



Supporting the Development and Retention of a World Class Workforce

Jeffrey S. Swartz, Executive Director

Robert Weil, Chair

**YOUTH INVESTMENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES,  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2022, 9:00AM – ZOOM MEETING**

ATTENDANCE

Name	COMMITTEE INFORMATION AND ATTENDANCE		28-Apr-21	30-Jun-21	25-Aug-21	27-Oct-21	26-Jan-21
	Organization	Trustee Member					
<b>Verney, Matthew CHAIR</b>	BB&T Bank	X	X	X	X		
Arroyo, Rosy	Camden County Youth Services Commission		X			X	X
Banks, Evangeline	Juvenile Justice Commission		X	X	X	X	X
Barbella, Sarah	Camden Probation Division						X
Boucher, Shaneka	City of Camden		X	X	X	x	X
Cirii, Frank	CCOSCC Local Area Operations Director	X	x	X	X	X	X
Davis, Pastor Keith	Camden Dream Academy					X	
Fetty, Brett	CCTS						
Godorov, Lori	The Work Group	X	X	X	X	X	x
Gorman, Ginger	Winslow Township High School						X
Hill, Lauren	Camden County College		X	X		X	X
Lofton, Vance	Respond, Inc.				X	X	X
McNair, David	Dept. of Education						
Pasiglaio, Marion	NJ Youth Challenge Academy					X	X
Peterson, Jyi	Youth Counselor, CCOS		X		X	x	X
Scott, Kenneth	Winslow Township High School			X	X	X	X
Selby, Andrew	CPAC		X	X	X	X	X
Sinclair, Nidia	Camden County One-Stop		X				
Taguwa, Denise	NJ Dept. Of Labor & Workforce Development						
Vasquez, Marisol	Youth Counselor, CCOS		X	X		X	
Velasquez, Gil	Camden Probation Division		X	X	X	X	X
Waller, Darchelle	Winslow Township High School						
Wardlow Hurlley, Rhonda	HACC Youth Build		X	X	X	X	X
Washington, Daquan	CPAC						
Williams, Jen	Covenant House						
Swartz, Jeffrey S.	WDB		X	X	X	X	X
Levitt, Alex	WDB		X	X	X	X	X
Vaughn, Debra	WDB						X
Williams, Leslie	WDB		X	X	X		X

Welcome

Jeff Swartz, Executive Director, Camden County Workforce Development Board welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order at 9:00am. The Committee reviewed the minutes from Wednesday, October 27, 2021. Jeff asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Lauren Hill made the motion, seconded by Lori Godorov. By unanimous vote to the affirmative, the motion carried, and the minutes for October 27, 2021, were approved.

Summer Youth Employment 2022

Leslie Williams informed the committee of the Notice of Grant Opportunity (NGO) for the 2022 Summer Youth Employment Program and stated the Workforce Development Board is applying for the grant. The RFP will be submitted by February 4th. Participants will be required to work 25 hours a week, with 4 hours being dedicated to the work readiness education. The goal is to successfully put 45 participants through job readiness training. The program will run for 8 weeks starting the third week of June and youth participants will be paid a minimum of

\$13.50 an hour. Any participant that is 16-24 and qualifies for WIOA eligibility, may be entitled to a higher compensation. Employer agreements will be sent to prospective worksites beginning in April and applications will reviewed in April and May. Virtual employer information sessions will be held, to go over the worksite agreement process. Leslie asked the committee members for help finding employers in the southern end of the county to participate as a worksite and if members of the committee would be willing to assist with conducting applicant interviews over Zoom. Applicants will be working in person at their worksites as well as their work readiness training, but virtual options are being considered as an alternative.

