



Supporting the Development and Retention of a World Class Workforce

Jeffrey S. Swartz, Executive Director

Robert Weil, Chair

**YOUTH INVESTMENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES,
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2021, 9:00AM – ZOOM MEETING**

ATTENDANCE

Members		28-Oct-20	24-Feb-21	28-Apr-21	30-Jun-21	25-Aug-21
	Bi-monthly meeting dates as 10/17					
Verney, Matthew CHAIR	BB&T Bank	X	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					
Boucher, Shaneka	City of Camden			X	X	X
Cirii, Frank	CCOSCC Local Area Operations Director	X	X	x	X	X
Davis, Pastor Keith	Camden Dream Academy	X	X			
Fetty, Brett	CCTS		X			
Godorov, Lori	The Work Group	X	X	X	X	X
Hill, Lauren	Camden County College	X	X	X	X	
Lofton, Vance	Respond, Inc.					X
McNair, David	Dept. of Education					
Peterson, Jyi	Youth Counselor, CCOS	X	X	X		X
Scott, Kenneth	Winslow Township High School	X			X	X
Selby, Andrew	CPAC			X	X	X
Sinclair, Nidia	Camden County One-Stop	X		X		
Taguwa, Denise	NJ Dept. Of Labor & Workforce Development	X				
Vasquez, Marisol	Youth Counselor, CCOS	X	X	X	X	
Velasquez, Gil	Camden Probation Division	X	X	X	X	X
Waller, Darchelle	Winslow Township High School		X			
Wardlow Hurley, Rhonda	HACC Youth Build	X	X	X	X	X
Washington, Daquan	CPAC	X				
Williams, Jen	Covenant House					
Swartz, Jeffrey S.	WDB	X	X	X	X	X
Levitt, Alex	WDB	X	X	X	X	X
Varallo, Kathleen	WDB	X	X	X	X	X
Williams, Leslie	WDB			X	X	X

WELCOME

Matthew Verney, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:10am. Matt welcomed attendees. The Committee reviewed the minutes from the meeting on Wednesday, August 25, 2021. He asked if there were any further corrections or additions to the minutes. Hearing none, Matt asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Marisol Vasquez, Counselor, Camden County One-Stop, made the first motion and Evangeline Banks, JJC Court Liason, Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC), made the second motion. By unanimous vote to the affirmative, the motion was carried, and the minutes for August 25, 2021, were approved.

GOALS FOR YOUTH COMMITTEE IN 2021

Matt began the meeting by following up on the Youth Committee's goals for 2021. One of the goals discussed in the previous meeting was a Youth sub-committee which would utilize members of the committee as well as youth from the Camden County area. This sub-committee would range from 6 to 8 individuals with 1 being named a chair who would represent the youth voice in future youth committee meetings. Matt acknowledged that in the past, a youth representative from Camden County Technical Schools has attended meetings to get a better understanding of how a committee works. He added that members of the One-Stop team such as Jyi Peterson and Marisol Vasquez, Counselors, and others like Lori Godorov, Executive Director, The Work Group, can suggest youth to be a part of the sub-committee as they have a deeper understanding of the local area youth. The committee agreed this is the best starting point to achieve this goal.

Matt stressed the importance of this sub-committee representing the cliental they are trying to serve through the One-Stop. Jyi asked if there were talks about incentivizing members of the sub-committee. He went on to explain that clients he handles are more in the young adult population who must balance work and school. Jeff Swartz, Executive Director, Workforce Development Board, suggested that the local judges make participating in a sub-committee a prerequisite. Through this method, any youth participating would be enrolled in the One-Stop system and give them further opportunities such as work experience. Shaneka Boucher, Director, Social Responsibility Through Me, said she has worked with youth committees where youth participants work with juvenile justice. She addressed one aspect that would be beneficial was peer to peer mentorship. She added that the sub-committee should have most members consisting of youth and that marketing through platforms, such as social media, might draw more attendance.

