

WSJC



## CLIENT NEEDS COMMITTEE

### *Identifies and addresses the unique barriers to employment for WSJC target population*

Members:                      Gail Foster - Poised for Success  
                                     Joy Maguire Dooley - Lisle Township  
                                     Rebecca Portillo - DuPage County Family Self Sufficiency  
                                     Jill Kimak - PADS  
                                     Sarah Breithaupt - Lisle Township  
                                     Barb Tartaglione – DuPage Workforce Board/Peoples Resource Center

### Accomplishments 2013

1. Revised Employment Strategies for Special Populations booklet to add three more special populations including, the mentally ill, victims of domestic violence, and job seekers with addictions.
2. Reviewed current “bridge” programs available at the College of DuPage to identify potential target occupations for clients that pay a living wage. Identified the most important factors for successful programs which were:
  - a. Cohorts
  - b. Block Scheduling
  - c. Mentoring
  - d. Wrap Around Services.
3. Identified resources for ex-offender employment and employers that are willing to hire this population.
4. Focused a general meeting on “burning issues” for job coaches related to their clients job search, identifying resistance to change, low self-confidence due to unemployment, and negative/distorted thinking/depression as the most significant barriers for our clients’ successful job search.
5. Disseminated information regarding Care for Cars and the new free dental clinic

### Goals 2014

1. Increased analysis and promotion of Bridge programs through COD, as well as other stakeholders within in the community, including proprietary schools and community based organizations.
2. Develop more in-depth knowledge and interventions to address the most significant barrier to employment for our clients based on our membership which is resistance to change, low self-confidence, and depression due to distorted thinking. Motivational Interviewing will be an important strategy to address this issue.
3. Increase our members’ understanding of people living in poverty, especially generational vs. situational populations.
4. Identify best practice and continue emphasis on employability (soft) skills training for low income job seekers.