

Meriden/Middletown/Wallingford South Central Partners

Thursday, November 18, 2021 / 9:30-11:00 AM

Zoom

Meeting Notes

1. Resuming bi-monthly Meriden/Middletown Meetings!
2. Partner Updates
 - a. Chris Marinaro (Meriden Adult Education) things underway. Smaller crop of students (true across the state). Who has returned and who hasn't – daytime GED/ABE/ESOL morning all virtual. Evening classes at Meloni HS, logistical challenges have ABE/GED/ESOL/CDP students all in one location, allows for guest speakers and counselors to meet with students. One English Class and one Math class virtually- good maintenance with students who are doing virtual. Will be getting an earlier start to let people know about enrollment process. **Spring semester registration starts second week of January (See attached flyer).**
 - b. Julie Roebelen (Tri-Town Collaborative) – numbers down but hopeful for spring (tri-town collaborative)) 5 promising candidates in the pipeline right now. Beholden to what Adult Ed centers determine so combination
 - c. Wayne Valatis (Women and Family Center) on site 3 days a week 2 days a week at home. Evening classes in person, Morning classes virtual. Hybrid with all programs. UNITE CT- visits. WIOA programs – some recruits paperwork was hard to collect. Should have a new hire in the next week or so!
 - d. Literacy Volunteers- moved 35 Pleasant across the street from City Hall, in same building as United Way! Large tutoring space with computers, smaller tutoring space, vaccination card required for in person sessions. Not vaccinated-virtual. Able to loan Chromebooks to students. Robust in person classes at Spanish Community of Wallingford (Beginners and Advanced). Numbers are down, hiring PT outreach coordinator for students and tutors. Typically see a spring surge in enrollment. Partnership with Meriden Adult Ed. TAA student. Had to give up book bank – but donated to little free libraries, YMCA accepted some books
 - e. Conversation about teaching and lower enrollment: What has been experience in terms of people completing and succeeding to the next level
 - i. Chris: Virtual works well for those highly motivated and have the space and support (childcare) needed to be successful. Some tech learning curve was too great. It depends- asking clients what would benefit them the most and tailor

- ii. Instructors- doing double the work
- iii. Contracting with oncall IT support
- iv. In-person classes are avail in a hybrid model- can zoom in (class size: 10-12)
- v. Flexibility in schedules is becoming more and more important (even in the workplace)
- vi. A lot behind the scenes- child care, workplace changes,
- vii. Sashi Govin (Wallingford Adult Education) – received PEP grant! NDPP (online GED) open to Wallingford, Cheshire, Meriden residents!

3. DOL Update

- a. DOL very low foot traffic of job assistance. Research dept -100,000 job openings out there only 40,000 filing for unemployment. Aging out, apprenticeship moving for hiring paying positions, employers trying flex schedules. Encouraging OJTs and apprenticeships. TAA even encouraged those. Tap and Vine was slated to close but were able to keep 2 people on. RESEA program -reemployment services USDOL recognized a lot of job openings – educate, retrain, rebrand. Work search efforts required for UI payments. New – partnered with Google to provide scholarships with veterans. IT issues for virtual populations, trying to increase foot traffic

4. Workforce Alliance/AJC Update

- a. Update:
 - i. Foot traffic slow-
 - ii. UNITE CT onsite in Meriden. Youth Job Seeker consultant on site couple of days a week
 - iii. Middletown office- scheduling appointments. Resource room person, JFES 5days, WIOA 2 days, facilitators and partners coming in
 - iv. New Haven- mini in person job fair (security, manufacturing, healthcare). Next Dec/Jan will be in Meriden office
 - v. Trying to do more outreach- placemats in diners in the M/M area
 - vi. Outreach team out at Big Connect
 - vii. Openings for job seeker consultants
- b. Skill Up for Manufacturing
 - i. starting up Jan 3rd- Middlesex Community College and Vinal Tech. Jan 3rd-Feb 18th 3-9pm/ 5 weeks plus 2 weeks of plastics
 - ii. Contact Steve or website

