September 2026 Leadership Meeting Minutes

Attendance

- Fernandel Almonor – Greater Raritan One Stop Operator
- Sylvia Saa – OJT Writer
- Barbara Stockton – DVRS, Business Outreach Consultant
- Isabel Jimenez – OTWS WFNJ/SNAP Employment & Training Rep.
- Maria Marnell – Hunterdon Educational Services Commission, Program Coordinator for Work First NJ
- Monica Mulligan – Director, One Stop Career Training Services Center
- Lia Stone – VR Counselor, Somerset and Hunterdon County, Commission for the Blind
- Danielle Kwan – DVRS, Somerville Office
- Jazlis Perez – Supervisor, Somerville DVRS
- Aminah Reeves – Work First NJ Supervisor, Somerset County Social Services
- Anthony Longordo – Pathstone
- Paul Grizella – Director, Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board
- Karen Araujo, Business Services Representative

Agenda Overview

1. Upcoming recruitment event and employer participation
2. Federal resume workshop planning
3. Anthony Sharp's career development workshop
4. Ongoing promotion and client engagement
5. Co-enrollment matrix updates and feedback
6. Department updates and staffing changes
7. Miscellaneous items and community initiatives

Key Discussions

1. October Government Jobs Recruitment Event

- Event hosted at Hunterdon Chamber of Commerce.
- Flyer and marketing materials distributed – partners encouraged to share widely.
- Employers Registered:
    - Hillsborough Township
    - Hunterdon County Educational Service Commission
    - Hometown Development Metal Center
    - NJ Department of Children and Families
    - Civil Service Commission
    - Department of Military & Veterans Affairs
    - U.S. Air Force Civilian Personnel

    - U.S. Customs and Border Protection
    - U.S. Department of Labor (specific division)
    - NJ Department of Health
    - NJ Department of Veterans Affairs
- 137 total registrants; 2 employers committed to on-site interviews:
    - Hunterdon County Educational Services
    - Hometown Developmental Center
- Encouraged case managers to promote the event and focus on submitting resumes for interviewing employers.

2. Federal Resume Workshop

- 303 registrants for U.S. Jobs workshop.
- Focus on federal resume formatting to avoid disqualification.
- Recommended for all case managers; session will be recorded for later viewing.

3. Career Development Workshop with Anthony Sharp

- Third/fourth session in the continuing series.
- Focus: Career planning, financial needs assessment, and AI-assisted job searches.
- Emphasis on aligning career paths with financial obligations.
- Strong client engagement expected; staff encouraged to promote widely.

4. Co-Enrollment Matrix

- Revised matrix with hyperlinks and new grantee page distributed.
- Feedback requested on usage and ease of sharing with case management teams.
- NJDOL expressed interest in using as a model statewide.

5. Department Updates

- **OJT and Employer Engagement (Sylvia Saa & Barbara Stockton)**
    - New OJT opportunities available for dislocated workers.
    - Restaurant Depot hiring and OJT coordination ongoing.
    - Middlesex Disability Employment Awareness Month job fair planned.
- **Work First NJ (Amina Reeves)**
    - Caseloads growing due to increased SNAP/TANF/GA enrollment.
    - Ongoing community initiatives: backpack giveaways and Thanksgiving donations.
- **Career Training (Monica Mulligan)**
    - Orientation backlog now scheduling for October 16.
    - New support staff onboarding to improve front desk coverage.
    - Data validation with NJDOL scheduled for October 8.
- **DVRS & CBVI**
    - Staff promotions and transitions announced.
    - Community events and awareness programs ongoing.
- **Employment Services (Anthony Lombardo)**
    - Staffing shortages continue; awaiting candidate resumes.
    - Veterans representative will support upcoming events.
- **Business Services (Karen, Barbara, Ingrid)**

- Multiple recruitment events supported.
- Coordination with employers for OJTs and interviews emphasized.

6. Miscellaneous Items

- Discussion of GoHunterdon for potential transportation support to new job sites.
- Volunteer opportunities for long-term TANF clients encouraged; list of nonprofits to be updated.
- Positive outcomes from summer youth program reported; literacy funding reinstated.

7. Next Steps

- Continue promoting October recruitment and workshops.
- Finalize volunteer resource list for clients.
- Prepare for January recruitment event planning session.
- Collect success stories for grant and congressional presentations.

Meeting adjourned after department updates and general discussion.