

CUMBERLAND/SALEM WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

Disabilities Services Committee

Meeting Minutes of January 11, 2011

A meeting of the Cumberland/Salem Disabilities Services Committee was held on Tuesday, January 11, 2011. The meeting was held at the Cumberland County One Stop Career Center in Vineland, NJ.

Attendance:

Anthony Chiesa, Cumberland One Stop (Manuel Biagas)
David Grennon, Office of the Disabled
Jack Surrency, HSAC
Lenore Sharp, Office of E&T
Marva Ferguson, DVRS
Rebecca Gower Call. The ARC of Salem
Rebecca Sobelman, Salem Community College

Staff:

Anthony Scott, C/S WIB
Christy DiLeonardo, C/S WIB
Ivonne Walker C/S WIB
Shelley Spina, C/S WIB

Handouts:

United Way Free Tax Preparation
United Way Energy & Social Services Assistance Expo
One Stop Career Center Services & Information
Navigator One Stop Accessibility Checklist

Welcome and Opening Remarks: David Grennon

David called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. He read the Mission Statement of the committee. Introductions were made around the room.

Approval of Minutes: David Grennon

David asked for a motion to approve the prior meeting minutes. The motion was made by Manuel Biagas and seconded by Anthony Scott. All approved and minutes were passed.

WIB Update: Christy DiLeonardo

Christy thanked David for handling the Disabilities Navigators Program for Cumberland and Salem counties. David has been working with Lenore and Rebecca at the One Stops. He toured the buildings to see if they were handicapped accessible. He would send reports to the state. The grant that was funding this position ended on December 31, 2010. He will continue to chair this committee.

There were Employers forums held in November in Cumberland & Salem counties. Lawanda Cook from Cornell University gave the presentation to employers and agencies on hiring the disabled. She did a great job and the forums were a great success. She has offered her services for other forums and to work with the counselors.

A pilot program is being conducted by the state. It is a Disability Employment Initiative program. The WIB put a plan together and submitted it to the state. Cumberland/Salem counties have been selected along with 3 other area WIB's to participate. A conference call is scheduled for next week and she will have more information for the committee.

One Stop Reports**DVR Services Report: Marva Ferguson**

Marva reported that Linda DeJohn has retired and she has stepped in as acting manager. They are still short of staff. They are trying to get a team together from other counties to come in and help.

Disability Navigator Reports**Cumberland: Lenore Sharp**

She reported that December was a slow month. She worked with one client. November was busy and in October she worked with two clients. She has a client that needs an interpreter. This is an Unemployment issue where the client needs an interpreter for an appeal. She has spoken to UI but has heard nothing back. Manuel is going to follow up on this with one of his staff and he will get back to her. She was a speaker at the Disabilities Day that was held. The committee talked about the reports that are submitted to the state and decided that Cumberland and Salem should combine theirs. Lenore and Rebecca will get together on this.

Salem: Rebecca Sobelman

Rebecca has been working with one client. She is waiting on training funds. She referred the client to DVR.

David said he will be sending in a final report with his suggestions about both facilities. He will get together with Lenore and Rebecca about getting equipment because it was part of the contact with the state.

David, Christy and Bert Lopez attended a seminar at the Cumberland County College with the Disabilities Discovery people. They have some funding available that this committee could tap into for staff training.

County Office of Disabled Director Reports

Cumberland County: David Grennon

He has been spending a lot of time with computerization. It is a big step for his staff. They will be able to track clients better. He passed out flyers about United Ways Energy Assistance Program and their Free Tax Preparation Program.

Salem County: Debra Behnke – Absent – No Report

New/Old Business

Rebecca Call from the ARC of Salem stated that Shirley Brooks of their agency is retiring. She also reported that they have opened a Thrift Shop in Salem. Their open house was held last Friday.

David stated that the next meeting will be held on April 12, 2011 at the Salem One Stop.

Adjournment:

With no other business David asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Manuel Biagas and the meeting was adjourned.