

Adult Education and Career Pathways Work Group
Minutes
September 18, 2015

In attendance: Patricia Tyler, Raiana Mearns, Jeanne- Marie Holly, Marina Solovey, Barbara Martin, John Damond, Jeff Trice, Irene Lee, Patty Silver, Molly Dugan, Barbara Denman, Lyn Farrow, Bayo Adetunji, Helen Coupe, Sonia Socha and by phone: Michelle Frazier, David Croghan and Ellen Payne

Patricia Tyler opened the meeting at 10:00 am and introduced Barbara Martin, who oversees operations and partnerships in American Job Centers (AJCs) and is an important partner for adult education. The attached handouts summarize the work of the AJC Operations and Partnerships Work Group. Discussion focused on the work of the five subcommittees that emerged from the large workgroup convened in April. Their report and recommendations are attached.

Barbara noted that the American Job Center is currently in transition with the changes introduced by the WIOA. This will require a change in mindset, moving beyond silos, removing artificial barriers, and working cooperatively to provide seamless services to customers. WIOA no longer requires a sequence of services. Job Center staff will be moving into new roles and staff training will be critical to implement the new service approach. Wagner Peyser's focus will change to serving the unemployed rather than the general population.

Services must be provided to a customer at whatever "door" they enter. Referrals to partner agencies should be done as a "warm handoff" rather than simply providing a phone number. Partners are encouraged to co-locate to ensure the better services to customers and to strengthen connections between agencies. The work group has been exploring how to effectively develop a common intake system and share information among partners while protecting customer confidentiality.

WIOA requires that required partners share in infrastructure costs. The MOU and Resource Sharing Agreement will also reflect the resources that partners want to and can offer. A one-page matrix is being developed to identify partner services, overlaps and gaps. There will likely need to be a mechanism to act on new service needs that may develop as people are in the system. Irene Lee suggested that the group consider how we could invite funders from area philanthropic organizations to make short-term investments in frontline staff to assist them as they develop and implement these processes

Patricia Tyler discussed the perception among workforce partners that the inclusion of adult education students might adversely affect their performance. Continuing guidance will be sought from USDOL. Current guidance has indicated that performance targets will be recalibrated once the WIOA performance measures are implemented. WIOA prioritizes services to individuals with barriers to employment including those with low levels of literacy.

Patricia requested input from the workgroup for the State Plan draft that was distributed previously. Recommendations will be needed to finalize the Adult Education and Literacy Programs section of the plan. The new requirements are included in the draft.

The meeting adjourned at 12 noon. The next meeting will be held on October 23rd.