



Supporting the Development and Retention of a World Class Workforce

Jeffrey S. Swartz, Executive Director

Robert Weil, Chair

YOUTH INVESTMENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2018

ATTENDANCE

Members		25-May	27-Jul	28-Sep	25-Jan-18	22-Mar-18	31-May-18	9-Aug-18	25-Oct-18
	Bi-monthly meeting dates as 10/17								
Verney, Matthew CHAIR	TD Bank	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Arroyo, Rosy	CPAC	X			X		X		
Banks, Evangeline	Juvenile Justice Commission	X	X	X			X		X
Barclay, Arthur	Camden County One-Stop								
Brown, JarDaine	Camden City School District						X	X	
Cirii, Frank	CCOSCC								X
Cooper, Diane	CPAC			X					
Davis, Keith	Camden Dream Center Tech. Trng. School	X							
Elmore-Stratton, Corrine	YMCA					X	X	X	
Friedman, Joshua A	Local Area Operations Director, CCOS	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Godorov, Lori	The Work Group		X	X	X	X		X	X
Hill, Lauren	Manager, CCCC/Youth1Stop					X	X	X	X
Maguire, Laurie	Camden County Resource Center								
Martinez, Leydiri	Camden County Technical Schools								X
McKinsey, Denise	Respond Inc.	X	X	X			X	X	X
Peterson, Jyi	Youth Counselor, CCOS	X	X		X	X	X		
Quattrone, Cathy	Camden County Technical Schools							X	X
Rhoton, Daniel	Hopeworks								
Riggins, Matthew	Riggins Oil Inc.	X		X		X	X		
Sinclair, Nidia	Camden County One-Stop	X	X	X	X			X	
Stettler, Mark	T & M Associates	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Taguwa, Denise	WFNJ Representative, LWD								X
Vasquez, Marisol	Youth Counselor, CCOS	X	X	X	X				
Waller, Darchelle	Winslow Township High School								
Wardlow Hurley, Rhonda	HACC Youth Build	X		X		X	X	X	X
Williams, Jen	Covenant House				X	X	X	X	X
Williams, Tasha	Youth Advocate Programs, Inc.			X	X				
Swartz, Jeffrey S.	WDB Executive Director	X				X	X	X	X
Primas, Theo	WDB Program Evaluator								
Levitt, Alex	WDB Administrative Assistant								
Williams, Leslie J	WDB Comptroller						X		
Varallo, Kathleen	WDB Administrative Assistant	X	X			X	X	X	X
Robert Weil	WDB Chair		X						

WELCOME

Joshua Friedman, Local Area Operations Director, called the meeting to order and asked for roundtable introductions. The meeting was held at the Camden County One-Stop Career Center, 2600 Mt. Ephraim Ave, Suite 105, Camden NJ 08104. Joshua welcomed Frank Cirii, new Joshua Director, Human Resource, Camden County, since 2004. Frank has worked for the County for 26 years. He attended Old Dominion University, a public research university in Norfolk, Virginia. He graduated with a Master’s Degree in Public Administration. Frank will be replacing Joshua as of December 1, 2018. Joshua said he will continue to work closely with the Youth One-Stop on legal issues and with any other technical assistance as needed. Jeffrey S. Swartz, Executive Director, WDB welcomed, Leydiri, Martinez, new student representative to the Youth Investment Council. She is a senior student attending Camden County Technical School.

