



COUNTY OF MERCER  
Workforce Investment Board  
One-Stop Career Center  
McDade Administration Building  
P.O. Box 8068  
Trenton, NJ 08650-0068  
Phone: 609-989-6827  
Fax: 609-989-6882  
www.mercercounty.org/wib



**Brian M. Hughes**  
County Executive

**Andrew A. Mair**  
County Administrator

**Kelvin S. Ganges**

**Literacy Committee**  
**January 21, 2009 – 8:30 A.M.**  
**Mercer County Community College, Kerney Campus**

**Present:** Gay Egan (Mercer Street Friends), Susan Johnson (Daylight/Twilight), Bart LaGrassa (Daylight/Twilight), William Winters (Daylight/Twilight), Cheryl Kirton (LVMC), Lynne Wise (Home Front), Jane Kleindienst (Lutheran Social Ministries), Chandanna Mahadeswaraswamy (YWCA Princeton), Melinna Harris (MCCC), Peg Gould (MCCC)

**Staff:** Beverly Mills, Dora DeGeorge

New Literacy Chair Gay Egan opened the January 21, 2009 meeting. Introductions were made and minutes from the December 17, 2008 meeting were read and approved with the following corrections: Gay Egan and Lynne Wise were present at this meeting, Chandanna Mahadeswaraswamy's name was misspelled. Corrections will be done before they are posted on-line.

**Library Update:**

There were no representatives from the Trenton Public Library present. Gay Egan mentioned the article in the Trenton Times regarding the closing of the Children's Room at the main branch of the library on Academy Street.

The committee suggested we draft of letter in opposition to the decision to close the children's reading room. Bev Mills will ask for more information from Larry Kroah or other representative of the library before we draft a letter.

**Literacy Consortium:**

The State has instituted a new system to enter literacy data, LACES, which is more labor intensive. The State now has access to all of the data. Each Consortium partner must enter information separately; the lead agency (MCCC) has access to that information. The benefit of this new system for the State is the ongoing ability to track data as sit is recorded, for NRS reporting. Melinna reported she asked the State for help in getting the four categories of data entered to complete the first and second quarter of reporting.

For the first quarter, 23% of contracted goals out of 1,212 consortium students have been met. Deadlines have been extended because of the increased workload of data entry. 42% of Consortium goals for Mercer County Community College have been met.

### **Daylight/Twilight Overview:**

Bart LaGrassa presented an overview of the Trenton Public School System's Daylight/Twilight School. Points discussed:

- School designed for youth 16-21 with problems in school;
- Not a GED program – this is a regular high school; hours are 7:30-1:14 in the day and 4:00-8:00 evening
- Usually 14-15 per class (ratio should be 12-1)
- No more than 16 absences are allowed per year
- School has many programs, approaches and afterschool programs
- Childcare Center will be available in 2009
- Night classes are all on-line at the computer lab at the 135 East Hanover Street location
- Minimum 6 hour per on-line course work per week required
- On-line classes available 24 hours per day

Melinna stated the problem is 16-21 year old students, who must work, and have no other alternative to schooling. They cannot attend night school because the minimum age is 21 therefore there is an increase of 16-17 year olds that are coming to MCCC for the GED program. Some of the youth in this age group are “falling through the cracks” because they get discouraged when they hear how long the GED program will take. When students drop out of Daylight/Twilight and enroll at MCCC they cannot go back to Daylight/Twilight should they desire. Inherent problems with this age group is lack of maturity, inability to navigate in a structured environment regarding attendance, etc.

The committee identified this as a problem that must be confronted in some fashion; 16-21 year olds who must work that have no alternative to schooling because they cannot attend night school.

From this discussion the committee will list barriers, concerns and issues of this nature and e-mail them to Bev before the next meeting. Gay and Bev will do a draft addressed to appropriate contacts at the State level and also shared with the Garden State Employment Training Commission.

The Committee also would like to see representation from Hamilton Adult Education (Sharon Eckert) to the Literacy Consortium and/or WIB Literacy Committee.

### **Healthcare Literacy Seminar:**

Janet Ohenne-Frempong will be speaker for the Healthcare Literacy Seminar on February 13, 2009 at the Mercer County Conference Center. Ms. Ohenne-Frempong was recommended by WIB members, Karen Clark, President and COO of Horizon Mercy Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Committee was encouraged to send list of attendees to Bev Mills ASAP.

**New policy adopted:** If the WIB Literacy Committee is scheduled to meet and Trenton Public Schools System is closed due to inclement weather, the WIB Literacy Committee will be cancelled.

Meeting was adjourned. **Next meeting will be February 18, 2009, 8:30 AM. @ Mercer County Community College Kerney Campus, North Broad Street, Trenton**