



Supporting the Development and Retention of a World Class Workforce

Jeffrey S. Swartz, Executive Director

Robert Weil, Chair

YOUTH INVESTMENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2019

ATTENDANCE

Members		22-Mar-18	31-May-18	9-Aug-18	25-Oct-18	20-Dec-18	20-Feb-19	18-Apr-19
	Bi-monthly meeting dates as 10/17							
Verney, Matthew CHAIR	OceanFirst Bank	X	X	X	X			X
Arroyo, Rosy	Camden County		X					
Banks, Evangeline	Juvenile Justice Commission		X		X	X		
Barclay, Arthur	Camden County One-Stop							
Brown, JarDaine	Camden City School District		X	X				
Ciri, Frank	CCOSCC Local Area Operations Director				X	X	X	X
Cooper, Diane	CPAC							
Davis, Keith	Camden Dream Center Tech. Trng. School						X	
Elmore-Stratton, Corrine	YMCA	X	X	X				
Godorov, Lori	The Work Group	X		X	X	X		X
Hill, Lauren	Manager, CCCC/Youth1Stop	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Jones, Shakirah	CPAC					X	X	
Maguire, Laurie	Camden County Resource Center							
Marshall, Newland	Boys and Girls Club					X		
Martinez, Leydiri	Camden County Technical Schools				X		X	
McKinsey, Denise	Respond Inc.		X	X	X	X		
Peterson, Jyi	Youth Counselor, CCOS	X	X					
Quattrone, Cathy	Camden County Technical Schools			X	X		X	X
Rhoton, Daniel	Hopeworks							
Riggins, Matthew	Riggins Oil Inc.	X	X				X	
Scott, Kenneth	Winslow Township High School						X	X
Sinclair, Nidia	Camden County One-Stop			X				
Stettler, Mark	T & M Associates		X	X	X	X		
Taguwa, Denise	WFNJ Representative, LWD				X	X		X
Vasquez, Marisol	Youth Counselor, CCOS							
Waller, Darchelle	Winslow Township High School							
Wardlow Hurley, Rhonda	HACC Youth Build	X	X	X	X		X	
Williams, Jen	Covenant House	X	X	X	X			X
Williams, Tasha	Youth Advocate Programs, Inc.							
Swartz, Jeffrey S.	WDB Executive Director	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Primas, Theo	WDB Program Evaluator							
Levitt, Alex	WDB Administrative Assistant					X	X	X
Williams, Leslie J	WDB Comptroller		X					
Varallo, Kathleen	WDB Administrative Assistant	X	X	X	X		X	X
Robert Weil	WDB Chair							

WELCOME

Matt Verney, Youth Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00am. Matt informed the committee that he is now working for OceanFirst Bank. The committee welcomed Mark Godofsky, Surety Title Company.

YOUTH SERVICES UPDATES

Orientations

Dr. Lauren Hill, Manager of the Camden County Youth One-Stop, reported the numbers for February and March. 48 youth were seen and there were a total of 20 youth workshops. These workshops will be continuing throughout the year. Feedback from the youth has been positive for the youth participants in being able to attain the training and explanation of the work experience through these workshops. TD Bank is still running the financial literacy courses for the youth.

Mentoring Program

Lauren told the committee that the mentors would be graduating in May and that a celebration will be held on May 15th as an appreciation for their work throughout the year. Matt asked if the mentoring program will continue. Lauren stated they were working on the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) for the next round of mentor program applicants for the fall semester. Dr. Stanley Yeldell, Dept. of Law and Justice Studies, of Rowan added that the University is committed to this program. Lauren informed the committee that Charles Yancey, Quarterly Board of Trustees Meeting Success Story, would be speaking at this celebration as a way to inspire his peers. Lauren went on to say how the program has changed Charles' life and that his story will be an inspiration to others. The committee discussed using visual mediums, such as YouTube or Social Media, to get Charles' story out to more youth in the area. Lauren's goal with this celebration is also to get access to graduates credentials post training. Credential attainment is a benchmark and Lauren felt it's the area where there could be the most improvement.

Summer Youth Employment Pilot Program

Lauren brought up that Camden County has been working on the Summer Youth Employment Pilot Program. The program dates are June 24th-August 16th giving youth ages 16-24 a meaningful paid work experience. Lauren said that previously we were told that applicants would have to be TANF (temporary assistance for needy families) eligible exclusively, however that is no longer the case. Applicants just need to be low-income and "needy" according to LWD. Lauren let the committee know that the One-Stop is preparing orientations and assisting in interviews, but that the Workforce Development Board is the lead on the program.

