



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

WIB Healthcare Committee Meeting
Mercer County Technical School
October 20, 2009 8:30 AM

Present: Scott Clemmensen, (Capital Health), Sharon Nemeth (Mercer County Technical Schools), Lucille Jones (Mercer County Technical Schools), Susan Bakewell-Sachs (TCNJ), John Pysarchyk, (Capital Health), Alexis McCormack (Angeletti Group), Karen Clark, (Horizon NJ Health), Linda Martin (MCCC), Kevin Zepp (Liberty Healthcare)

Meeting was opened by Chair, Scott Clemmensen and minutes from the May 19, 2009 meeting were reviewed. Sharon Nemeth made a motion to accept the minutes and was seconded by Linda Martin. Minutes were approved and will be placed on the county website (www.mercercounty.org).

Sterilization Technical Program:

Scott requested the committee begin discussion regarding the Sterilization Technical Program. John Pysarchyk, Sterile Processing Manager from Capital Health was briefed by Scott on committee activities and its mission. Committee asked Mr. Pysarchyk's opinion regarding need and shortage of available personnel at Capital Health and if he had any information about area hospitals.

Mr. Pysarchyk informed the committee that area hospitals had been given notification in 2004 that central service employees had to be trained and certified by 2009. Unfortunately many employees procrastinated and lost jobs once the deadline came into effect in August, 2009. In his estimation there will always be training needs as technology rapidly changes and new instruments are always introduced.

Mr. Pysarchyk explained two ways to receive training to be certified; employees can attend programs sponsored by the International Association of Healthcare Central Service Material Management (IAHCSMM) or employees can do their own self study program by purchasing books. Since 400 hours of supervised OJT internship is required, this poses a difficulty. Furthermore the exam is not easy and those employees who are self studying might find it especially challenging.

Susan Bakewell-Sachs suggested the committee state our case, figure out formula costs, identify the specific target audience and predict job outcomes. It was mentioned that books and application fees also need to be considered – question arose if the One Stop would be able to assist in defraying costs?

Sharon Nemeth will put a course together that would have a computerized test. MCTC Board would have to approve but Sharon does not see a problem if costs are covered by the One Stop; most difficult part would be finding an IAHCMM certified teacher. Some teachers who were previously certified let their certification lapse which is only good for one year. Bev and Sharon will meet with Virgen Velez to discuss One Stop role. Sharon will present a business plan to the WIB Healthcare Committee at the next meeting.

New Jersey Nursing Institute:

Susan Bakewell-Sachs and Alexis McCormack, Associate from the Angeletti Group, updated the committee regarding the proposal they were originally slated to submit to DOL. Susan explained that the decision was made not to apply for the grant because of the 36 month challenge to show deliverables therefore the discussion for this meeting was not around scholarship support. This meeting's discussion centered around collaborative support, particularly WIBS, to act as partners to provide assistance to BSN and MSN students (ESL students included) to advanced degrees by bolstering reading and writing skills through on-line remediation centers. Committee discussed how such a project could be piloted in Mercer.

There was much discussion on advancing degrees for nurses and the committee reiterated importance of nurse practitioners in primary care as well as exploring all opportunities in healthcare field.

Regional Modeling and Simulation Healthcare Training Center:

Linda Martin reported on DOL grant proposal submitted by MCCC to develop a Simulation Center to be used by students at all levels in need of remedial work or clinical training. A distance learning component will also be available. The Simulation Center would be available to area hospitals, schools, police and fire academies. Linda pointed out the distance learning component could instruct students from other campuses and that she would continue to look at other state models. The challenge would be sustainability.

MCTS Health Sciences Career Academy:

Lucille Jones updated the committee on \$100,000 MCTS received from the Department of Education for the Health Science Career Academy. This proposal was in direct response to the future employment outlook for Mercer County and the need for qualified health care workers. This proposal is for a four year program that will prepare students to undertake college level classes during the junior/senior years. Further, MCTS' investment in this Academy is targeted to:

- Support the need for qualified health care workers
- Prepare students for enrollment in post-secondary and entry level careers in the health science cluster
- Develop, identify and disseminate academic supports that motivate and engage students and ease the transition to post-secondary institutions and/or health care community
- Better define the steps for students to achieve college readiness for the health sciences
- Market and build public support for the growth of a Health Science Career Academy
- Develop, identify and provide the tools students and teachers need for powerful classroom learning
- Develop new pathways to graduation based on the demonstration of college ready knowledge and skills

The committee expressed how pleased they were to hear this news. Scott also mentioned we should not lose sight of keeping geriatric nursing and those challenges on our radar screen.

Meeting was adjourned by Chair, Scott Clemensen. **Next WIB Healthcare Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 17, 2009 (8:30-9:30 AM) at the Mercer County Technical School, Assunpink Campus, West Trenton Road, West Windsor, NJ**

Meeting adjourned by Chair, Scott Clemmensen. Next meeting will be held **Tuesday, November 17, 2009** **from 8:30 -9:30 AM** at the Mercer County Technical School, Assunpink Campus, Old Trenton Road, W. Windsor