



Supporting the Development and Retention of a World Class Workforce

Jeffrey S. Swartz, Executive Director

Matthew Verney, Chair

**YOUTH INVESTMENT COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2022, 9:00AM – ZOOM MEETING**

ATTENDANCE

Name	COMMITTEE INFORMATION AND ATTENDANCE		30-Jun-21	25-Aug-21	27-Oct-21	26-Jan-22	23-Feb-22
	Organization	Trustee Member					
Verney, Matthew CHAIR	Truist Bank	X	X	X			X
Arroyo, Rosy	Camden County Youth Services Commission				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	Camden County One-Stop	X	X	X	X		
Davis, Pastor Keith	Camden Dream Academy			X			
Fetty, Brett	CCTS						
Godorov, Lori	The Work Group	X	X	X		X	
Gorman, Ginger	Winslow Township High School					X	X
Hill, Lauren	Camden County College		X		X	X	X
Lofton, Vance	Respond, Inc.			X	X	X	X
Maguire, Laurie	Camden County One-Stop					X	X
Pasiglao, Marion	NJ Youth ChalleNGe Academy				X	X	
Peterson, Jyi	Camden County One-Stop			X	X	X	X
Scott, Kenneth	Winslow Township High School		X	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	Camden County One-Stop		X		X		
Velasquez, Gil	Camden Probation Division		X	X	X	X	
Waller, Darchelle	Winslow Township High School						
Wardlow Hurley, 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	X
Williams, Leslie	WDB		X	X		X	X

Welcome

Matthew Verney, WDB Chair/Youth Chair, welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order at 9:05am. The Committee reviewed the minutes from Wednesday, January 26, 2022. Jeff asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Lauren Hill made the motion, seconded by Evangeline Banks. By unanimous vote to the affirmative, the motion carried, and the minutes for January 26, 2022, were approved.

2022 Youth Committee Goals UPDATE

Matt went over some of the discussed goals established at the previous meetings. One of the goals was a Vice Chair for the committee. Any member of the committee can volunteer to be in consideration. Matt highlighted the committee’s “purpose” which is to support the Youth One-Stop and the betterment of youth in Camden County. He noted going forward, the committee

should have more understanding about the number of referrals coming into the One-Stop.

One Stop Update: Reporting/90-Day Plan

Laurie Maguire stated the 90-Day Plan is being evaluated for ways to increase referrals to the program. She asked the committee to consider a plan to switch to a cohort model, starting with work experience to attract youth participation. Other programs, such as The Work Group and Camden County College, have transitioned out of open-ended models with great success. Laurie would like to begin with minimal, informal assessments done upon enrollment, and then doing 3-hour CASAS for reading and math assessment. Using a work experience model on Monday, Weds and Friday, with an educational component on Tuesday and Thursday. The program would last approximately 6 weeks, after which, a lot of elements would be satisfied. At that point, the youth may be sent to a basic skills program Camden County College or move on to training. The current testing practice is a 3-hour process that has been an intimidating factor for incoming youth.

Laurie proposed a new model of the One-Stop moving forward to combine the work experience with the educational element and pay a stipend for participation. The method to pay the stipend is that the payment would pass through the county through an agreement on a weekly or bi-weekly schedule with funds loaded to a gift card. She proposed a trial cohort of 10 that included justice-impacted youth.

Jyi Peterson stated the program's infrastructure must change post-Covid. The walk-in policy in place needs to be more structured to ensure the participation and success of the youth and the success of the program overall. He feels that they have a good base of employers and believes that resources need to be allocated to dealing with the employers. As a Work First program, the goal is employment and offering supportive services to employers will have a positive effect on the program and youth work experience. Jyi stated that additional staff with customer service skills and the ability to work with employers will help the program run more efficiently and enhance the opportunity for success.

Matt Verney stated that he supports the suggestions for changes proposed by Laurie and Jyi. Dr. Lauren Hill stated that she has had discussions with Laurie, Jyi and Nidia, and she believes that the opportunity is within reach to meet all the challenges addressed in this model with the proposed changes. She said that at CCC only 60% of the applicant pool show up for CASAS testing, and failure test means no progression. Dr. Hill added that she likes that fact that the proposed cohort plan is employment-driven with the opportunity to support students during the process and she and the college stand ready to provide support and resources to the agency and the community youth. Jeff Swartz stated to Laurie and Jyi that the committee fully supports their effort and approves moving forward.

Laurie and Jyi will meet with Rosie Arroyo of the Camden County Office of Youth Commission, to finalize the details so the trial cohort can start as quickly as possible so that it is completed by June. They will then submit documentation and information to provide a full picture of the plan. A Resolution by the Freeholders will be required for the transfer of the funds for Rosie Arroyo to process the stipend payments. No additional fees will be charged by the County beyond the funds required to fund the stipends. Jeff Swartz stated that the County Council will determine the appropriate agreement needed and the best method to approve the funding transfers. Laurie stated that a worksite agreement will be drafted. Jyi praised Rosie's efforts and her organization

in the collaboration as it is a demonstration that they are committed to serving the youth of the community.

Leslie Williams commented that she believes that the Executive Committee needs to sign off on the transfer of funds. Jyi stated that Rosie advised him that an RFP would be required for any fund transactions over \$44,000.

Jeff asked Laurie to send a copy of the 90-Day Plan to Alex to distribute to committee members.

Summer Youth Employment 2022

Leslie Williams informed the committee that the WDB is waiting on being awarded the funds for the 2022 Summer Youth Employment Program. 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. There will also be a work readiness portion of the program dedicated for the first week from 6/27 to 7/1. Employer agreements will be sent to prospective worksites beginning in April and applications will be 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.

Success Story Video

Alex Levitt provided his update on the Success Story Video. The video was well received during the previous Quarterly Meeting. The next step would be distribution of the video and subsequent clips for social media. Alex addressed that the video is too large to send in a regular email, but he has created an accessible google link for the committee. The video is going to be split into several mini clips for additional social media usage.

Youth Committee Updates

Jeff informed the committee about the upcoming Information Sessions for the Atlantic City Electric Program. The dates for those sessions are February 23rd, February 28th, and March 1st. The first two sessions will be virtual while the March 1st session will be in person at Camden County College in Cherry Hill. All sessions are from 6pm-7pm. The Physical Ability School, formally known as the Line School, will begin sometime in April. Jeff mentioned the Quarterly Board of Trustees meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 23rd at 8:30am via Zoom.

Alex provided an update on the Youth Sub-Committee that met Monday, February 14th. The Sub-Committee was formed to bring more youth voices into the committee. The group reconvened to discuss an adjusted timeline of activities including youth focus groups and the creation of a youth survey addressing the issues of Camden County youth. Committee members in attendance included: Lori Godorov, Shaneka Boucher, Rosy Arroyo, and Gil Velasquez. Focus groups/incentivization mentioned...The committee will be updated in full at the next meeting then launch/plan in June.

No additional updates

Adjournment

Matt Verney asked for a motion to adjourn. Evangeline Banks motioned, seconded by Dr. Lauren Hill. The meeting adjourned at 10:14am.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 27, 2022, at 9:00 am via Zoom.

Submitted by:

Alex Levitt

Administrative Assistant