



Camden County
Workforce Development Board
Supporting the Development and Retention of a World Class Workforce

Gregg T. DeBaere, Chair
 Jeffrey S. Swartz, Executive Director

YOUTH INVESTMENT COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 25, 2016

ATTENDANCE

Members		Meeting Dates						
		20-Jul	27-Aug	24-Sep	22-Oct	19-Nov	22-Jan	25-Feb
Verney, Matthew CHAIR	TD Bank	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Arroyo, Rosy	CPAC					X	X	
Baez, Alfredo	Camden City High School Graduate		X	X				
Banks, Evangeline	Juvenile Justice Commission				X	X		X
Colestock, Shannon	CPAC	X			X			
Cope, Heather	Camden City School District					X		
Davis, Keith	Camden Dream Center Tech. Trng. School				X		X	
Figueroa, Victor	Housing Authority City of Camden							
Godorov, Lori	The Work Group	X			X	X	X	X
Goodman, David	HACC Youth Build							
Hudson, Ezra	Camden County College		X	X				
Justice, Tanya	Youth Advocacy Program			X				X
Kelly, Siobhan	Camden County Technical Schools	X	X	X	X			X
Rhock, Kimberley	Youth Advocate Program							
Lew, Kirk	Department of Labor							
MaGuire, Laurie	Camden County Resource Center						X	
McKee, David	Camden County One-Stop	X	X	X	X		X	X
McKinsey, Denise	Respond Inc.			X				X
Mitchell, Wilbert	Respond Inc.							
Mombo, Mien	Division of Children and Family Services	X	X				X	
Osorio, Angel	Distict Council Collaborative Board						X	X
Rhoton, Daniel	Hopeworks						X	
Rodgers, Danielle	Camden County One-Stop							
Shackleford, Jeremy	BB&T							
Sinclair, Nidia	Camden County One-Stop		X	X	X		X	X
Stettler, Mark	T & M Associates		X					
Sutherland, Debbie	Camden County One-Stop							
Vasquez, Marisol	Camden County One-Stop	X		X	X	X		X
Villa, Deja	Camden County Technical Schools		X	X				
Waller, Darchelle	Winslow Township High School							
Wardlow Hurley, Rhonda	HACC Youth Build	X	X				X	
Williams, Tasha	Youth Adviccate Programs, Inc.							X
Swartz, Jeffrey S., Exec. Director	WDB	X	X	X		X		X
Cruz, Wanda	WDB	X	X	X		X		
Primas, Theo	WDB							
Stubblefield, Lelia	WDB				X		X	X
Williams, Leslie J	WDB				X		X	

Welcome

Jeffrey Swartz welcomed attendees in Matthew Verney's absence and asked for roundtable introductions.

Jeffrey Swartz explained to members that Nidia Sinclair, David McKee and Marisol Vasquez prepared a Youth One-Stop (YOS) summary report to reflect the number of youth Camden County is serving. Jeff stated that the Executive Committee is focused on the number of dropouts Camden County is serving compared to the in-school youth. The Executive Committee is also focused on the number of youth who have obtained a High School Equivalency Diploma as well as youth who have exited the program and gained employment. Jeff stated that the goal of the Youth Investment Council (YIC) committee is the support of the Youth One-Stop and to facilitate the success of the Youth One-Stop operations. One of the key performance measure outcomes that CCWDB is challenged with is the area of Youth Degree Attainment. In 2015 Camden County failed this benchmark and is currently failing this measure again. Jeff informed the members that if Camden County fails to meet this benchmark two years in a row, Camden County is subject to the State's involvement.

Lori Godorov expressed that the State understands why the benchmark was low for the previous year. Jeff replied that other local areas have passed, however; Camden County did not. Camden County failed by four slots and Jeff expressed to the committee that the benchmark is obtainable this year.

Jeff explained to the committee that CCWDB had a meeting with the County Library System and wants to partner with them. Jeff also said that the Youth Investment Council will focus this year on identifying and convincing youth to visit the Youth One-Stop. Jeff also informed members that he has been working with Assemblywoman Pamela Lampitt to draft a bill to obtain a list of youth who have dropped out of school. Additionally, Jeff told members he also met with Freeholder Rodriquez who has identified twenty-five (25) youth who have considered dropping out and Camden County needs to reach out to those youth.

Angel suggested reaching out to juvenile probation and parole since they have case studies and statistics. Marisol stated that she attends the youth service commission/ re-entry meetings and they refer their students to the Youth One-Stop. Evangeline Banks stated that she works in the court system and she does make referrals to the Youth One-Stop.

Lori Godorov also suggested having an open house for school guidance counselors to inform them what services Camden County offers. Lori stated these counselors have reached out to The Work Group and informed her of students who have not attended school and seem to be heading in the wrong direction. The counselors ask for assistance with the students.

