



**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

*Supporting the Development and Retention of a World Class Workforce*

Jeffrey S. Swartz, Executive Director

Carl A. Donato Jr., Chair

**YOUTH INVESTMENT COUNCIL**

**MEETING MINUTES**

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2024, 9:00 AM – ZOOM MEETING  
 1111 MARLKRESS ROAD, SUITE 101, CHERRY HILL, NJ 08003

COMMITTEE INFORMATION AND ATTENDANCE								
Name	Organization	Trustee Member	26-Apr-23	28-Jun-23	23-Aug-23	25-Oct-23	24-Jan-24	28-Feb-24
Verney, Matthew (CHAIR)	Truist Bank	X						
Roth-Gutman, Jill (VICE CHAIR)	Roth-Gutman Law, LLC		X	X	X	X	X	X
Banks, Evangeline	Juvenile Justice Commission			X	X	X		
Barbella, Sarah	Camden Probation Division					X		
Beverett, Erica	Social Responsibility Through Me						X	X
Boucher, Shaneka	City of Camden			X			X	
Boyd, Carl	Center For Family Services Head Start						X	X
Canning, Shannon	Wawa				X	X	X	X
Cirii, Frank	Camden County One-Stop	X	X	X	X	X		
Cooper-Vanderlip, Diana								
Davis, Rodney	Turner Construction				X			X
Godorov, Lori	The Work Group	X	X	X	X		X	X
Gorman, Ginger	Winslow Township High School						X	X
Green, Aurella	Camden County College							X
Hill, Lauren	Camden County College		X	X	X		X	
Jenkins, Marcell	Winslow Township High School					X	X	X
Leary, Ashley	Juvenile Justice Hub					X	X	X
Lofton, Vance	Respond, Inc.		X	X				
Ludizaca, Raul	NJDOL			X	X	X		
Maguire, Laurie	Camden County One-Stop						X	
McGough, Jake	YMCA		X		X	X		
O'Neill, Kellianne	Winslow Township High School						X	
Peterson, Jyi	Camden County One-Stop		X	X	X	X	X	X
Robbins, Matt	Wawa				X			X
Rosado, Joeliza	Truist Bank					X	X	X
Selby, Andrew	CPAC		X	X	X		X	X
Sinclair, Nidia	Camden County One-Stop		X	X		X		
Soto, Lillian	Juvenile Justice Hub					X		
Velasquez, Gil	Superior Court of New Jersey						X	
Waller, Darchelle	Winslow Township High School							
Wardlow Hurley, Rhonda	HACC Youth Build		X	X	X	X	X	X
Wemple, Anita	CPAC							
Gutbezah, Maayan	WDB						X	X
Henderson, Bridget	WDB			X				
Levitt, Alex	WDB		X		X	X		
Swartz, Jeffrey S.	WDB			X	X		X	X
Vaughn, Debra	WDB		X	X	X	X	X	X
Williams, Leslie	WDB							

**Welcome**

Jill Roth-Gutman, Vice Chair, opened the meeting at 9:03 AM. The meeting started with introductions for all attendees. Jill asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 24, 2024 meeting. Motion was made by Rodney Davis, seconded by Carl Boyd. By majority vote to the affirmative, the motion carried and the minutes for January 24, 2024 were approved.



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**Approval of Committee Contact List**

Maayan Gutbezahl compiled a contact list of everyone in the Youth Committee. Jill asked that anyone with changes to the list email her, and she will send out a new list with changes.

**Update on Youth Sub-Committee (Focus Group)**

- Jill asked the sub-committee if they have funding to run the focus groups. Andrew Selby confirmed that funding has been solidified after he drafted an MOU.
- Lori Godorov said that she also found the list of questions for the focus group. Andrew and Shaneka Boucher confirmed that they will facilitate, and Lori will distribute the money to participants as stipends.
- Jill mentioned the participants and where they are coming from to be in the focus group. Those participants will be youth in probation, foster care, in-school, and opportunity youth.
- Lori says the sub-committee to recruit the youth from various contacts, with the hope that 12-15 will show up and participate.
- Debra will create the flyer as an invitation.
- Lori confirmed that April 2, 3 or 4 will be the target dates. Andrew confirmed April 3 or April 4, and that they will reach out to Shaneka to make sure these dates will work.
- The stipend will be \$100 per participant.
- The time for the focus group to meet will be at 5:00, with the intent of starting with dinner and then asking the questions and gaining feedback.
- Erica Beverett said that she will coordinate with Shaneka for her availability. Erica said that Shaneka can probably do April 3 and not April 4. April 3 was confirmed as the date set for the focus group.
- Lori asked Jeff Swartz and Jill to review and add questions that might be helpful. She will send them to Lori, Jeff, Diana, and Andrew.
- Diana Cooper-Vanderlip volunteered, along with Ashley Leary, to take notes.
- Jyi Peterson mentioned that the One-Stop would be able to pay focus group participants with Work Experience money that they have, if that would be helpful.
- Lori confirmed that since not every focus group participant will be WIOA participants, the money from CPAC will be able to cover it. Lori said that this is true of the one-time, initial focus group, but if they had something similar that would be ongoing, it would be useful to revisit the idea of paying participants with WIOA funds, but it would only work if the kids were also in WIOA.

**Ideas for the Youth Job/Resource Fair on May 6<sup>th</sup>.**

- Jill asked the committee for ideas about how the Youth Committee could contribute to the upcoming youth job/resource fair in Clementon. This event is a collaborative effort between several of the Workforce Development Board committees.
- Carl asked about the age range for youth at the event, which is 16-24, although adults interested in career services, social services and career opportunities will also find resources that will benefit them as well. Carl asked if vendors are still being sought out

for the event, and Jeff Swartz confirmed that they are.

