



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, JUNE 26, 2024, 10:00 AM – ZOOM MEETING
1111 MARLKRESS ROAD, SUITE 101, CHERRY HILL, NJ 08003**

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

Welcome

In the absence of Jill Roth-Gutman, committee chair, Jeffrey Swartz, Executive Director of the WDB opened the meeting at 10:03 AM. The meeting attendees were asked to introduce themselves. Jeff asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 24, 2024 meeting. Motion was made by Rodney Davis and seconded by Lori Godorov. By majority vote to the affirmative, the motion carried and the minutes for April 24, 2024 were approved. Diana Cooper-Vanderlip abstained.

Update on the Youth Focus Group

Jill provided a list of considerations for the committee vote upon. The list encapsulates previous discussions about goals for the committee:



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Youth Advisory Board Objectives

1. Cultivate an authentic youth voice to ensure that the perspectives, experiences, and ideas of young people are heard, valued and integrated into the decision-making process
2. Create opportunities for youth to explore and engage in community services, resources and employment
3. Develop personal and professional skills to assist in future career paths
4. Receive mentorship
5. Empower youth to grow as leaders

Youth Advisory Board Goals

1. Best practices for communication for community resources, services and employment
2. Summer Youth Work Experience Program review after the end of the summer and provide feedback on suggested changes for the future
3. Explore Youth One-Stop and provide feedback, including any barriers to participate
4. Identify trips in the community to explore resources, events and/or services

Focus Group Meetings

Funding

Stipend funds are not available through the WDB unless it is an activity that meets WIOA requirements, with the participants enrolled in a One-Stop program. Options to fund the stipends to pay youth participants would be to partner with another agency or seek sponsorship.

- Torrie Garvin, YMCA of greater Philadelphia, offered to work with the committee to start a program that the YMCA may be able to fund, including stipends.
- Gil Velasquez, Camden County Probation, commented that NJ DCF Youth Council members are compensated for their time, research, and expertise. Currently the council meets monthly from 5-7pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. The council has small workgroups called subcommittees that meet on a weekly or bi-weekly basis, depending on the workload, to create real change across the Department. Council members also have an opportunity to speak at conferences and webinars. The Office of Family Voice works with every youth council.
- Shakirah Jones of Camden County Youth Service Commission suggested that, rather than focusing on the stipend, the subcommittees should invite the youth back to start with engagement and demonstrate the value in the important contacts and information they would gain from continuing to participate. Diana Cooper-Vanderlip commented that the initial time could be spent learning how to properly organize the group and function effectively as a committee.

Planning

Andrew Selby suggested two possible dates for committee members to hold a planning meeting, July 24th or 31st to solidify the date and details of the next youth meeting.

Summer Youth Work Experience Program

- Jeff thanked Diana and other volunteers who served as applicant interviewers and work-readiness training facilitators.



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- There were 129 applicants for 50 slots. Increasing the number of intern slots for next year's program is under consideration.
- New and returning businesses are serving as work-learn sites this year.
- A few applicants have earned internships from Atlantic City Electric's Spark Program.

Committee Updates

Ashley Leary – Juvenile Justice Hub

- The Restorative & Transformative Justice Hub is officially open.

Diana Cooper-Vanderlip

- Diana is working to drive efforts to pass The Family Success legislation. She is sending links for letters to support the law for submission by June 30th. The original allocation from Trenton was \$4 million, is now up to \$12 million in funding that would be awarded to communities throughout NJ.
- Diana Cooper-Vanderlip will hold a summer bootcamp which will run 3 days a week. Students will receive a stipend of \$900 at the end of the program, A beauty brand will be introducing students to building entrepreneurial skills. They will have an opportunity to package and sell "In Good Conscience Body Wash" and earn a commission for sales.

Torrie Garvin - YMCA

- The YMCA will hold a free, all-day soccer clinic in late August for kids. The event will take place in Camden. A flyer will be shared when the location and other details are finalized.

Adjournment

Jeff asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Diana Cooper-Vanderlip, seconded by Ashley Leary. By majority vote to the affirmative, the meeting adjourned at 11:02 AM.

Next Meeting

The next Youth Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 28, 2024, at 10:00 AM via Zoom.

Submitted by:

Debra Vaughn

Assistant to the Executive Director