



Supporting the Development and Retention of a World Class Workforce

Jeffrey S. Swartz, Executive Director

Robert Weil, Chair

YOUTH INVESTMENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2020

ATTENDANCE

Members		18-Apr-19	20-Jun-19	16-Oct-19	19-Dec-19	26-Feb-20	22-Apr-20
Bi-monthly meeting dates as 10/17							
Verney, Matthew CHAIR	BB&T Bank	X	X	X	X	X	X
Arroyo, Rosy	Camden County Youth Services Commission						X
Banks, Evangeline	Juvenile Justice Commission			X		X	X
Barbella, Sarah	Camden Probation Division					X	X
Barclay, Arthur	Camden County One-Stop			X			
Cirii, Frank	CCOSCC Local Area Operations Director	X	X	X	X	X	X
Cooper-Vanderlip, Diana	CPAC						
Davis, Keith	Camden Dream Center Tech. Trng. School						
Elmore-Stratton, Corrine	YMCA						
Godofsky, Mark	Surety Title					X	
Godorov, Lori	The Work Group	X	X		X		X
Hewlett, Bryce	Respond, Inc.		X				
Hill, Lauren	Director, Adult Basic Skills (ABS) CCC	X	X	X	X		X
Marshall, Newland	Boys and Girls Club						
McKinsey, Denise	Respond Inc.						
Morris, Craig	NJ Dept. of Education					X	X
Orehowsky, Alicia	Camden County Regional Chamber of Commerce					X	
Peterson, Jyi	Youth Counselor, CCOS						X
Quattrone, Cathy	Camden County Technical Schools	X		X	X		
Rhoton, Daniel	Hopeworks						
Riggins, Matthew	Riggins Oil Inc.		X			X	X
Scott, Kenneth	Winslow Township High School	X		X			X
Sinclair, Nidia	Camden County One-Stop			X		X	X
Stettler, Mark	T & M Associates		X				
Taguwa, Denise	WFNJ Representative, LWD	X					
Vasquez, Marisol	Youth Counselor, CCOS				X		X
Velasquez, Gil	Camden Probation Division						
Waller, Darchelle	Winslow Township High School						X
Wardlow Hurley, Rhonda	HACC Youth Build						X
Washington, Daquan	CPAC				X	X	
Williams, Jen	Covenant House	X		X			X
Swartz, Jeffrey S.	WDB Executive Director		X	X			X
Levitt, Alex	WDB Administrative Assistant	X	X	X	X		X
Varallo, Kathleen	WDB Administrative Assistant	X	X	X	X	X	X
Williams, Leslie	WDB Comptroller					X	

WELCOME

Matthew Verney, Youth Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:15am. The meeting was held by conference call.

YOUTH SERVICE UPDATES/COVID-19 RESPONSE

Nidia Sinclair, Director, Resource Center, Manager, Youth One-Stop, updated the committee that, due to Covid-19 response efforts, the One-Stop was closed to public access and had not been seeing customers. Youth counselors have been updating their information based off communications with youth vendors. Nidia said there have been conversations regarding working remotely, but as of now they are abiding by social distancing and not allowing customers into the One-Stop. Marisol Vasquez, Counselor, Youth One-Stop, confirmed Nidia's statements while adding that she and Jyi Peterson, Counselor, Youth One-Stop, have been keeping contact with their customers via email and voicemail.

Jeff Swartz, Executive Director, CCWDB, asked if any of Jyi or Marisol's customers have been offered any online opportunities such as webinars. Marisol said any type of opportunity related to online access that is sent to her is forwarded to youth customers. Marisol attended a webinar for vocational training to gauge its effectiveness for customers and she is waiting on more information to provide. Lori Godorov, Director, The Work Group, asked for other examples of vocational workshops that would be beneficial or veer into virtual training and Marisol replied these online opportunities were medical such as CNA, Patient Care Techs, etc.

Nidia added that the Learning Link staff has been remotely keeping contact with their customers. They are supporting their basic skills so that when they do come back and have raised their reading and math scores, they will be prepped for training. Lori announced that a Webinar for Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System (CASAS) testing remotely was being conducted April 22nd at 2:00pm. She added that Dr. Lauren Hill, Director of Adult Basic Skills (ABS), Camden County College, hoped it would give a better understanding on how this will operate and how it would be managed virtually to achieve the most accurate information.

Matt asked about new Youth, including vendors, being seen through the One-Stop during this time. Nidia reiterated that no new customers have been seen. If a Youth contacts the One-Stop, Nidia and her staff would see if they are eligible and figure out a way for Jyi or Marisol to accurately assess this person virtually. These topics are still in conversation, but as of now there had been no requests for training.

YOUTH WORK EXPERIENCE

Matt inquired about updates on the Youth Work Experience Program following the last committee meeting. Frank Cirii, Local Area Operations Director, One-Stop, said it was on hold for now as the WDB was waiting to hear back from the Trenton offices. Jeff added that the question asked was; could the WDB act as a vendor for the youth work experience for the county to move forward on the program? No answer had been received yet, but Jeff punctuated that it is still a priority to complete this program requirement before the fiscal year ends. Due to COVID-19, the fiscal year was extended to September 30th.

Jeff also added that another challenge to overcome would be the number of participants for the program. Jyi said, as a counselor, he looks for candidates that are either in remediation or

training for this program, but he is continuing to recruit people along with Marisol. A conference call with members of the committee is to be scheduled later in May. This meeting will finalize a plan moving forward with the youth work experience which will include topics such as stipend/wage and roles of the WDB and One-Stop for the program.

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY/PLAN UPDATES

Matt touched on the matter of social media and how, especially during the pandemic, it is a much more crucial matter to help customers and One-Stop staff stay connected. Matt's vision for implementing social media is to have One-Stop staff interacting more directly with their customers. Matt will be meeting with Frank Filapek Jr., Director, Department of Events and Community Outreach, and Freeholder Jonathan Young to discuss this further once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

Lori asked what the remaining barriers were involving social media. Frank said the prevailing issue was any social media account had to be run by a County entity. He added that anything related to social media would have to go through Frank Filapek Jr. or Dan Keashen, Public Affairs Director, Camden County. Jeff suggested that Matt talk to Jyi and Marisol to better understand, as counselors, how they would be looking to utilize social media for with their customers.

Lori brought up the idea of a closed Facebook group as an example of using social media to directly connect with youth where it is controlled. This would be a way to strengthen the case for more direct social media interaction. Jeff agreed saying it would satisfy some of the county's concerns. Kathleen Varallo, Executive Assistant to the Executive Director, mentioned another app-based way of communicating called Remind.com. Lori said she has been using at The Work Group and has found great success with it. Matt Riggins, Riggins Oil Inc., questioned if any other governmental organization has been able to use social media the way Matt Verney envisions it. Lori responded, saying the committee would have to look outside of New Jersey to see how other states operate with social media functions. Nidia requested a summary of barriers related to social media, that way she can formulate exactly what her staff requires moving forward.

YOUTH COMMITTEE UPDATES

- Jeff informed the committee that the State still plans on opening the One-Stop on April 27th. They will be reviewing all necessary Covid-19 procedures such as social distancing, face masks, etc. This is to make sure all staff and customers are safe and following a set plan.
- No other committee updates were provided at this meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 17, 2020 at 9:00am.

Submitted by, Alex Levitt, Administrative Assistant, WDB.