

YOUTH INVESTMENT COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2023, 9:00AM – ZOOM MEETING

ATTENDANCE

| Name | COMMITTEE INFORMATION AND ATTENDANCE | | 26-Jan-22 | 23-Feb-22 | 24-Aug-22 | 26-Oct-22 | 25-Jan-23 | 22-Feb-23 |
|------------------------------|---|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | 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 | X |
| Crowe, Gary | Winslow Township High School | | | | | X | X | X |
| Godorov, Lori | The Work Group | X | x | | X | X | | X |
| Gorman, Ginger | Winslow Township High School | | X | X | | X | X | |
| Hill, Lauren | Camden County College | | X | X | | X | X | X |
| Ludizaca, Raul | NJDOL | | | | | | X | |
| Lofton, Vance | Respond, Inc. | | X | X | | X | X | X |
| Maguire, Laurie | Camden County One-Stop | | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| McGough, Jake | YMCA | | | | | X | X | X |
| Pasiglaio, Marion | NJ Youth ChalleNge Academy | | X | | | | | |
| Peterson, Jyi | Camden County One-Stop | | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Roth-Gutman, Jil | Gutman Law | | | | | | X | X |
| Selby, Andrew | CPAC | | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Sinclair, Nidia | Camden County One-Stop | | | X | X | | X | X |
| Waller, Darchelle | Winslow Township High School | | | | X | | | |
| Wardlow Hurley, Rhonda | HACC Youth Build | | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Wemple, Anita | CPAC | | | | | | X | X |
| Swartz, Jeffrey S. | WDB | | X | X | X | X | | X |
| Henderson, Bridget | WDB | | | | | X | X | X |
| Levitt, Alex | WDB | | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Vaughn, Debra | WDB | | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Williams, Leslie | WDB | | X | X | X | | | |

Welcome

Matt Verney, WDB and Youth Committee Chair. He welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

After roll call by Alex Levitt. Matt asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 26, 2022 meeting. The motion by Dr. Lauren Hill was seconded by Shaneka Boucher. By majority vote to the affirmative, with an abstention by Matt Verney, the motion carried and the minutes for January 25, 2022, were approved.

Committee Goals

Youth Focus Group:

- Alex offered the Camden County youth.
 - The Youth Sub-Committee’s groundwork for the focus group was discussed. The questions for the panel were decided and the funding source was determined.
 - A Vice-Chair is still needed for the Youth Committee.
- Lori Godorov stated the goal of the youth focus group is to have an ongoing, authentic youth voice represented in the committee’s planning process and having their feedback considered in setting meeting agendas.

- The plan is set for the focus group, but the date had not been set.
- The focus group plan previously discussed was for the program to begin at 5:30 pm at the Work Group location, with a meal provided.
- A proposed group of 10-15 youth focus group participants will be paid with individual checks, funded by Rosy Arroyo (Camden County Youth Services Commission). Not all of the invited youth would be eligible for WIOA funding but will be advised of what is available at the Youth One-Stop. The next Youth Work Experience cohort is expected to start in 4-6 weeks. Lori stated that the Work Group has a cohort beginning on March 6th and she will provide names of people that will not be enrolled to Jyi.
- A survey will be used as a follow-up, prior to possibly holding a second focus group.
- Shaneka Boucher confirmed she would facilitate the meeting, preferably after 6:00pm. She noted she could be available earlier on the third/fourth Tuesday of the month. Shaneka stated she was available in March except for City Council meeting dates March 7th and 14th and March 16th through the 24th, she and Lori confirmed the date of March 28th.
 - Shaneka offered the possibility of having a youth group that met with its peers in a relaxed setting.
- Jill Roth-Gutman suggested holding an annual follow-up meeting with the youth focus group doing a recorded presentation

WDB Summer Youth Employment Program

- The CCWDB submitted its application for a grant to run a 2023 summer youth employment program (SYEP). The 8-week program includes a week of work-readiness training for up to 50 youth ages 16 to 24. The participants will be placed at worksites throughout Camden County to work for 25 hours per week with a stipend of \$15 per hour, earning up to \$3000 tax-free for the Summer. There are no income eligibility requirements to apply.
- The mandatory work-readiness training is taught at Camden County College with lunch provided. The prepared curriculum is presented by members of WDB committee members and members of the business community. Subjects offered include customer service, financial literacy, how to get along with others, and social media usage.
- Lori Godorov commented that the SYEP's hourly wage should be described as a daily stipend to avoid issues with the stipend being classified as a wage and losing the exemption of the stipend and being subject to FICA and taxes.
- Jill Roth-Gutman offered that she knows someone that the young people may relate to, who may be available to present the financial literacy curriculum. She asked about the worksite criteria. Jeff explained the process of selecting businesses and interviewing the youth to try to match their interests to their assignment.

