



COUNTY OF MERCER
Workforce Investment Board
McDade Administration Building
P.O. Box 8068
Trenton, NJ 08650-0068
Phone: 609-989-6827
Fax: 609-989-6882



Brian M. Hughes
County Executive

Kelvin S. Ganges
Chief of Staff

Andrew A. Mair
County Administrator

Elizabeth Maher Muoio
Director,
Economic Development and Sustainability

Beverly Mills
Director,
Workforce Investment Board

Minutes
WIB Early Childhood Literacy Committee
April 14, 2009

Attendance: Nancy Thomson, Child Care Connection, Alethia Deans, Child Care Connection, Winnie Fatton (TCNJ), Susan Sternberg (Trenton Public Library), Beverly Mills (Mercer County WIB)

Opening: Nancy Thomson, Committee chair, opened the meeting held at the Child Care Connection, 1001 Spruce Street, Ewing. The minutes from the November 17, 2008 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Stimulus Funding:

Bev Mills updated the Committee on the federal stimulus money coming to the One Stop Career Center. The WIB has met to determine where the best training opportunities are presenting that will lead to employment. Targeted areas have been identified as: healthcare, education, science and technology, security, and green jobs. The Committee discussed the merits of receiving a CDA Certificate and future opportunities and benefits it would present.

Nancy Thomson explained that a person must be working full time in a childcare setting in order to qualify for the 120 hour training. CDA Certificate training is also provided by the Child Care Connection however should a student want to pursue an Associates Degree, they are advised to seek this training at Mercer County Community College where 6 credits would be applied toward their degree.

Trenton Heritage Day, June 6, 2009:

Heritage Day will be held on June 6, 2009 for one day only. Early Childhood Literacy Committee will ask for volunteers to read to the children the same as last year from 12:00-5:00 PM. Susan Sternberg, representing the Trenton Public Library who will partner with the WIB Early Childhood Literacy Committee, will provide 5-6 readers; Bev Mills, Susan Sternberg, Nancy Thomson and Alethia Deans will also read. This event will be the kick off for *Early Mercer Reads* (changed from *Early Trenton Reads*) that will be held on June 12, 2009.

Early Mercer Reads, (June 12, 2009 @ 10:00 AM):

Bev Mill agreed the WIB would sponsor postage for application forms sent out for *Early Mercer Reads* that Nancy Thomson will sent to child care centers. Readers will be solicited from various organizations, area colleges, Kiwanis, local politicians, etc. Exact scheduled dates for *Early Mercer Reads* will be in the fall of 2009 and March 2010; exact dates will be determined in future meetings.

The committee further discussed the importance of publicity for *Early Mercer Reads*. Bev Mills requested a write up to be submitted to the Mercer County Communications Department; Nancy Thomson volunteered to prepare and submit to Bev Mills within the next couple weeks.

Susan suggested the committee reach out to Mercer County libraries to participate in *Early Mercer Reads* and to ask Jacqueline Tolbert-Beverly to involve the Trenton Public School System.

To Do:

- Bev Mills will receive press release from Nancy Thomson by April 24, 2009 (Bev will submit to Communications Department)
- Susan Sternberg will solicit volunteers from Trenton Public Library
- Bev Mills will ask Barbara Van Horn for donated books for giveaway at Heritage Day

Next meeting: **Tuesday, May 12, 2009 @ 9:30 AM, Child Care Connection, 1001 Spruce Street, Ewing.**

Respectfully submitted,

Alethia Deans