



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 26, 2020, 9:00AM – ZOOM MEETING

ATTENDANCE

Members		16-Oct-19	19-Dec-19	26-Feb-20	22-Apr-20	17-Jun-20	26-Aug-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		X
Banks, Evangeline	Juvenile Justice Commission	X		X	X	X	X
Barbella, Sarah	Camden Probation Division			X	X	X	
Barclay, Arthur	Camden County One-Stop	X					
Cirii, Frank	CCOSCC Local Area Operations Director	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.						
Hill, Lauren	Director, Adult Basic Skills (ABS) CCC	X	X		X	X	
Marshall, Newland	Boys and Girls Club						
McKinsey, Denise	Respond Inc.						
McNair, David	Dept. of Education					X	
Morris, Craig	NJ Dept. of Education			X	X		
Orehowsky, Alicia	Camden County Regional Chamber of Commerce			X			
Peterson, Jyi	Youth Counselor, CCOS				X	X	X
Quattrone, Cathy	Camden County Technical Schools	X	X				
Rhoton, Daniel	Hopeworks						
Riggins, Matthew	Riggins Oil Inc.			X	X	X	X
Scott, Kenneth	Winslow Township High School	X			X	X	X
Sinclair, Nidia	Camden County One-Stop	X		X	X	X	X
Vasquez, Marisol	Youth Counselor, CCOS		X		X	X	X
Velasquez, Gil	Camden Probation Division					X	X
Waller, Darchelle	Winslow Township High School				X		
Wardlow Hurley, Rhonda	HACC Youth Build				X	X	X
Washington, Daquan	CPAC		X	X			X
Williams, Jen	Covenant House	X			X	X	X
Swartz, Jeffrey S.	WDB Executive Director	X			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 conducted via Zoom. Matt welcomed the committee and thanked them for the important work being done, during these trying times, to help the at-risk youth in the community. He asked for a roll call of attendees.

YOUTH SERVICE UPDATES/COVID-19 RESPONSE

Matt started by asking about an update on Covid-19 response efforts since the previous meeting. Kathleen Varallo, Administrative Assistant to the Exec. Director, CCWDB, reported that as of July 8th the One-Stop has re-opened to county staff. The Staff is following the written plan, based on CDC guidelines that was vetted through the county, county health department and the WDB, and implemented to ensure everyone's safety. All staff members are practicing social distancing and counselors will be provided with laptops. The One-Stop is in the process of implementing a new scheduling system called QLess. It allows customers to schedule an appointment and then be updated with details about their appointment. The customer is also provided a checklist of eligibility documents before coming in.

Kathleen reported One-Stop Management developed a Virtual Services Directory. It provides links and direct phone contacts for all services at the One-Stop. She said Kristi Connors, Manager, Employment Services, DOL, also created a video orientation of the different services provided at the One-Stop and it has been successfully uploaded to the county website. Kathleen said that operations are moving ahead, but referrals are an area of improvement that the One-Stop is working on. Alex Levitt, Administrative Assistant, CCWDB, mentioned that links to all virtual services are located on the CCWDB website (www.ccwib.com).

Lori Godorov, Executive Director, The Work Group, inquired more about youth customers being seen by their counselors. Kathleen said that counselors are following up remotely with former clients to check on them, but no new referrals have been seen. Lori asked if the One-Stop has a timeline in which they would be seeing new customers. Kathleen assured that the One-Stop is ready to accept new customers adding that the fiscal year was extended to September 30th so there will be funds available for new referrals. Matt asked Alex to send the link to the Committee. Alex said he would follow-up with an email containing a link to the video and directory of services.

Youth Work Experience

Matt continued with the agenda asking for the status of the Youth Work Experience. Jeff Swartz, Executive Director, CCWDB, reported discussions are ongoing. The main hurdle is not financial but finding students that meet the criteria for eligibility into the program. Lori asked if kids from her program at The Work Group could be eligible to participate.

Nidia Sinclair, Director, Resource Center, said if a student is going into training, the One-Stop can support them through the Youth Work Experience, but the work experience must be matched to their training goals so it requires the youth be in some type of training. Lori followed with another question asking; if the students were involved in the Learning Link, could they be accepted into training? Nidia said it is possible, but the student would have to be headed toward some form of training to be able to marry their training with work experience as they

both go together. Nidia added that all participants must have a diploma to be considered. Jeff reiterated that the program is a priority and will continue to be discussed. Matthew Riggins, Strategy Director, Riggins Oil, Inc., asked how the participants would receive payment for the program. Jeff said that gift cards would be purchased. The pay is deemed a stipend.