### 2022 Youth Committee Goals

The committee discussed 2022 goals. Jeff asked if there was any update on the sub-committee formed for youth engagement. Members serving on the sub-committee are:

Marisol Vasquez

Lori Godorov

Alex Levitt

Rosy Arroyo

Shaneka Boucher

Gil Velasquez

Rosy stated the timeline set for this committee will be adjusted, due to rescheduling. The timeline includes drafting a youth-based survey and holding focus groups for Camden County Youth. A meeting is being planned to take place before the Youth Committee reconvenes in February.

### One Stop Update

The One-Stop continues to be open to the public. Only county employees are in the building seeing customers and referring them to local partners virtually as needed. The Learning Link is open by appointment only. All other services are being offered to customers, in-person and virtually. The Camden County Health Department conducted an inspection, which the One-Stop passed. COVID protocols are being followed, as well as new recommendations to combat the Omicron variant.

Laurie Maguire presented a 90-Day plan for the Youth One-Stop to the committee. This plan would be taking the Youth One-Stop from the current open-ended model into a group model, to determine how WIOA youth funds can support the community and programs. The Youth One-Stop's open-ended model does not result in live enrollments and does not allow services to youth below a sixth-grade reading level, which members of the committee agree is an underserved population that needs attention. Up to 25% of WIOA funding can be used for in-school programs, which would include alternative schools. Dr. Lauren Hill stated she believes a transition to enhancement for programs that are serving people aged 16-24 throughout the county is worthy of more than a look because the model in use has met minimal success. She believes start and end times that will generate specific responsibilities are important. Lori Godorov commented that more than half of the young people seeking services at The Work Group are testing at 4<sup>th</sup> grade level and below, and something innovative is needed to serve that part of the community. Jyi Peterson commented that brokering services to non-profit and for-profit entities and employers and using supportive services more wisely are necessary to keep the youth more engaged. These efforts in gaining more structure to implement services are designed to encourage youth customers to stick with the One-Stop as opposed to a soft exit after 90 days. Sheneka Boucher stated she has directed youth to Camden Works and requested a

list of providers for services to young people who are not prepared for the work force. She offered recruiting assistance for the Youth One-Stop. Jyi suggested a collaboration between Sheneka's non-profit and YOS to combine efforts to best offer services to the youth. Marion Pasiglao of Youth ChalleNge Academy reminded the committee that they are available for referrals for young people who may not be eligible for other services. Rosy Arroyo confirmed the need to serve youth who fall in the educational gap and need skillsets to enter the workforce and affirmed the value of a combined effort to provide literacy and job readiness training. Further discussion will take place for collaboration to expand the services between the One-Stop and non-profits. Lori Godorov inquired if this meant disbandment of the Youth One-Stop and Jeff clarified it does not mean disbanding but adjusting to current times and improving services to provide opportunities for the youth in our communities.

### Success Story Video

Alex Levitt provided his update on the Success Story Video. His final edits addressed a suggestion at the last Board of Trustees meeting to add voice and subtitles for those who are visually and hearing impaired. In a prior committee meeting, Matt Verney said this video would be a constantly evolving product that can be adjusted to add more as the years go forward. Additional items for inclusion in future iterations of the video are to add a more diverse group for testimonials, as well as an employer testimonial. Upon review, the committee agreed the video is now ready to be shared.

### Youth Committee Updates

- Jeff mentioned the WDB is running a new cohort in 2022 for the Atlantic City Electric Program. Information sessions will be taking place in February. Two virtual and one in-person information sessions are planned.
- Lori promoted her next High School Diploma class for The Work Group's YouthCore program will take place on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Lori said orientations for this class are being held on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- Rosy Arroyo discussed the county working on implementation of legislation passed last year to develop a restorative and transformative hub in Camden, as an avenue to direct access to vocational educational training. There is a \$2,000,000 grant over a 2-year period specifically to develop a housing hub in the City of Camden for all resources for young people.

### Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:14am.

### Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 23, 2022, at 9:00 am via Zoom. The Youth Committee will return to a bi-monthly schedule after the Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

### **Submitted by:**

Alex Levitt

Administrative Assistant