- iii. Jan 10th class to Feb 14th (NH Gateway and Eli Whitney) 5 week course
- iv. Everyone in those classes get an offer
- v. Q: Durham manufacturing – Chris would love to connect with them.
A: Steve will make an intro have placed students at Durham.
Presentation at ABE/GED classes
- c. **Ticket to Work** – Barbara Disability Resources
 - i. Expanded efforts to try and service more folks with disabilities with disability benefits. **See attached flyer.** Contact Barbara Green at bgreen@workforcealliance.biz.
 - d. Pharm tech program with YNNH ongoing remainder of year -great pipeline. Held at YNNH hospital (WA funding the training)
 - e. Health Care: MXCC and Midstate – training on Midstate campus, instructors are nurses from Midstate. CNA credential
 - f. Having trouble enrolling people into those programs
- 5. OS Operator Update
 - a. Exploring new collaborative directions and/or SCP formats
 - i. Reorganization of NH SCP
 - ii. Potential new directions in Meriden/Middletown (Open Discussion)
 - iii. UW have tried to start organizing stakeholders in M/W
 - iv. Opportunity to work together more strategically
 - v. Collaboration with UW? Y/N (Wayne – collaborations with frontline staff) (Pipeline to adult ed)
 - vi. Frontline service group? Y/N
- 6. Next Steps and Adjourn

Next Meeting: January 19th, 2022



MERIDEN ADULT & CONTINUING EDUCATION

191 Pratt Street, Meriden, CT 06450

Phone:(English) 203-237-0602 ext. 2820

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****Registration for Spring 2022****

Meriden Adult and Continuing Education provides courses in high school completion, GED® instruction, English as a Second Language and Citizenship preparation.

Online Registration begins *January 18-27, 2022*

Registration Office Hours: *Monday-Friday (9am-1pm)*

All required testing will take place at 191 Pratt Street

Testing Hours: Monday-Thursday (4pm-7pm)

****Registración de Primavera 2022****

Meriden Adult and Continuing Education ofrece cursos para obtener su Diploma de la escuela secundaria con créditos vespertina, instrucción GED®, Inglés como segundo idioma y clases de preparación para la Ciudadanía.

Complete su formulario de registro en línea.

Fecha y Horario de Registración para los programas de educación para adultos *comienzan en Enero 18-27, 2022 de Lunes a Viernes (9am-1pm)*

Todos los exámenes requeridos se llevarán a cabo 191 Pratt Street

Lunes a Jueves (4pm-7pm)





What is the Ticket to Work Program?

... a Message of Hope

Eligibility

Social Security's **Ticket to Work** Program is a free and voluntary program available to people **ages 18 through 64** who have a disability and who receive **Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)** or **Supplemental Security Income (SSI)** benefits.

Goals

The **goals** of the Ticket Program are to:

- Offer beneficiaries with disabilities expanded choices when seeking service and supports to **enter, re-enter and/or maintain employment;**
- Increase the **financial independence and self-sufficiency** of beneficiaries with disabilities; and
- **Reduce** and, whenever possible, **eliminate reliance on disability benefits.**

The beneficiary does not need a paper ticket to participate. Under this program, eligible beneficiaries with disabilities who are receiving monthly cash benefit payments are entitled to participate by signing up with an approved service provider of their choice, called an **Employment Network (EN)**. **Workforce Alliance** is an **Employment Network (EN)** in partnership with **ADEN** (American Dream Employment Network). *Barbara Green*, Disability Resource Coordinator (DRC), is a **Certified Work Incentive Practitioner**, a credential required to accept a Ticket assignment and provide Social Security benefits counseling.

Barbara Green, Certified Work Incentive Counselor

Ticket to Work/Disability Resource Coordinator

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Workforce Alliance

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