

WIOA Adult Education & Career Pathways Work Group
May 15, 2015

Attendees: From DLLR: James Rzepkowski (Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning); Patricia Tyler, Michelle Frazier, Helen Coupe and Bayo Adetunji (Adult Education and Literacy Services) Rodrigue Vital (New Americans Program); Christy Shockley and Shannon Millington (Office of Fiscal Administration). From MSDE: Sue Page (Division of Rehabilitation Services) and Jeanne- Marie Holly (Career Technology Education); Mary Sloat, Mayor's Office of Employment and Development; Bruce England, Susquehanna Workforce Network; Marina Solovey, Department of Human Resources; John Damond, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Lyn Farrow, Goodwill Industries of the Chesapeake.

The following members called in on the conference line:

Ellen Payne, DHR- Worcester County
Evelyn Reed, DHR- Prince Georges County
Todd Elliott, Greater Homewood Community Corporation
Elizabeth Sinnes, Charles County Public Schools
Alice Wirth, Director, DLLR Correctional Education Program

The meeting opened at 10:30 with brief introductions.

Adult Education Overview/Partnerships

Helen Coupe provided an overview of Maryland adult education programs fact sheet including target populations, results of instruction, potential economic impact of instruction, enrollment numbers, adult literacy level at enrollment, demographic information, local program information and resources. A handout summarizing this information is provided.

Patricia Tyler led the group in discussing how Adult Education could serve the populations of the work group members. The following issues were mentioned:

New Americans – Need AE services in their workplace to be able to participate in education while employed; many do not have the time to participate in education after work hours. A number of New Americans are working in small business settings. Also, more effort towards replicating workplace models, such as McDonald's "English Under the Arches" program would be welcome.

MSDE-CTE students who need English language instruction may need referrals to adult education programs once they have withdrawn from high school. Some high school graduates may need additional job readiness skills.

TANF & Foster Care /Aging-out individuals – need High School preparation and occupational training programs. Baltimore City runs a Basic Skills Boot Camp for youth to prepare for employment – this is an intensive learning situation that is linked to job training.

Goodwill Industry- There is large populations who have a diploma and lack basic skills.

Library – For patrons who need adult services, the library has a referral system that includes information given by the library staff and information housed on the library website.

Susquehanna Workforce – there are clients in need of adult education services, but they are challenged by accessing the appropriate program during the time that it is needed.

Populations Served and Services Provided

There was an extensive discussion about the populations served and the services provided by workgroup partners. The **populations** served include, but not limited to- high school CTE students, English language Learners, Parents of young children, Youth, Individuals with low basic skills, Individuals seeking high school credentials, Job seekers (from various backgrounds), continuing education students, incarcerated individuals in both detention centers and correctional facilities, juvenile offenders, individuals with disabilities, TANF recipients, individuals with disabilities, and ex-offenders.

Services provided include- career education, career development, job search skills, job readiness skills, literacy skills, integrated basic education and skills training, high school credential, English language skills, post-secondary education, computer literacy, business engagement and consulting, occupational training, re-entry services, referrals for citizenship, workforce development, industry credentials, certifications, licensing, barrier removing services, financial literacy, civics education, tax preparation, benefits counseling, and substance abuse counseling.

The workgroup revisited its purpose and mission with regard to non-duplication of services. Members agreed that the need for the services may not be sufficiently covered by one entity. We can strive for increased collaboration among members in terms of the services we provide. Other factors including regional need, and client eligibility should also be considered.

Potential Opportunities and Challenges in Serving Low-skilled Populations

Adults struggle to find the time to devote to career training or education that would lead to high wage earning. They sometimes drop out of these programs because of the long term commitment required. Partnerships with businesses that can provide space and resources are very helpful. Getting access to the right program is important. The Maryland Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training pilots (and subsequently the ACE grant programs) demonstrated that learning is accelerated and students are more engaged when their education is tied to a career goal. Extensive support services are also a key factor to ensuring success with low skilled adults.

Career Pathways Six Key Elements (See handout)

The six key elements of DOL Career Pathways were briefly reviewed.

Dan McDermott from the Upper Shore Workforce Investment Board and Patty Silver, ESL Program Coordinator at Chesapeake College will present at the meeting on May 29th. The Upper Shore participated in the DOL Career Pathways Planning Grant in 2011 and will share their experience in working with partners to plan and implement career pathways using the Six Key Elements.

Action Items

- Members were encouraged to bring their ideas and/or examples of career pathway programs.

Our next meeting dates are below:

We will meet at 10:00 rather than 10:30 on the May 29th to allow adequate time for the presentation. We will continue to meet at MDOT through June.

May 29th from 10:00 am -12:00 pm

June 12th

June 26th

The meeting was adjourned at noon.