Gil Velasquez, Vicinage Chief Probation Officer, Camden County Probation, echoed Shaneka's idea and added that the structure of this sub-committee needs to be in place. He continued saying that probation has forgone any court ordered programs for youth. He explained it doesn't support the direction for which probation is moving towards. Gil said the goal for this method is to make youth more responsible, more engaging, and to hold themselves accountable. Jyi reiterated that all rules and regulations set forth by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) must be considered with any suggestion made in terms of structuring. Frank Ciri, Local Area Operations Director, One-Stop, suggested an additional sub-committee, consisting of members from the youth committee, to plan out and discuss the structure of the youth sub-committee. Frank offered Jyi and Marisol as members of this additional sub-committee as well as Gil and Shaneka due to their ears on the ground with the youth population. Matt agreed that this direction is a smart one to pursue.

One Stop Update

Frank gave his update on the One-Stop. He said that Inocencia "Chinchi" Gutierrez, Counseling Unit Manager, One-Stop, has taken on some of Nidia Sinclair's responsibilities while she is out on leave. Both Jyi and Marisol have been reporting to her. Frank informed the committee that the One-Stop continues to be open to the public. Any referrals or new customers can make an appointment online or call the One-Stop for more information. Frank stressed that everyone

coming to the One-Stop must schedule an appointment ahead of time. No walk-in appointments will be accepted. Jyi and Marisol have been in every day helping with any youth needing to be expedited into training. Frank added that the Learning Link is open as well to get customers into testing.

WIOA Information Reporting

Frank asked Laurie Maguire, Manager/Management Information Systems, One-Stop, to report on the new WIOA information. She reported that the youth employment and retention in employment numbers met goals and exceeded where they were last year. Laurie added that all credential numbers increased as well for the month of June among youth providers. Laurie said that in previous meetings a flow chart has been provided for the committee to break down the numbers, but she will investigate a different visual representation for easier understanding of the information.

SUCCESS STORY VIDEO FOLLOW-UP

Alex Levitt, Administrative Assistant, Workforce Development Board, showed the committee the second draft of the Success Story Video. He mentioned some of the changes made from the previous draft. He said he was able to cut 2 minutes off the original draft getting the video to 3 minutes as opposed to 5. Additional pictures were added to the question backgrounds instead of just a black square. Video footage of Jyi interviewing a client for eligibility was added to the beginning montage. Alex said most of the time cut was removing unnecessary testimonial footage. There are now two men and two women featured in the video, but he acknowledged the need for more racial diversity within the testimonials. He added that an employer testimonial could be beneficial to gain an all-around perspective on the services provided by the One-Stop. The last suggestion made by Alex was the addition of a voiceover reading the questions within the video. This would be for those who are visually impaired. Matt asked the committee if this version was in a place where it could be shown at the upcoming Quarterly Meeting, and they agreed it would be fine.

YOUTH COMMITTEE UPDATES

-Kathleen Varallo, Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director, Workforce Development Board, provided a WDB update. She said the additional committees are still active and meeting on a regular basis. The Literacy Committee created a new library resource guide compiling all Camden County library information. This guide is on the WDB website. Kathleen continued with the Abilities Committee event scheduled for October 5th at the boat house. This event deals with PTSD in the workplace in partnership with Cooper University Healthcare.

-Lori mentioned her diploma class being run as of November 1st at The Work Group.

-No additional committee updates were provided at this time.

SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

Leslie Williams, Comptroller, Workforce Development Board, gave a final report for the 2021 Summer Youth Employment Program. She said 31 interns started the program with 29 officially completing the program. The program had 11 employers participate as worksites. Leslie continued saying an addition to the program this year was the utilization of the NJ SkillUp training modules, which made up 2 and half hours, per week, of paid time for the interns. The results varied in terms of completion, but Leslie said that it had more to do with the interns thinking it was just a work program, and not an educational program. Kathleen mentioned several board members who assisted with virtual workshops as part of the program. This included Kristi Connors, Manager Employment Services, who provided a resume writing course video. Ryan Bennett, Truist Bank, talked about financial literacy. Ken Brahl, Shoprite, contributed workshops such as customer service, nutrition, and what employers are looking for when hiring. Every workshop for the interns was paid towards their stipend.

NEXT MEETING

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

Submitted by, Alex Levitt, Administrative Assistant, WDB.