Nidia said that she has talked with a guidance counselor at Audubon High School. The counselors would like to reach out to students who do not want to attend college and see if the Youth One-Stop can support/ offer them services once they graduate from high school. The counselors wants the Youth One-Stop to present a presentation to the school. Siobhan Kelly stated that in addition to the guidance counselors we should also involve the school social workers.

Lori stated youth who have graduated from high school have come to The Work Group and asked for services. Marisol suggested referring those students to the Youth One-Stop. Lori added if the center has a group for orientation, she suggested that Marisol make a presentation to the group. Evangeline asked who is considered a dropout student. Lori explained that students who have missed twenty-five days of school are considered dropouts. Jeff added these are the students the Youth One-Stop needs to reach out to. Evangeline informed members that there is a dropout prevention officer who has a list of dropout students for Camden

City and also has connections with the court. Evangeline told the committee members that she will invite the dropout prevention officer to the next meeting.

Jeff told the members that he, Nidia, Marisol and made a presentation to the judges regarding the Youth One-Stop. Jeff suggested to present to the judges the current statistics of the YOS since the YOS was not opened at the time of the presentation. Evangeline stated that Camden County can contact Lois Hansen and let her know that CCWDB and the Youth One-Stop would like to make another presentation to the court. Evangeline will provide Jeff with Ms. Hansen contact information.

Lori suggested reaching out to the care managers at the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS). Evangeline added, that a large percentage of youth originate from DYFS. Jeff also informed the committee that seventy-two youth will be Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs). Nidia said that the Youth One-Stop will have 150 youth scheduled by the State to visit the YOS. She also said that a meeting is scheduled for February 25, 2016 to see what the exceptions are and what the procedure is regarding the youth ABAWD's. Evangeline asked, is there an orientation process for the youth? David McKee said the orientations are every Tuesdays and Thursdays at the YOS. Evangeline suggested sending to her the orientation dates and times and she will forward the information to the court personnel.

Nidia explained to the committee that the YOS counselors are responsible for reviewing all the eligibility for vendors, responsible for assessments and participate in orientations and presentation, which is not reflected in the document that was handed to members. Nidia said the YOS numbers that are listed on the handout are not completely accurate. Jeff explained to the committee that the handout was a report to measure where the youth are. Nidia stated that 230 youth a year should be served at the YOS. The numbers also encompass the numbers that the vendors are responsible for.

Jeff added that the level of service numbers are low from the vendors. The vendors should currently be at 50%. The concern Camden County has is Camden City is not getting the youth to the YOS.

The committee discussed the format of the handout to be presented to the Executive Committee. The purpose of the data is to display the progress of YOS. Jeff stated that the focus of the committee is to reach and exceed benchmarks, reach goals, support the YOS and staff through referrals, and communicate what services we offer to the population that needs it the most.

Members Update

Jeff asked each member to give the committee information regarding upcoming events, successes, outreaches and/ or any suggestions/comments.

Tonya Justice stated that she works as a life skills coordinator at the Youth Advocacy Program (YAP). Tanya teaches life skills to youth ages 14-21 and all referrals are received from DYFS. YAP has 21 youth per cycle and service in-school youth. Currently YAP has 1 out of school youth.

Angel Osorio informed members that the District Council Collaborative Board (DCCB) works with youth that focus on prevention. The DCCB organized a mock trial several months ago and it went very well. Their board consists of residents, law enforcement, non-profit businesses and school districts. The DCCB does a lot of programming and focuses on reaching out to youth before they "wander /head to the streets".

Lori informed members that their retail store, Thrift Works, had a grand opening. The store will be renamed The Resale Boutique. By working in the store, students will have an opportunity to gain retail experience, do inventory, merchandizing and customer service. Nordstrom is working with The Work Group to create a retail curriculum for the boutique. Nordstrom will issue students a certificate, which will allow the students to earn their credentials in retail. Lori said the Work Group is also planning to launch an online store, pop-up stores and a candle making business called "Scent of Success" to teach entrepreneur skills.

Siobhan Kelly informed members that Camden County Technical Schools had their advisory board meeting in December, 2015. There were 200 hundred companies who attended the meeting and gave advice on curriculum, such as what they need from individuals they are seeking to hire and what they are considering for hiring entry and medium level employees. Camden County Technical Schools is in the process of doing their six month graduate follow-ups study. The principle at the Gloucester Township location is retiring and they are currently seeking candidates to fill the position. Camden County Technical Schools also has a new superintendent.

Denise McKinsey reported to members that Respond Inc. is recruiting for their culinary arts and automotive program. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held in March for their automotive repair shop. They are planning their 5th year anniversary. In addition, Respond Inc. will have a food truck in the Rutgers campus area.

Tasha Williams works at the Youth Advocate Program (YAP). She has a caseload ages 5-21. Tasha will provide her office information regarding the YOS and identify youth to refer to them.

NEXT MEETING

The next Youth Investment Council Committee meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at the WDB Office.

Submitted by,

Lelia Stubblefield

Administrative Assistant