YOUTH SERVICES UPDATES

Dr. Lauren Hill, Manager, Youth One-Stop (YOS), reported that the Youth One-Stop has been very busy. The staff have been celebrating successful outcomes since the change-over to a youth specific orientation. The new orientation is targeted to youth in the way they access our system. The orientations continue weekly on Tuesday and Thursdays. She presented a report to the committee as a draft of how youth are being tracked through participation and activities of the YOS system and services. She spent a good amount of time retrieving past and present data so the report reflects real time or current program year participation by youth. July – September, 2018, 135 youth attended an orientation. Each youth received a pre-determination appointment. 61 youth returned for their follow up individual career plan appointment. Some youth were referred to the Adult employment services. 21 youth took the TABE test. Joshua said that in reading the report, it looks like there were only 19 youth out of 135 that did not return. Lauren confirmed that information. Rosy Arroyo, Camden County Youth Service Commission Administrator, Community Planning & Advocacy Council, said that the state started a text message system to remind youth about their court date. The committee discussed ideas to remind and connect with youth by way of text. Jeff asked if the social media policy was approved by the county. Joshua said while it has not yet been approved, County Administration is very much in favor of the idea. He suggested that a text or phone message appointment reminder could be sent to youth and that does not require a policy change or approval. Matt Verney, YIC Chair, said that if the form included a consent check box confirming a youth was willing to accept a phone or text reminder, there should be no problem. Mark Stettler, TMA Associates, suggested first finding out if there are any rules prohibiting appointment reminders. Lori Godorov, Director, The Workgroup suggested looking into the Constant Contact, newsletter and email service. They offer a non-profit rate.

Lauren reported that the Youth One-Stop intends to host a “Get to Know Us” on November, 8th. This event will be hosted with invitations to the Freeholder and representatives from partnering agencies. She will be presenting some comparison data from previous program years to show the tangible progress the new programs have made serving youth in the County. One of the challenges of the new reporting under WIOA law is to track youth two full quarters after exit to job placement or credential attainment. Lauren said the youth consent and release form should allow staff to contact the training provider to follow up. Measuring outcomes is a big part of the new law. We will continue to look into new ways of enhancing and reporting current data to create more accurate reports.

YOUTH MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Under the Direction of Dr. Stanley B. Yeldell, Associate Professor, Rowan University Law & Justice Studies, Rowan University student mentor/interns would be assigned to guide and encourage Youth participants to complete the process toward training and further coach them on what kinds of career opportunities there are in Justice/Law.

Dr. Hill reported that there are currently five student mentors that have been assigned to the YOS by Rowan. They have been trained in how to interact with out-of-school youth customers. They are actively engaged with some of the YOS participants. The students were assigned by the college to research and present some information about the barriers to serving this population such as homelessness, low income, and educational progression and how mentors support such progression as well as barriers to parenting youth. This exercise helped the mentors realize the positive impact they can have on these barriers by working with youth.

YOUTH AGING OUT OF FOSTER CARE

The Youth Aging-Out of Foster Care Committee involves the County Family Court, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Certified Public Manager Program (CPMP), and the Child Protection and Permanency (CP&P), (formerly the Division of Youth and Family Services, (DYFS). In order to afford work opportunities for this population, the One-Stop is now a part of this committee, which is led by Rosy Arroyo and Rick Alston.

Joshua reported that Youth Counselors have received permission to be present at juvenile probation at the Cherry Hill Executive Campus on two Wednesdays per month. Visits are going well. He and Nidia attended one of the first days for Adults exiting on probation. The court has also approved our participation at the adult probation on one day per month. The relationship with the court and judges is positive and growing.

Lauren reported that there has not been much activity as a result of these visits to the court. She did meet with the Director of HomeBase. This is a structured living program providing transitional living assistance for young men age 16-20. The average length of stay is 6-18 months in a structured group home setting and/or up to one year in a supported apartment. She invited him to bring the youth they serve to attend the Tuesday and Thursday workshops. The committee discussed and suggested attending some events that include resources for sheltered youth or youth as risk. Lauren said that the YOS continues to touch some of the organizations serving this population but it would be great to attend events where we can connect with more organizations at a time.

