

**YOUTH INVESTMENT COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2023, 9:00AM – ZOOM MEETING**

ATTENDANCE

Name	COMMITTEE INFORMATION AND ATTENDANCE		27-Oct-21	26-Jan-22	23-Feb-22	24-Aug-22	26-Oct-22
	Organization	Trustee Member					
Verney, Matthew CHAIR	Truist Bank	X			X		
Arroyo, Rosy	Camden County Youth Services Commission		X	X			
Banks, Evangeline	Juvenile Justice Commission		X	X	X	X	
Barbella, Sarah	Camden Probation Division			X		X	
Boucher, Shaneka	City of Camden		x	X	X	X	X
Cirii, Frank	Camden County One-Stop	X	X	X		X	X
Crowe, Gary	Winslow Township High School						X
Davis, Pastor Keith	Camden Dream Academy		X				
Fetty, Brett	CCTS						
Godorov, Lori	The Work Group	X	X	x		X	X
Gorman, Ginger	Winslow Township High School			X	X		X
Hill, Lauren	Camden County College		X	X	X		X
Lofton, Vance	Respond, Inc.		X	X	X		X
Maguire, Laurie	Camden County One-Stop			X	X	X	X
McGough, Jake	YMCA						X
Pasiglao, Marion	NJ Youth ChalleNGe Academy		X	X			
Peterson, Jyi	Camden County One-Stop		x	X	X	X	X
Selby, Andrew	CPAC		X	X		X	X
Sinclair, Nidia	Camden County One-Stop				X	X	
Thompson, Joey	Camden Dream Academy						
Vasquez, Marisol	Camden County One-Stop		X				
Velasquez, Gil	Camden Probation Division		X	X			
Waller, Darchelle	Winslow Township High School					X	
Wardlow Hurley, Rhonda	HACC Youth Build		X	X	X	X	X
Williams, Jen	Covenant House						
Swartz, Jeffrey S.	WDB		X	X	X	X	X
Henderson, Bridget	WDB						X
Levitt, Alex	WDB		X	X	X	X	X
Vaughn, Debra	WDB			X	X	X	X
Williams, Leslie	WDB			X	X	X	

Welcome

Alex Levitt led the meeting in the absence of Matt Verney, WDB Chair/Youth Chair. He welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Alex asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 26, 2022, meeting. Motion was made by Frank Cirii and seconded by Dr. Lauren Hill. By majority vote to the affirmative, the motion carried, and the minutes for October 26, 2022, were approved.

Committee Goals

- *Youth Focus Groups:* The purpose of the Youth Sub-Committee is to tap into the needs of Camden County youth. The information gleaned from involving them in focus groups will be utilized to determine the means to meet their needs, and eventually, to periodically involve them in the sub-committee meetings. A meeting to finalize the focus group plans will be set up among the sub-committee.
- *Committee Vice Chair:* Alex reminded the committee of the need for a Vice Chair.
- Alex invited the committee to present ideas for ways to serve Camden County youth.

WDB Youth Employment Programs

- *Summer Youth Employment Program 2023:* The CCWDB is submitting its application for a State grant to run its 2023 summer youth employment program. The program will run for 8 weeks, including a week of work-readiness training for up to 50 youth ages 16 to 24. The participants will be placed at work sites throughout Camden County. In previous years, several youth were hired by their worksite employer. Jake McGough and Gary Crowe requested information and requirements for the program, which Alex will provide.

Camden County One-Stop

Jyi Peterson, Youth Counselor

- Jyi reported the following:
 - Completion of 29 career guidance and 7 group counseling sessions
 - 10 entries into training
 - 41 eligibilities were determined
 - With follow up thus far, 3 customers gained employment
 - 10 individual employment plans were completed using the individual strategy form to map the goals, career plans and pathways for students
 - Referred 13 youth to the Learning Link
 - 1 individual passed the HiSET test
 - 3 individuals were referred to The Work Group
 - The second Youth Work Experience cohort will start shortly
 - A way to provide services must be implemented to serve youth who are attending alternative schools or been adjudicated and have barriers. Jyi stated Dr. Lauren Hill introduced him to Katrina White from the Gateway to Success Program and he has also been in contact with the ASPIRE youth program. Dr. Hill noted there is a lag between the time the students at alternative schools complete the credit requirements to earn a diploma and the time the transcripts reflect the earned credits and when the diploma is actually presented to the student. She added that Dr. Marilyn Martinez (Camden School District) is very involved in the alternative school population and may be able to offer insight into this issue

Nidia Sinclair, Youth One-Stop Manager and Laurie Maguire, MIS Manager

- While it is a recommendation that the Youth One-Stop will only serve the out-of-school youth, a request can be made of the State to be able to serve a percentage of in-school youth. The Youth Investment Committee will have to permit a change from its policy of only enrolling 100% out of school youth to enrolling up to 25% in-school youth.

UPDATES/DISCUSSION

Roth-Guttman Law – *Jill Roth-Gutman*

Roth-Gutman Law provides consultations to Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P) caregivers, to aid resource parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles to navigate the DCP&P system. She previously served a law guardian for over 13 years and served on the Law Guardian Office's

Adolescent Committee and was the point person for multiple counties, including Camden County. Jill is interested in services and employment opportunities available for youth in group homes.

Camden City YMCA – *Jake McGough*

- The Camden YMCA serves youth in kindergarten through high school, providing fundamentals of sports, character development and healthy habits. Summer programs and camps are in planning stages. Jake is interested in employment opportunities for the youth that his programs serve.