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY/SUCCESS STORY VIDEO FOLLOW-UP

Jeff asked Nidia if there had been any updates on social media. She said there have been no further discussions on the matter. Jeff and Matt continue to have a dialogue with, Jonathan Young, Freeholder Liaison, Camden County, about social media.

Alex updated the committee that on Wednesday, July 29th, a Sub-Committee meeting was held via Zoom regarding the execution of the Success Story Video. Members of this committee included Matt, Nidia, Jyi Peterson, Counselor, Youth One-Stop, Marisol Vasquez, Counselor, Youth One-Stop, Dr. Lauren Hill, Director, Adult Basic Skills (ABS), and Josephine (Jo) Dietrich, English as a Second Language Adjunct, Camden County College. The purpose of this meeting was to put together a plan of action for the completion of the Success Story Video during the Covid-19 Pandemic. Jo and Dr. Hill explained how they used two programs, FlipGrid and Power Director, to complete their graduation video for Camden County College's graduation while adhering to social distance protocols.

Jyi had been in contact with a few of his clients and they were ready to participate as a video subject including former success story recipient Charles Yancy. He would provide a list of questions for his clients to answer in front of the camera. The goal would be to edit the video with multiple questions being answered by the on-camera participants. So far, he has received 2 videos for the final product, but has more lined up for the video. The discussion shifted into purchasing the PowerDirector 365 for editing the final video. Nidia said the One-Stop would be able to purchase the software. Kathleen suggested reaching out to person who edited Kristi's video, but Nidia responded that, for now, there is a plan already in place through the sub-committee to execute the video.

YOUTH COMMITTEE UPDATES

-Kathleen gave an update on WDB activities. All committee meetings have been conducted monthly over Zoom. She reported the Abilities Committee was in the process of organizing an event for October designed around veterans and post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). This would be in partnership with Cooper University Healthcare and is now looking at a Spring 2021 date. Kathleen continued with updates on the literacy committee. The Literacy Committee has been assisting with collecting books and distributing through an organization called Book Smiles. These have been handed out during several food distribution events in the Pine Hill area. Due to Covid-19, all literacy related events, such as National Nights Out, had been cancelled.

Kathleen reported on the efforts taken to promote the One-Stop's virtual services including a flyer that would be handed out at upcoming Camden County Food Distribution events on

Fridays into the fall. Jeff added that the One-Stop's location, phone number, etc. should be included. Nidia responded that due to the One-Stop not being open to the public, the phone number would not be active, but the address will be mentioned.

-Alex gave an update on the status of the Summer Youth Employment Program. He let the committee know that there were 2 weeks left for the program and after a slow start initially, the program has a total of 19 participants. Most of the participants were provided by and working with Freeholder Carmen Rodriguez and the city of Camden on Census efforts. The other participants were working with additional worksites in the program; Salvation Army/Kroc Center and The Kipp School. Alex was enthusiastic about all the participants' enjoyment of the program. He mentioned that every Friday, a different speaker led a Work Readiness Workshop for the participants. These speakers were comprised of committee members, One-Stop staff, and referrals from the chairs of our committees. Each workshop dealt with a different life skills topic such as financial literacy, budgeting, proper internet etiquette, and customer service.

-Jeff mentioned the date of the next Quarterly Meeting, which is Wednesday, September 23rd. It will be conducted via Zoom.

-Lori has been working with an organization by installing library stands in local areas. The idea of it is to have books available and accessible to all. She thought it would be a great idea for the Literacy committee to pursue. Lori also mentions her diploma program is back online with 2 seats available. They attained a grant to provide their youth Chromebook laptops for access to these classes.

-Jennifer Williams, Covenant House, informed the committee that she has rooms available in Atlantic City for any homeless ages 18-21. Jennifer mentioned that since the pandemic, none of her Covenant House sites had tested positive for any Covid-19 cases.

-Rosy Arroyo, Administrator/ Community Engagement Reentry Coordinator, Camden County Youth Services Commission, mentioned a proposal she had submitted to the state involving a vocational program for youth ages 16 and older on probation. This had been because of the Youth Justice event held in 2019 as well as conversations with the Annie E. Casey Foundation. She will send the proposal to the committee for feedback.

-No other committee updates were provided.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 9:00am.

Submitted by, Alex Levitt, Administrative Assistant, WDB.