

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

October 30, 2008

Members Present

Dr. W. King, Chair
Rick DeCosta, GC Special Transp.
Jim Kneubuehl, Abilities Ctr.
John Zukauskas, Newpoint
Bridget DiGiambattista, WIB Staff

Pat Bruder, EIRC
John DeSant, GC DoC
Brigette Satchell, GCC
Karen Dickel, WIB Staff

Members Absent

Mark Boyd, Goodwill Industries
Marge Fizur, GCIT
Rev. A. Frazier, FBO
Ron Jones, Private
Jennifer Mauro, One Stop Admin.
Saudia Mohamed, GCIT
Aaron Ray, NJLWD
Sherri Watson, SRCCRC

Muncie Buckalew, St. John of God
Joe Frattali, WIB Director
Ed Green, DVR
Hazel Lee-Biggs, Ctr. Indep. Living
Keith McCrea, FBO
Barbara Piquet, HSAC
Joye Tillman, NJ Comm. For Blind

Dr. King opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

A motion to approve August 14, 2008 minutes was made by Jim Kneubuehl.

Status

Disability Issues – An overview of the proposed Transitional Career Center developed by a sub-committee of Disability Issues. The proposal was submitted to the Bill Ditto of the Department of Human Services. Mr. Ditto responded with some suggested changes. Pat stated she recently saw an available grant for *Innovative Programs For Those With Disabilities*. She will forward info to Karen.

Literacy Services

Title II Update

Brigette reported GCC was awarded the Title II contract for upcoming fiscal year and the amount is \$255,998. The 1st quarter recently ended and submitted their report: they served 164 students, which is 37% of projected enrollment for the year; they served 76 in the ESL program; served 88 in adult basic education GED.

ESL

They have 2 offsite locations for ESL: Williamstown Middle School where they have 31 students and Glassboro High School where they have 24 students. They will start Woodbury High School as soon as they hire an ESL instructor. St. Matt's have 8 students attending.

Jail

GED testing fee is now \$50 and each retest is \$10. The person taking the test must provide 72 hours notice to the testing center if they will not be taking the test or they will forfeit the registration/testing fee. This is a state mandate. Brigette stated this is a concern since emergencies do occur last minute. There is 1 female inmate who is eligible to take the GED test and the Jail Director stated he will make sure she is transported to the jail to take the test.

Pre & Post Release Services

John reported he recently met with Ray Childs, GC DoC, about inmate release. He stated as social workers, they do not see every inmate that comes in. Therefore, they are going to implement a plan to meet everyday as a group with the inmates who came in the previous day in order to do a more thorough intake. They will also develop a new intake sheet to include information about their employment, any housing needs, GED needs, etc. Brigitte stated she knows someone who works for the State Department of Corrections and they have a plan implemented to get important information to the inmates prior to release, she will forward to them.

The price of the GED test was raised to \$50 from \$25. Previously (when test fee was \$25) if student failed the test, they were allowed 2 re-tests, however, now each retest is \$10. If a client does not notify the test center of cancellation within 72 hours prior to the test or does not show up, they will forfeit the fees. Brigitte stated even with the cost increase, they have not noticed a decline in the number of people taking the test.

For this fiscal year, the Title II Grant was awarded in the amount of \$255,998.

GCC just completed their first quarter and had served 37% of their projected enrollment for the year.

ESL – currently have 2 evening off-sites, they are located at Williamstown Middle School (31 students) and Glassboro High School (24 students). They will start at Woodbury High School when an additional GED instructor is hired.

GED services at the jail continue going well. The next GED testing will be November 10 & 12. There is 1 female inmate eligible to take the GED test and the jail Director indicated the female will be transported to the men's facility to take the test.

Transportation

Rick reported the newest JARC contract was awarded in the amount of \$240,000 which is \$15,000 less from previous year. There will be no more State contribution to the match, it used to be 50% Federal, 25% State, 25% County. The Freeholders have indicated they will match. The JARC grant supports the Pureland Shuttle run by SJTA who is paid a per diem rate, helps with transporting for literacy program, and transporting those with disabilities to various jobs sites. The SJTA is providing transportation for 2nd & 3rd shifts to Pureland. They are asking for people to call in to reserve seating for 1st & 2nd shifts, however, they are hoping to secure a larger bus. The new/revised schedule should be available in a few weeks.

Pat will look for any available grant funding for transportation.

United We Ride Transportation Plan, which was submitted to NJTransit last year would like us to continue to work on that plan. Several recommendations are within the plan and one is better transportation to Pureland and the other is for senior & disabled populations. They had their first meeting of 2008 on October 8th. Several ideas were discussed and coordination appears to be a big concern. The next meeting will be held in December.

A motion for adjournment was made.

The next meeting will be January 22, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,
Bridget A. DiGiambattista, WIB Staff