- Shannon Canning from Wawa said that she and fellow committee member Matt Robbins typically work in the Cherry Hill area, but that she and Matt will reach out to general managers in the Clementon area about the event, as they often recruit job seekers for the summer, and if they had a table, then they could conduct short interviews on the spot, and set up longer interviews for later.
- Debra Vaughn said that she also reached out to Cris Quinones, who is the recruiting manager for Camden County. Matt confirmed that Cris is the correct person to speak to about the matter. Matt said that he also reached out to several area managers, and that Wawa plans to send representatives to the event for hiring purposes.
- Shannon also offered to help with breakout sessions to help applicants prepare for interviews, if appropriate. Jeff mentioned that the One-Stop will have a table, and that other members of committees have volunteered to help with interview preparation.
- Diana Cooper-Vanderlip mentioned that she is working on a youth entrepreneurship training program that she would like to offer to help youth who want to start their own businesses. She is not sure yet if she will be able to attend the fair in Clementon on May 6. She would like to leave information about the youth entrepreneurship venture at the May 6 event. Jill offered to mention Diana's event, which will take place on May 10 and May 11, to interested attendees at the Clementon event. Diana said her event's theme is "Spring Forward into Health and Wealth. The first day will include a four-hour seminar on health, with various types of vendors in attendance. The second day will include guest speaker Joseph Hackett from Black Wall Street, and the day will end with a film called Shattered Reflections.
- Diana shared some information to anyone who may be looking to put on a fundraiser: TraPar Productions is showing private screenings of their film, "Shattered Reflections." The film is about several people going through personal struggles before meeting an angel, and their lives taking a different path. If at least 100 tickets are sold for a screening, the production company will pay \$500 to the seller of the tickets. The seller would make a bit more on VIP ticket sales as well. Diana has more information for anyone interested.
- Jyi asked if any colleges will be present at the Clementon event. Debra said that she is inviting Camden County College. The Center for Healing Arts attended in the past and may attend this year as well.

### **Committee Updates**

Jill Roth-Gutman, Roth-Gutman Law, LLC.

- Jill is putting together a program with cyber victim attorney Lyndsay Lieberman, and Israeli Krav Maga martial arts in Cherry Hill. It will be called "Protect Yourself In-Person and Online." Kids ages 11-17 are the target audience. It will take place on April 14<sup>th</sup>.



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Workforce Development Board – Jeff Swartz

- The WDB submitted their application for the Summer Youth Work Experience Program to the State. The grant provides 50 slots for youth between the ages of 16-24 to work as paid interns with a variety of employers throughout Camden County. The stipend works out to \$20 per hour for 20 hours a week, including a week of work readiness training.
- The WDB sent out their Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Infrastructure Funding Agreement (IFA) to the partners. The signature papers are due so the WDB can submit it to the State by the end of March.
- There are a number of high school career fairs coming up in the spring that the WDB will attend. Anyone on the committee can leave their flyers/literature with the WDB to be distributed at these career fairs.
- Jeff reminded everyone that a quarterly board meeting is scheduled for March 20<sup>th</sup> via Zoom.

Social Responsibility Through Me – Erica Beverett

- Social Responsibility Through Me will host a career ready workshop on April 4 at the Riletta Cream Library on Ferry Avenue in Camden from 4:00 PM -7:00 PM. Target ages are from 14-24.

CPAC – Andrew Selby

- CPAC is partnering with the Children's Interagency Coordinating Councils (CIACC) and the Camden Partnership for Children to co-host a youth mental health summit on May 30, at the Doubletree Hotel in Cherry Hill. In addition to helping youth with mental health issues, the summit will also focus on issues such as substance abuse, intellectual development, and disabilities, and how the issues impact the Juvenile Justice system. Workshops are being confirmed, and a Save the Date will be sent out at a later date.

The Work Group – Lori Godorov

- The Work Group has a new meeting space, and it holds up to 50 individuals with tables and chairs. If the room were theater-style, it could hold 75-100 people. Lori offered the space to anyone on the call who may need it for an event/meeting. Andrew is looking for available spaces to hold a community baby shower and said he would like to look into the space for that purpose.

**WIOA Reporting/One-Stop Update – Jyi Peterson**

- Jyi spoke a bit about the One-Stop's youth work experience program. He wanted to reach out to employers on the Zoom call, and those with connections to employers who are hiring. At times, when the One-Stop recruits employers, the prospective employer has to discuss it with their corporate offices, making the process longer, but if anyone wants to learn more about their youth work experience program, Jyi is happy to help with that.



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- There are currently 21 participants enrolled in occupational training. Three of the participants who are enrolled are WorkFirst New Jersey customers. They are dual-enrolled now, and Jyi says he is happy to see some of the youth enrolled in the program are receiving benefits with the Board of Social Services. These participants are getting some work training, so they can get off of assistance. Four of the participants completed occupational training. Two of the participants were in six-month programs; one recently completed a dental assistant program, and another participant completed a computer software and security training program at Camden County College. Another participant will be completing the work experience training on Friday.

**Adjournment**

Jill asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Lori Godorov and seconded by Diana Cooper-Vanderlip. By a majority vote to the affirmative, the meeting adjourned at 9:59 am.

**Next Meeting**

The next Youth Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 24, 2024, at 9:00 AM via Zoom.

**Submitted by:**

Maayan Gutbezahl  
Committee Coordinator