



COUNTY OF MERCER
Workforce Investment Board
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WIB Healthcare Committee Meeting
Mercer County Technical School
May 19, 2009 8:00 AM

Present: Scott Clemmensen, (Capital Health), Sharon Nemeth (Mercer County Technical Schools), Lucille Jones (Mercer County Technical Schools), Pat Cacacie (UWMC), Erin Hennessey (Liberty Healthcare), Bonny Ross (St. Francis Medical)

Meeting was opened by Scott Clemmensen, Chair. The minutes from the April 21, 2009 were reviewed and approved with one clarification: "Sharon Nemeth would give the curriculum for health technician to Scott for his input."

CVS Pharmacy Technician Program Update:

Sharon Nemeth reported that recruitment for the CVS apprenticeship program was going well. Senior students are ready to enter the program.

Sharon further reported that the proposal submitted by Mercer County Technical School for WIRED grant funds was denied; the reason given was that the curriculum was too broad. The committee agreed the proposal should be resubmitted when, and if, the RFP comes back out. Lucille Jones suggested re-submitting the proposal a couple weeks ahead of deadline to allow for comment and any necessary editing.

Discussion of Goals for 2009-2010:

- Committee agreed the Sterilization Program should be part of our upcoming goals as there will always be a need to train current employees or those through attrition. Bev and Sharon agreed to work on this project together throughout the summer.
- Certified Nursing Assistant training was also identified as a growth area and should continue to be part of our goals. Erinn discussed how the low retention rate that is always an inherent problem in this occupation; some leave to go back to school and others for higher paying jobs. Bev mentioned a conversation with Kevin Zepp regarding building a consortium of long term health care providers. The purpose would be for the consortium to have a vested interest in their personnel and to offer certain incentives in order to retain employees. Bev and Erinn will work on this project throughout the summer.

Bonny Ross mentioned that there should be more of a push in geriatric education and that there's not enough training; this is needed in all healthcare professions.

- The committee agreed that hosting a Summit for this October would be too ambitious and probably would not get attendance. Committee further agreed that working with the schools by hosting a meeting with counselor liaisons would be a better target. There is a monthly meeting with liaison counselors the fourth Thursday of each month; Lucille will let us know when they plan to meet in the fall at the Assunpink Campus.
- The committee also discussed that although it seems the current demand for nurses has abated, this may not be the case once the economy rebounds. Sharon mentioned meeting with Dr. Ann Curley from the Institute of Nursing concerning a program for Displaced Workers with Bachelor Degrees entering into a fast track nursing program. The training, that takes 1 year to 18 months. This was another goal mentioned for the upcoming year.
- A Healthcare Training Resource Guide for training opportunities at public/private Mercer County schools will be developed this summer. A form requesting standard information will be sent out and compiled at the WIB office. This information will be available for One Stop counselors to disseminate. Bev also mentioned that it might be useful for Healthcare Committee members to meet with One Stop counselors to assist and/or answer questions about healthcare training in the County. Lucille offered that students from the Technical School can assist with mailing out the questionnaires.

Scott mentioned that we should continue to be aware of where the next "mass exodus" in retirement might be and be proactive in planning for training.

Meeting adjourned by Chair, Scott Clemmensen. Next meeting will be held **Tuesday, June 16, 2009, 8:00 – 9:00 AM** at the Mercer County Technical School, Assunpink Campus, Old Trenton Road, W. Windsor