



COUNTY OF MERCER  
**Workforce Investment Board**  
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**WIB Oversight Committee Meeting**  
**October 4, 2011, 9:00 AM**  
**One Stop Career Center, 26 Yard Avenue, Trenton, NJ**

**Attendees:** Al Edenzon, Virgen Velez, Keith Secrest, Beverly Mills, Monica McKee,  
Liz Muoio, Joyce Yon

The meeting was opened by Keith Secrest, Committee Chair, with review and approval of the minutes from the June 14, 2011 meeting.

**PY 10 Fiscal Report:**

Virgen Velez reported all the ARRA money was expended by June 30, 2011. The One Stop was able to use ARRA money instead of WIA for occupational training which helped tremendously.

Virgen distributed WIA budget information for Adults, Youth, Dislocated Worker, Learning Link (State) and Learning Link (Federal) from PY 10 (7/1/10 – 6/30/11). WIA and Dislocated Worker balances can be carried over in spite of limited use for each funding source. Learning Link funds have very specific uses and \$26,962 will be returned to the State. Reasons being no contracts are issued and funds cannot be used for additional support services; only for testing materials for the Link. Similarly, Work First funds also must be returned if unused. For the next meeting Virgen said she will report on amount of WIA and Work First funding.

**Occupational Training:**

Virgen distributed and report on training vendor performance for PY 2009 (7/1/09 – 6/30/10) which has been updated through September 30, 2011. Many customers are still active meaning they are not in training and still in job search. While customers are still in job search they are not terminated from the records.

Monica inquired if there was a cut off date when they are terminated from the system. Virgen answered that their status is reviewed every couple of months and also check in the State LOOPS system to track wages, in any.

PY 10 is still active and some of the programs are longer term. Virgen also volunteered to send information about vendors prior to Oversight meetings in case there are questions; she also asked if it would helpful to speak specifically about one or two vendors at each meeting.

Monica also asked if there are any new vendors to report; Virgen reported there are a couple listed under miscellaneous. Bev mentioned current discussion with MCCC and MCTS regarding the possibility of additional classes or course offerings.

Keith updated on a roundtable held on September 29<sup>th</sup> at MCCC hosted by the WIB with employers from the manufacturing industry with MCCC and MCTS educators. Discussion centered on types of programs needed to bring skill level up to standards; what are possible short and longer term solutions? Employers further discussed employment opportunities in the industry but said information has to get to the right parties; the industry is no longer a dirty factory environment and now everything is highly technical and computerized. The skill sets must match because schools are out of touch with what the industry demands. We need to bridge this gap.

Virgen also mentioned programs can also be built around training dislocated workers who already possess good skill sets.

Monica asked what can be done to continue building on momentum from this meeting; Bev mentioned the Technical School and/or MCCC plans to hold a follow up meeting most likely on Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>. Both schools are eager to continue facilitating this discussion and engaging employers.

Al asked if we can advertise for new vendors. Virgen answered that Individual Training Accounts are through the County College and Technical School and are contracted directly. Jim asked if we could contribute to the specs what we are looking for. Virgen said she would check.

Liz mentioned vendors don't want to invest capital to set up a program especially if employers plan to hire in house.

Keith said training must be broad starting with the fundamentals and good basic skills to enable employers to take over from there.

Virgen reiterated that dislocated workers are people in the perfect position for this training since their skill set has run the gamut. Out of school youth can also connect with this program.

Al asked if SIC codes are available. Joyce said yes and that she could bring information to the next meeting. She further mentioned that the State has a website that identifies manufacturers in the county or state; this site was made available online on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Common Measures:**

Three common measures are required – Virgen distributed two reports for PY 10 (7/1/10 – 6/30/11) for WIA Adults & Dislocated Workers and Veterans receiving services under Wagner Peyser (State aid to vets entering employment, no training). Goals for veterans have been met except for vets entering employment (40% achieved and 43% plan). Veteran goals under Wagner Peyser were met in job retention (75% achieved and 71% plan) as well as goals met for disabled veterans under same category.

WIA Adults & Dislocated Workers who have exited the system exceeded or met goals in entering employment, job retention and average earnings. Wagner Peyser adults trained either met or exceeded goals in entering employment and job retention.

Jim asked for the number of veterans entering employment; Joyce said she would provide the numbers. She added there are 13 state and federal measurements for veterans and Mercer has met 11 out of the 13 which is extremely good. As a result other counties are looking at Mercer for best practices as few One Stops are able to achieve 11 measurements. She also mentioned One Stop is partnering with Fort Washington, Pennsylvania and 25 veterans will be involved with training nine of which came from Mercer. Mercer will also be the lead trainer for an upcoming central NJ initiative.

Monica inquired who to contact for Veterans' Services at the One Stop; Joyce directed her to Thomas Thorn. This year's Veterans' Expo will be held on November 10<sup>th</sup> at the Hollowbrook Center in Ewing Township. When flyers are completed they will be distributed to Chambers of Commerce, WIB data base, etc.

**One Stop Visit:**

Joyce reported the Mercer One Stop was visited by the Bureau Chief of Finance from Germany to visit the Professional Services Group (PSG). Assistant Commissioner Mary Ellen Clark from LWD also joined the visitation. As soon as the article is written in Germany a copy will be shared.

A new security service has been installed at the One Stop; 27 more security guards are needed at Trenton Psychiatric Hospital so the One Stop offered to host a positive recruitment.

Meeting was adjourned.

**Next meeting: Tuesday, December 6, 2011 (9:00 AM – 10:30 AM) 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room at the One Stop Career Center, 26 Yard Avenue, Trenton, New Jersey.**