Camden County One-Stop

Frank Cirii, Local Area Director

- The county will hold a job fair March 3rd in the atrium at the Cherry Hill Mall from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Another job fair is planned at the same location on September 15th.

Jyi Peterson, Youth Counselor

- Jyi reported the following:
 - The Youth Work Experience is being revamped to overcome the obstacles to work experience for youth who need remedial assistance.

Laurie Maguire, MIS Manager

- Twenty-five slots are being requested this program year for in school or residential programs. The request will not go out to an RFP as it would be connected with existing programs. Residential programs are considered in-school according to WIOA, which is the reason for the request to allow offering services to a small number of labeled in-school youth who are in alternative schools/residential facilities, which are considered in-school. The request that is being made is to provide 25 slots out of the 25% allowance for in-school spending, to serve students in residential facilities. Laurie stated that the request is being presented for decision because it will have to be included in the local plan that is currently being drafted.
- Laurie and Jyi proposed expanding supportive services to youth in need who are in residential facilities and adjudicated youth re-entry. The services would be based on individual needs that a program may not have the resources for and referral-based to support up to 25 youth that may be in different circumstances, through the programs where there is already a connection and remaining compliant with WIOA requirements.
- Nidia Sinclair expressed support for an opportunity to offer services to youth and assist programs that have a need to provide the best services to the youth they serve.
- Laurie reiterated that nothing could be done without including it in the local plan. She stated that MIS will provide detailed reports for consideration, Jeff asked for a narrative to consider addition to the local plan.

UPDATES/DISCUSSION

Roth-Gutman Law – Jill Roth-Gutman

- Jill volunteers on the recruitment committee for Camp To Belong at River Valley. The camp reunites siblings separated by foster care, adoptive and/or kinship home placement to siblings. It is a traditional camp setting offering sibling-based activities. Therapy and behavioral management are not provided. The week-long camp is August 13-19, 2023, in Reinholds, PA. Eligibility:
 - Eligible youth are from NJ and eastern PA.
 - Siblings, ages 8 to 18, who are currently placed in foster care and separated from at least one sibling may attend the week-long camp.
 - Siblings that have been adopted and/or placed in other out of home placements (group, kinship).

For further information about the camp, go to <https://www.ctbrivervalley.org/camp-info>

- Cherry Hill is going to have a free Parent University event, with a vendor fair that is open to service providers at no charge. The event will be held at the Malberg Administration Building. The contact person for vendor participation is Bonnie Mingin (BMingin@CHCLC.org or 856-429-5600 x 4416).

- Jill is assisting with DCPD adoptions if anyone knows of someone who needs that service. If it is DCPD involved, they cover the cost of the adoption, but if there's an adult or stepparent adoption, the costs are an out-of-pocket expense.

Camden City YMCA – Ivy Dingle

- The YMCA will offer its Safe Places to Play program this summer. They will hire people ages 18 and up to work part time as a presence in the park, monitoring safety for activities. The hourly rate will be between 15 to \$17.00. The program offers a safe place for the youth within the North Camden and East Camden area to be able to participate in structured activities, including arts and crafts.
- The Teen Leadership Department hosts a group every first Saturday at Villanova University. During those meetings youth are offered financial literacy, SAT and ACT prep, and “A Big Picture” where participants are taught how to write and create a movie from start to finish.
- The YMCA has two college tours coming up.

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

- Under the Resident Initiative Department for the Housing Authority, a job fair will be held on March 6th at the Ablett Village Community Center from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. A flyer has been shared to be posted on the WDB website.

Workforce Development Board – Jeff Swartz, Director

- The quarterly board meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 22, 2023, at Camden County College/Roosevelt Hall, Room 102. Meeting attendees were asked to RSVP to Alex Levitt to ensure a quorum and adequate catering. A full breakfast will be served starting at 8:30 am.

Adjournment

Alex stated after this month the Youth Committee would return to its bi-monthly meeting schedule. Jeff asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Lori Godorov and seconded by Jill Roth-Gutman. By a majority vote to the affirmative, the meeting adjourned 10:24 am.

Next Meeting

The next Youth Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at 9:00 am via Zoom.

Submitted by:

Debra Vaughn

Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director