YOUTH WORK EXPERIENCE

Lauren reported that the State has established a new Office of Apprenticeships and Youth Programing so there may be some new guidance and support coming in the New Year with regard to youth work experience opportunities. She has a meeting scheduled with Yolanda Allen, State Youth Coordinator, on Tuesday, November 13th. The committee discussed the some positive communications they are hearing from State representatives to address barriers to serving youth and providing funding to support apprenticeships and work experience. Jeff said that he spoke with Yolanda at the Justice Involved Youth Summit held in Camden County on October 17th. He is confident that she truly understands the documentation issue is the number one barrier to serving youth. Lori said the Camden County Re-entry Committee is working with the Division of Motor Vehicles. Sharon Bean is working with this agency to accept a letter from the place of incarceration, prior to release that could count as one point toward the six point requirement to issue and State ID card. In some instances the \$24.00 fee may be waived as well. The YIC Committee discussed the idea of creating a One-Stop issued ID or letter that could serve the same purpose. Frank Cirii, said the county use to issue an ID. Lori said the Work Group has an official laminated ID Card they issue to participants. All agreed that the idea of a County and State approved One-Stop ID card should be further developed. Frank and Joshua said they would research the background on the former county ID and report back to the committee or before the next meeting.

JUSTICE INVOLVED YOUTH SUMMIT

Jeff reported that The Annie E. Casey Foundation approached the WDB about hosting a Justice Involved Youth Summit to discuss solutions involving at-risk youth who may have minor offences with the court system. The event was held on Wednesday, October 17th 2018, at 8:30am to 3:00pm at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 2349 West Marlton Pike, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002.

Following welcoming remarks, The Annie E. Casey Foundation presented data about youth and

the barriers that they face when it comes to probation and documentation. Presentations were also made by the State and County Probation Department and the Department of Labor. The morning session culminated in a discussion with four Youth being served by the Work Group, a One-Stop Training Partner, and the Community Planning & Advocacy Council. Rosy Arroyo, Camden County Youth Service Commission Administrator, and Community Planning & Advocacy Council, led this panel discussion of real heartfelt comments and concerns by these youth that led to a deeper understanding of the barriers they face.

In the afternoon, partners participated in a conference, round table style, to address the barriers and develop a joint statement or set of agency-specific commitments to action. Jeff said that the WDB was able to make a very strong case for the need of agencies to take ownership of helping youth obtain proper identification documentation. A follow-up outcome letter will be sent to all participants.

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES TRAINING AND IMPLIMENTATION

Joshua reported on the In Service Day Training that was scheduled for Friday, October 19, 2018, at the One-Stop. All staff including some WDB staff attended this training. The training was conducted for the purposes of educating the staff about procedural changes in data entry, eligibility determination, performance measures, and supportive services. Jeff complimented Joshua and Lauren on the work they did to create the power point presentation and the training itself was conducted well.

Joshua explained, Supportive Services are “services such as transportation, child care, dependent care, housing and needs-related payments, that are necessary to enable an individual to participate in activities authorized by WIOA. Youth will be covered by this policy. WIOA will now allow us, after a customer has exhausted all other benefits, to put eye glasses on a person that now has to go back to school for training and has no other resources to pay for them. Other services may include credential testing not covered in a training grant, childcare up to \$500.00, clothing or equipment assistance. The policy spells out the criteria for youth gift cards. Gift cards will be given out under specific conditions such as achieving the GED attainment or maintaining a job. Rosy Arroyo, Camden County Youth Service Commission Administrator, Community Planning & Advocacy Council, contacted the One-Stop with a donation of bicycles. A resolution will be drafted in order to accept the donation as well as release forms. The bikes may be assigned to youth under the category of supportive services. The Committee discussed gift cards and how they could be used in the area of supportive services and as milestone achievements for youth.

Joshua reported that Lauren Hill will temporarily take over management of the Learning Link. He said that the resignation of a Learning Link Counselor caused the change. They are in the process of recruiting a new counselor/manager. The staff are also researching the possibility of establishing an in-house English as a Second Language ESL program. Currently ESL candidates are being referred to Hispanic Family Services.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 20th, 2018 at 9:00am, at the Camden County One-Stop Career Center, 2600 Mount Ephraim Ave., Suite 105, Camden NJ 08104.

Submitted by, Kathleen Varallo, WDB Administrative Assistant.