Jen Williams, Covenant House, asked how youth would apply for the program. Various members of the committee explained that an interested youth could request an application from the WDB or the Youth One-Stop. The application would be due by Friday, May 17th. The applicants will be scheduled for an interview either at the WDB office in Cherry Hill or at the CPAC (Community Planning & Advocacy Council) offices in Pennsauken. A press release was sent out explaining the 8 municipalities that the program would be operating in.

Youth RFP Review

Lauren informed the committee that Youth RFP review would be happening at the One-Stop at 12:00pm on April 18th for the upcoming program year.

Youth Outreach

Lauren continues to work with Juvenile Probation and visits twice a month on Wednesday evenings 3:00pm-6:00pm. Lauren also brought up the work done with the Housing Authority's Youth Build and support for TABE Testing done at the One-Stop to keep the Youth engaged. Lauren mentioned working with the Cooper, Rutgers, and Rowan Board of Governors for the medical assistants program and that Marisol Vasquez, Youth One-Stop Counselor, was meeting with the applicants. Lauren said there are 4 applicants so far.

Propel America

Lauren said that there has been numerous discussions with Propel America. Propel is operated by Paymon Rouhanifard, former Superintendent of Camden City Schools, to provide access and support to 20-30 Camden and Pennsauken high school seniors around medical assistant and pharmacy tech training. Lauren mentioned the dialogue that has occurred revolves around funding and space for this training. (I.e. finding an access point for resources.) This program would be a separate path from the current One-Stop medical assistant training program. This is an ongoing conversation, but Lauren was thankful that these dialogues continue to happen. Lauren said Propel's proposal would be to access Youth Funding and Adult Funding where it's possible. Lauren brought up that the One-Stop had made recommendations for submitting a PACE grant for pre apprenticeships to run the program. Lauren was confident that the pre-apprenticeship route would be perfect for what Propel is aiming to accomplish.

Juvenile Justice Commission

Lauren updated the committee on the continued work with the JJC's (Juvenile Justice Commission's) transition team helping young people currently in community placement gain opportunities, such as attaining identification, within 90 days. Lauren met with Mike Leonetti, Local Manager of the Camden DMV, to provide support in funding for the ID's with JJC. This was all in an effort to break down a barrier so transitioning for these youth would be easier.

County Detention Center

Lauren explained that the One-Stop would like to gain access to youth in this facility, but the incline to get there has gotten steeper. This has become steep due to the clearance process being in line with what actual jails require. Lauren stated they are looking for other ways to get around this process in an attempt to introduce workshops for these youth about 6 times a year. Jen Williams offered an idea of contacting the program coordinator for this issue. Lauren will continue to work on this process and to see if it is only in Camden County.

Testing

Frank Cirii, Local Area Operations Director, One-Stop Career Center, received a letter from the NJ Labor and Workforce Development which stated by November 2020 the TABE (Testing Adult Basic Education) test would be transitioned out and the CASAS (Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System) test would be operational. The committee inquired about the differences between the two tests. Frank explained that the TABE test was a 6 hour commitment and put a lot of stress on the clients whereas the CASAS test would be shorter, about 3 hours, and would be kinder to the client taking the test.

YOUTH COMMITTEE UPDATES

Alex Levitt, WDB Administrative Assistant, gave an update on the Workforce Development Boards work on the Summer Youth Employment Pilot Program. Alex mentioned that worksite agreements have been sent to multiple employers and school systems to get the word out about the program. Kathleen Varallo, WDB Administrative Assistant, added that a flyer would be sent around the county as another way to build interest in the program. The goal is to serve 80 youth. Alex mentioned the success of the Facebook page and how it has reached over 10,000 people as well as the Instagram page highlighting opportunities around the area. Alex mentioned the idea of appointing a Vice Chair for the Youth Committee to assist Matt with the meetings.

Kathleen reported that Hispanic Family Center and Center for Family Services received the Pathways to Recovery grant which would help people effected by the opioid crisis. Kathleen went on to explain the progress of the Atlantic City Electric Initiative. The WISE and GIE programs have concluded and the number of applicants actively pursuing jobs reached 65 for all counties combined which was way beyond expectations. There is confidence now in the program considering this is year one of a six year program and the progress is encouraging.

-No other committee updates were provided.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 20, 2019 at 9:00am, at the Camden County Workforce Development Board, 1111 Marlkrass Rd, Suite.101, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003.

Submitted by, Alex Levitt, WDB Administrative Assistant.