



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Supporting the Development and Retention of a World Class Workforce

Jeffrey S. Swartz, Executive Director

Carl A. Donato Jr., Chair

Youth Advisory Council Minutes December 11, 2024 at 10:30am via Zoom

| COMMITTEE INFORMATION AND ATTENDANCE | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Name | Organization | Trustee Member | 26-Jun-24 | 28-Aug-24 | 30-Oct-24 | 11-Dec-24 |
| Roth-Gutman, Jill (CHAIR) | Roth-Gutman Law, LLC | | | X | X | X |
| Banks, Evangeline | Juvenile Justice Commission | | X | | | X |
| Barbella, Sarah | Camden Probation Division | | | X | | |
| Beverett, Erica | Social Responsibility Through Me | | | X | | |
| Boyd, Carl | Community Liaison for the Camden City Partnership at Center for Family Services | | X | X | | X |
| Canning, Shannon | Wawa | | X | | | |
| Cirii, Frank | Camden County One-Stop | X | | | | |
| Clark, Justin | Office of Adult Literacy (NJCOL) | | | | X | X |
| Cooper-Vanderlip, Diana | e-Deuce & Associates, LLC | | X | X | | X |
| Davis, Rodney | Turner Construction | | X | X | | X |
| Floyd, Kwame | Teacher Apprenticeshop | | | | | X |
| Garvin, Torrie | YMCA | | X | X | | |
| Godorov, Lori | The Work Group | X | | X | | X |
| Gorman, Ginger | Winslow Township High School | | | | X | |
| Green, Aurella | Camden County College | | | | | |
| Jenkins, Marcell | Winslow Township High School | | X | X | | X |
| Jones, Shakirah | CC Justice Systems | | X | | | |
| Leary, Ashley | Juvenile Justice Hub | | X | | | |
| Peterson, Jyi | Camden County One-Stop | | | | X | |
| Randall, Angela | OEO | | | | | X |
| Rosado, Joeliza | Truist Bank | | | X | | X |
| Selby, Andrew | CPAC | | X | | X | X |
| Sinclair, Nidia | Camden County One-Stop | | | | | X |
| Velasquez, Gil | Superior Court of New Jersey | | X | X | | |
| Wardlow Hurley, Rhonda | HACC Youth Build | | | X | X | |
| Wemple, Anita | CPAC | | | | | X |
| Michelle Rohan | WDB | | | | X | X |
| Gutbezahl, Maayan | WDB | | X | | | |
| Richelle Hardison | WDB | | | | X | X |
| Swartz, Jeffrey S. | WDB | | X | X | X | |
| Vaughn, Debra | WDB | | | X | X | |

QUICK RECAP

The team discussed their successes for the year, including the creation of a list of volunteer opportunities for ages 16 to 24, the establishment of a Youth Advisory Board, and the successful job fair, 'Pathways to Possibilities'. They also discussed the challenges of engaging young people in advisory boards and the logistics of organizing a focus group, with plans for a structured approach and a subcommittee to manage the Youth Focus Group. The team also discussed the need for clear expectations and goals for the young people involved, and the importance of facilitating their meetings.

NEXT STEPS

Michelle to send email to committee members requesting participation in subcommittee for February 5th Youth Focus Group planning.



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Michelle to schedule subcommittee meeting for January 22nd at 11 AM after executive committee meeting.

Jill to have conversation with Jeff about reaching out to corporate partners for youth advisory board funding.

Angela, Lori, and Diana to confirm they will host and provide dinner for their respective youth advisory board meetings (February, May, October).

Andrew to provide information on how to apply for Mini grant for July.

Subcommittee to develop structure, agenda, and icebreaker activities for February 5th Youth Focus Group meeting.

Nydia to provide update on basic skills issue and potential solutions at February meeting.

Committee Introductions and Minutes Approval: Jill called the meeting to order at 10:34am. Michelle coordinated the introductions and confirmed that all members had been accounted for. Jill then proceeded to the agenda, starting with the approval of the minutes from the previous meeting on October 30th, 2024. Angela made the motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Andrew. The minutes were approved without opposition or abstentions.

Youth Programs and Focus Group Discussion: Jill led a discussion on the committee's successes for the year, highlighting the successful job fair, 'Pathways to Possibilities'. She also mentioned the summer youth work experience program, which had 129 applicants and 50 interns. The committee also discussed the Youth Focus group, which was cancelled due to insufficient notice and scheduling conflicts. The group decided to reschedule the focus group for February, with Angela volunteering to host. Lori suggested that having youth attached to an organization could improve participation. Andrew acknowledged that the committee had failed to re-engage with some youth, which might have contributed to the low turnout.

Advisory Board Challenges and Solutions: The team discussed the challenges of asking young people to participate in advisory boards without a stipend. They considered the possibility of corporate sponsorship, with Lori suggesting that the WDB could reach out to their corporate partners for support. Jill proposed a model where the advisory board members would meet three times a year, with the possibility of increasing to four times if the group requests it. The team also discussed the need for transportation support for the participants. Andrew suggested that the Mini Grants could be an option, but they are time limited. The team agreed to plan for at least three meetings in 2025, with the possibility of more in the future.

Planning Meetings and Locations: The team discussed hosting a series of meetings in different locations across the county. They agreed to host meetings in February, May, and October, with locations in Camden, Cherry Hill, and Pennsauken. They also considered adding a fourth location in Voorhees but decided to stick with the three locations for now. The team also discussed the importance of transportation for attendees and agreed to provide stipends for transportation if needed. They also decided to avoid using the term "lower county" and instead refer to it as the "southern part" of the county.

Organizing Focus Group Logistics: The team discussed the logistics of organizing a focus group. They decided to hold off on finalizing details until they receive funding and transportation support. They agreed to have a focus group in February, with dates



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set for the first Wednesday of each month (February, May, and October). The team also agreed to involve the young people in the decision-making process.

Exploring Youth Programs and Initiatives: Jill proposed the idea of gathering information and ideas from other youth focus groups and committees, both within and outside of New Jersey, to potentially implement new initiatives in their own committee. Lori suggested reaching out to Kyrie at the State Employment Training Commission (SETC) for information on what other local areas are doing, and to look for best practices outside of New Jersey. Angela mentioned a young lady she's mentoring who is part of the Federal Jobs for the Future (JFF) youth program and offered to connect them with the Workforce Development Board.

Planning: Sub Committee: In the meeting, the team discussed the need for a structured approach to the upcoming focus group, with a focus on young people advising the workforce development planning. They agreed on the need for a subcommittee to plan the February 5th focus group, with Michelle to set up a Zoom meeting for this purpose. The team also discussed the need for clear expectations and goals for the young people involved, and the importance of facilitating their meetings.

The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for December 18th, and the next youth meeting for February 26th, 2025 at 10:30am via Zoom. The team ended the conversation on a positive note, feeling that they had accomplished a lot.

Adjournment

Jill asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Diana Cooper-Vanderlip and seconded by Angela Randall. By majority vote to the affirmative, the meeting was adjourned at 11:43am.

Submitted by: Michelle Rohan, Committee Coordinator