



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, APRIL 24, 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							
Gutbezahl, 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 9:05 AM. The meeting attendees were asked to introduce themselves. Jill asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 28, 2024 meeting. Motion was made by Carl Boyd and seconded by Lori Godorov. By majority vote to the affirmative, the motion carried and the minutes for February 28, 2024 were approved.



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Update on the Youth Focus Group

The Youth Sub-Committee held its youth focus group meeting on April 17th. Jill thanked Andrew Selby (sponsorship and facilitation), Shaneka Boucher (facilitation), Lori Godorov (catering and venue), Ashley Leary (notetaking) and Diana Cooper-Vanderlip (notetaking) for their contributions to the event.

- Fourteen youth from various backgrounds and organizations in Camden County participated in the focus group.
- A poll regarding the youth focus group was provided to meeting attendees.
- Jill explained that the Youth Sub-Committee was formed to gain an authentic youth voice about what Camden County youth ages 16-24 need in the form of services and opportunities and how they would like to be involved. She asked Andrew and Shaneka to provide an update on the event.
- Shaneka provided the following comments:
 - A diverse group of students attended the focus group and were very engaged in the conversation. They expressed a wish to continue involvement and made suggestions that the committee visit their schools to provide information. The youth were adamant about participating in in-person meetings that would be co-facilitated by them, where the adults would let them take the lead.
- Andrew Selby commented that the students were forthcoming about their own ideas and recommendations to grow the next group for more diversity. His takeaway was that the youth want their voices heard and would like to know the focus group activity would continue and grow.
- Approximately 5 of the youth who attended the focus group were aware of the One-Stop. Diana Cooper-Vanderlip suggested that the youth hold future meetings at some of the resource agencies and program sites.
- Barriers to transportation were discussed for future meetings. Suggestions were made to spread the meeting sites to various areas of the county and providing access to transportation.
- YMCA Executive Director, Torrie Garvin, commented that he is working to establish YMCA partnerships with recreation centers in Camden to be a connection to the One-Stop as a social service after-school component.
- Shaneka commented that she assists youth seeking employment daily and is constantly collecting information that she is willing to share with the sub-committee. She added that she has survey data (125 youth) that shows a surprising number of youth are interested in cosmetology and law.
- Jill asked who would be interested in participating in a discussion and plans to take additional steps to facilitate future meetings with the youth, before taking what is gained back to the Youth Committee. She commented that a space was needed for youth gatherings and asked if everyone could consider resources for sponsorships for things related to hosting for additional meetings.



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Pathways to Possibilities - Youth Job/Resource Fair

- The Pathways to Possibilities event will be held at Clementon Fire Hall on May 6th from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM. The targeted audience is youth from the Clementon, Lindenwold, and Pine Hill area.
- All of the available tables are reserved.
- There are currently 13 employers and 22 resource agencies (some of which will share tables), participating in the event.

Summer Youth Work Experience

- The flyer has been released for the summer work experience program for Camden County youth ages 16-24.
- A 4-day work readiness program will take place before the interns begin at their assigned work-learn sites for 20 hours per week, with a stipend of \$400 per week. The program runs from June 24th to August 16th.
- Applications for intern slots and work-learn site agreements for employers are available on the WDB website (www.ccwib.com). There are 50 intern slots available.
- An informational Zoom meeting will take place on 4/25 for employers interested in serving as a work learn site.
- Marcell Jenkins inquired about an extension for the application deadline as his students received the program information late.
- The State requires that all interns must have their own savings or checking account for direct deposits. Alternative banking apps such as Venmo, Chime or CashApp are not acceptable. Youth having barriers to opening a bank account will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- Funds for youth with barriers to transportation will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

One-Stop Update/WIOA – Nidia Sinclair

- An orientation was held yesterday with 13 youth present. They will be scheduled to come in for the systematic orientation that will involve financial literacy, resumé writing, etc.
- Out of the 13 youth, one is receiving unemployment so he is ineligible for youth services and must participate in the adult program.
- Youth who do not receive childcare support and transportation assistance from the Board of Social Services are referred to the Dept. of Children Services, which will assist them with those needs. In addition, a shuttle is available through the One-Stop.

Committee Updates

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

- Foster the Family, which supports foster homes, is hosting a 5K family Run Day on May 4th at 8:00 AM at Challenge Grove Park in Cherry Hill. Foster the Family offers resources for respite care to individuals fostering displaced youth.

Lori Godorov – The Work Group

- The Work Group is hosting “Community Day,” a day of activities, community resources and employment opportunities from 11:00 AM until 3:00 PM on Saturday, May 11th at their Pennsauken location. There will be a pop-up for the thrift store, a yard sale and other activities.

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Ashley Leary – Juvenile Justice Hub

- In collaboration with Winslow schools, the Camden County Prosecutors Office and Winslow Twp. Police Dept. will hold a “Rec Night” at School #4 in Winslow Twp. on Friday, April 26th from 5:00 PM until 8:00 PM

Rodney Davis – Turner Construction

- Rodney commented that he met a gentleman named Damany Fisher, who is in charge of a nationwide organization involved in reentry programs for the ages of 16 to 24. Damany plans to expand his services to South Jersey. Rodney will provide his contact information to anyone who is part of reentry programs in Camden County.

Adjournment

Jill asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Diana Cooper-Vanderlip, seconded by Rodney Davis. By majority vote to the affirmative, the meeting adjourned at 10:18 AM.

Next Meeting

The next Youth Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 26, 2024, at 10:00 AM via Zoom.

Submitted by:

Debra Vaughn

Assistant to the Executive Director