2015 Adult Education Project : Working Group: Resources – first meeting

June 22, 2015 4:00-6:30pm

**Present:** Jill Holloway (facilitator), Pat Bellart (RIRAL), Gail Dzekevich (Cranston AE), Kristen McKenna (GWB), Cristina Cabrera (EFA), Tom Larrabee (Progresso Latino), Ruth Tureckova (LVWA), Brady Dunklee (ILSR), Melanie LaMountain (West Bay CAP), Mary Parella (Pawtucket Adult Education Program)

**Notes:**

**What do you think about this project?**

Participants shared that the timing for this project is perfect, between changes at the state level and the coming of WIOA negotiations. The range of stakeholders, along with experience practitioners is encouraging! It was also very clear that we need a clear path to move forward again: with achievable and measurable goals, as there is such an unmet need in the state for AE.

Conversation on use of term “adult basic skills (ABS)” Jill talked about the National Skills Coalition and why that term was adopted in the report, it is interchangeable with adult education.

**Discussion on survey results, key areas of focus:**

The group reviewed the survey results re: Resources, reminding selves to keep the input form stakeholders front and center.

* Distribution of resources among programs
* Performance based funding
* Should be leveraging resources with others who have similar goals...groups outside of education, GWB, CTE, K-12, and businesses.
* Recommendations-who’s accountable, what are the standards? Education funding formula is competitive rather than collaborative.
* We need less restrictive funding
* There use to be funding for case management, but it no longer exists
* How do we keep these thoughts front and center?
* HR, technology...etc.
* All the emphasis has been on the ABS students, concerned about that. Technical language capacity is a concern.

**Vision Statement Exercise**

**Vision Statement:**

*DRAFT: There is a statewide commitment to provide resources for the infrastructure, coordination, support and services for an adult education system that meets the varied needs of adult learners, equitably across Rhode Island.*

Participant also included the following words in their suggestions:

RI adult education programs will be well resourced…wrap around services will be available to ensure success…innovation, inclusivity and partnership (or collaboration) to support adult learners to meet their goals to participate in the community and for economic stability… ensure the opportunities to learn what you want to/need to learn, when and how you need it… all adult education stakeholders (learners, adult ed providers, vendors, policy makers, employers, etc.) should have open, accessible, flexible, sustainable, equitable, contextualized and shared resources…. support their leadership development, strengthen their communities and help grow their economic, social and political spheres…resources will have a holistic impact… the resources of AE should be leveraged and aligned with public and private ones to allow RI adults and employers transparent/easy to locate opportunities for development and lifelong learning… a system of shared resources should be identified, adequately funded and accessible to all Rhode Islanders seeking to gain education and workforce skills.. resources provide infrastructure, coordination, and support adequate to achieve and sustain access to learning opportunities for all RI adults.

**Action Steps beginning discussion question:**

What new funding opportunities might be available for adult education? How could these be leveraged?

* SNAP and Project Opportunity
* Real Jobs RI
* Innovation Grants
* Incumbent worker training
* ALP $
* Dollar General
* BJ’s grant
* Bush and Joyce Foundations
* Private foundations and charities
* Collaborative grant writing
* Inclusion in federal grants
* MUKAVA
* Social enterprise-profits can go back to the program
* Contact hour-based funding system for reimbursement rates
* Rethink the funding formula
* Ability to Benefit-CCRI

Adjourned 6:35pm