Living Standard Income Levels (LLSIL) established by the Department of Labor, was presented by Fran Kuhn. The proposal requested that the board approve reducing the level from 150% of the LLSIL to 100% of the LLSIL. The committee also heard a proposed request to approve the newly established policy for appealing customers who were deemed ineligible for WIOA services because they had not registered for Selective Service, a requirement for grant eligibility. Several concerns were raised about limiting access to WIOA services by reducing the income threshold, but there was additional discussion about the WIOA requirement and the local plan which prioritizes serving the low income customer. There was also a suggestion to consider a sliding scale for income eligibility. Chairman Rajput asked the Fiscal Manager, John Fata, what is the level of ITA funding? Fiscal Officer Fata replied \$1.5 million, however, WDB must revisit this amount after the administrative costs are allocated. Pat Constantine explained that there is a vast array of reasons that an individual did not complete selective service and the Board should support the new policy. Chairman Rajput cites that this will be presented to the Full Board.

Executive Director Lowery continued her report:

We are looking to remodel a room located on the 1st floor to serve as a lactation room for nursing mothers. Also our parking lot is out to bid and is currently being reviewed. Dr, Phil Guenther of ACIT along with Mike Dugan of LMI will make a presentation during our Full Board meeting. Torrie Garvin suggested a collaboration regarding an open house for training; James Drew offered that the Borgata will participate.

Adjourned 10:32am