Camden County College, Adult Basic Skills – *Dr. Lauren Hill*

- The CCC Adult Basic Skills program is in its third session.
- Dr. Hill stated she would be watching out for opportunities to engage the transitional students in a meaningful way and provide relevant next steps to them.

Housing Authority of the City of Camden (HACC) – *Rhonda Wardlow Hurley*

- Melody Johnson-Williams has been named HACC Executive Director.
- HACC will apply for the YouthBuild Grant. The deadline is Feb 7th.
- The Choice Neighborhood Initiative (CNI) serving the Cramer Hill and Ablett Village area, is in the process of relocating the tenants of Ablett Village. Ablett Village will be demolished and rebuilt.
- Applications are being accepted for senior housing at Kennedy Towers, and the DCA has opened its Section 8 waiting list.

HACC Job Developer – *Judith Garcia*

- HACC is offering union-provided Pre-Apprenticeship Carpentry Program for 10 individuals ages 17 to 27. The free 8-week program runs Feb 20th to April 14th, from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. The flyer has been approved and will be distributed and listed on the WDB website.
- A job fair and resource event will be held at Ablett Village Community Center on March 6th.

Social Responsibility Through Me (SRTM) – *Shaneka Boucher*

- SRTM is running two after-school programs for students in grades K-8, serving 150 students per day with approximately 130 students on a waitlist.
- For grade 9-12 programming, they are working on training components for high school through college-level students and workforce development. All-year employment opportunities are available for students in grades 9 through college. They have partnered with Mastery High School and other schools, and specifically with Mastery High School in their efforts in workforce development with students.

Camden County Youth Services Commission – *Rosy Arroyo*

- The training series kicked off for the Hub in the City of Camden. The school district and a few community partners participated in circles. The next step is coordinating the 3-day certification in March.

CPAC (Community Planning & Advocacy Council) - *Anita Wemple, President and CEO*

- Anita introduced herself as the new President and CEO at CPAC. Prior to coming to CPAC, she was the principal for YouthBuild programs and transition. She offered her assistance to any committee member with testing and credentialing.

RESPOND, Inc. – *Vance Lofton*

- Respond is going through some transitions and working toward maintaining the organization and its impact in the community while considering new programs. They are exploring collaboration with various organizations. Vance and Jake (YMCA) have had a conversation about programs they may be able to work on together.
- The “Camden Cookie” can be ordered online for pick up. Delivery or shipping is not currently offered.
- Respond is in the process of creating a pantry over at its Linden property.

CPAC (Community Planning & Advocacy Council) – *Andrew Selby*

- A new mini grant process just finished and funding will be provided to good programs
- CPAC is working with a new agency called New Horizon Now in the southern part of the county (Winslow/Sicklerville area).
- I Dare to Care Association is providing a coding program for females
- Family Support Organization will be providing caregiver community education program with 4 different components
- Social Responsibility Through Me is proving after school anti-violence and conflict resolution program
- Southern New Jersey Perinatal Cooperative lost its funding for their Early Childhood Comprehensive System, which is a valuable tool for tracking the developmental milestones of youth as they grow. A mini grant application was processed and CPAC will fund the grant
- Salvation Army has a journalism club
- Women of the Dream has a parent engagement project
- CPAC will be assisting organizations that were denied funding, by reviewing their proposals and working with them on the areas that might have negative impact on their funding applications.
- CPAC is hiring and welcomes all suggestions.
- CPAC is planning to repeat its 2019 “Passport To Adulthood Retreat” at Rowan-Glassboro for youth (17-18 years old) who are ageing out of the system. Rowan’s admissions, financial aid, career and academic advancement offices participated, as well as a number of smaller nonprofits, mentoring and empowerment programs. CPAC worked in partnership with the Camden City Board of Education for its 2019 event and will welcome its partner organizations to provide more resources and host workshops at this summer’s event.
- The Parent Leadership Breakfast will take place on Saturday, February 4th at the DoubleTree in Cherry Hill. The deadline has passed for parent nomination but registration to attend is still open. Approximately 80 people have registered to date.

Winslow Township High School – *Ginger Gorman & Gary Crowe*

Ginger Gorman

- At this point in the school year, only about 5 students of Ginger’s caseload have applied to college or looked into trade school. Students who informed her that they were applying to colleges have not signed the required documents for transcript release. The lack of motivation shown by graduating students may be a result of pandemic trauma.

Gary Crowe

- The Mayor reached out to the school for an interactive learning session. On Friday (1/27), there will be a field trip to the municipal complex with a group of 20 students to see how local government works.

Camden County Workforce Development Board – Alex Levitt

- The WDB has been working on regional and local planning.
- Upon approval of the WDB's grant application, the Camden County Summer Youth Employment Program will employ 50 youth aged 16 to 24 for 8 weeks, including 1 week of work-readiness training. Suggestions for participants and employer worksites throughout the county are welcome. Citing positive past experience, Andrew Selby (CPAC) expressed interest in participation as a worksite.
- Four individuals completed the Atlantic City Electric (ACE) Line School and are qualified for work in the utilities field. In addition, ACE will provide a paid summer youth internship and a paid externship for teachers to administer the provided curriculum.

Adjournment

Alex asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Lauren Hill made the motion, seconded by Ginger Gorman. By a majority vote to the affirmative, the meeting adjourned 9:54 am.

Next Meeting

The next Youth Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 22, 2023, at 9:00 am via Zoom.

Submitted by:

Debra Vaughn

Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director