



COUNTY OF MERCER  
**Workforce Investment Board**  
**One-Stop Career Center**  
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**WIB One-Stop Committee Meeting**  
United Way of Greater Mercer County  
3131 Princeton Pike, Building 4  
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648  
Tuesday, March 4, 2008  
9 a.m.

**Attendance:** Mary Burks, Frank Cirillo, Barry Cole, Mel Crawford, Marty DeNero, Bob Estok, Ed Gittens, Todd Hyland, Ed Kurocka, Carolyn Lewis-Spruill, Ely Mateo, John Mizin, John Raines, Clare See, Virgen Velez, Monica Weaver

**Staff:** Kassia Bukosky, Beverly Mills

Chair Dennis Micai called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. A motion to accept the minutes from January 9, 2008 was made and seconded. The minutes were accepted and introductions were made.

### **One-Stop Career Center**

Virgen Velez reported that the One-Stop recently celebrated its 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of collocation and consolidation. There was a weeklong celebration with lunch and breakfast as well as a team scavenger hunt that Virgen's team won. Staff got to know each other better and hopefully it will lead to more integration of services overall.

The Stat of NJ is currently monitoring One-Stops and Mercer is expecting a visit this spring from the monitors.

The Business Resource Center is holding between 4-8 Positive Recruitments per month. A Youth Job Fair is scheduled for June. Training is expected to slow down due to reduced funding.

John Raines reported that all counties have been equally affected by the WIA programming cuts. The RFP will come out shortly. There will be two technical sessions.

John Mizin reported that Job Clubs are being formed based on registered skills. The first meeting was for accounting. 60 people were called and screened, 40 were invited to attend, 15, attended, 4 people were hired.

The One-Stop is working with EPV Solar in Robbinsville. They plan to hire 200 people for their new facility. They are interested in OJT and customized training and are ex-offender friendly.

The impact of the governor's budge is unknown, but the One-Stop may lose at least 2 people.

## **Mercer County TRADE**

Marty DeNero reported on the Human Services Coordination Plan. Ely Mateo, Mel Crawford, Jerry DeLorenzo (MCBOSS) and Beverly Mills have been a part of the 35-member committee. The current plan is disjointed and needs to be coordinated better.

The FTA offers a 3 grant program to aid seniors and those with disabilities. JARC is the Reverse Commute & Job Access that serves Rt. 130. Access Link offers curb-to-curb service for people with disabilities and shadows regular bus service. The New Freedom Plan would serve those not currently served.

Under new guidelines, the FTA requires that any agency receiving funds must be part of a coordination plan. This would allow more services to seniors, people with disabilities and those with low income.

Last year, Trade provided 120,000 one-way trips. Half of the towns in Mercer offer senior services so there is an overlap. People over 60 are expected to double in the next 20 years and those over 85 will triple.

The Coalition for Coordination of Transportation met in April and involves customers in planning as well as other committee members. Seniors and the disabled have good representation, but not low income. They are conducting an inventory of current services. Many customers don't know what's available. Brochures and flyers are being updated along with the website.

Gaps in service are evenings and weekends, as well as transportation outside the county. TRADE is working to coordinate with Middlesex to enhance service. 500 surveys have been received from riders, most requesting more hours of service. An 800 Call Center is also being considered with a central dispatch to better coordinate. Florida, Oregon and Washington all have successful coordinated programs.

New programs would use bended funding and eliminate duplication of services, especially with Mercer ARC. Idea under consideration are unified driver training, joint purchasing and sharing vehicles.

Dennis Micai questioned transportation for working people and asked if there is anything in the plan to help this population. Youth are also in need of transportation. More funding would be needed and working people may be asked to contribute to fare.

There is currently a waiting list for 3,000+ trips for medical services alone. Frank Cirillo said that this is broader than the government and a private jitney service might alleviate some of the need.

Bob Estok asked if private industry has been surveyed. There is currently a van to Matrix through UIH.

### **Open Discussion**

Dennis Micai reported that MCCC is updating the Scarry report. Beverly Mills will look into it.

The Dept. of Corrections is putting together a "smart book" of resources for the ex-offender reentry project. WIB is helping to coordinate and Corrections will print it.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 am.