

WIOA Adult Education & Career Pathways Workgroup
August 21, 2015

Attendees: Patricia Tyler, Alice Wirth, Michelle Frazier, Jeff Trice, Erin Roth, Shannon Millington, Molly Dugan, Christy Shockley, Helen Coupe, Bayo Adetunji, Irene Lee, Velvet Bryant, Mary Sloat, Sue Page, Mary O'Connor, Marina Solovey, Raiana Mearns, Elizabeth Sinnes, Barbara Denman, John Damond, Monica Talley, Sue Rogan
By phone: Ellen Payne

The meeting began at 10:00 a.m. Patricia Tyler welcomed members and introduced Irene Lee, Director, Family Economic Success at the Anne E. Casey Foundation. Irene provided an overview of the Accelerating Connections to Employment (ACE) Initiative, funded by a Department of Labor Innovation Grant. ACE was an outgrowth of Maryland's partnership between DLLR and Annie E. Casey which funded an integrated education and training (MI-BEST) model with 6 community colleges. The ACE grant used a Random Controlled Trial (RCT), test the efficacy of an I-BEST-like model with targeted employment services to accelerate low skilled adults access to employment and higher wages in a high demand industry sector. (See PowerPoint for detailed information.) Ten community colleges in Maryland, Connecticut, Georgia, and Texas have participated in the initiative and partnered with nine workforce investment areas. The 52-month grant ends in October 2016. Although not all the data is in to draw conclusions, early results show that the interventions have increased outcomes for ACE participants compared to the control group.

Mary Sloat and Barbara Denman discussed the partnership between the WIB and the Community College. These low-skilled participants would not ordinarily have been eligible for services at the WIB or accepted in a postsecondary education program. The WIB provided a regular presence on campus through the career navigator, who assisted students with job readiness activities. Employers were also engaged by the WIB to provide input on curriculum, assess student skills and discuss the realities of the workplace. The college partner screened and assessed participants and provided the integrated instruction model. This included finding the right teachers, negotiating perspectives on instruction, and providing a training area that students could stick with and that provided sufficient opportunity for employment and advancement. Certified Nursing Assistant (with opportunity to advance to Geriatric Nursing Assistant) has been a successful training focus for both MI-BEST and ACE programs.

Sustaining the model after the grant period will require multiple partners and likely blended funding. There is great potential with DHR and agencies serving disconnected youth. This is not an inexpensive program, however it has shown strong short-term impact.

Patricia Tyler requested input from the workgroup for the State Plan draft. Collaboration is needed in developing policies. (See handouts). Discussion on this item will continue at the September 18th meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12 noon.