



Supporting the Development and Retention of a World Class Workforce

Jeffrey S. Swartz, Executive Director

Robert Weil, Chair

**YOUTH INVESTMENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES,
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30, 2021, 9:00AM – ZOOM MEETING**

ATTENDANCE

Members		17-Jun-20	26-Aug-20	28-Oct-20	24-Feb-21	28-Apr-21	30-Jun-21
	Bi-monthly meeting dates as 10/17						
Verney, Matthew CHAIR	BB&T Bank	X	X	X	X	X	X
Arroyo, Rosy	Camden County Youth Services Commission		X	X		X	
Banks, Evangeline	Juvenile Justice Commission	X	X	X	X	X	X
Barbella, Sarah	Camden Probation Division	X					
Boucher, Shaneka	City of Camden					X	X
Cirii, Frank	CCOSCC Local Area Operations Director		X	X	X	x	X
Davis, Pastor Keith	Camden Dream Academy			X	X		
Fetty, Brett	CCTS				X		
Godorov, Lori	The Work Group	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hill, Lauren	Camden County College	X		X	X	X	X
McNair, David	Dept. of Education	X					
Peterson, Jyi	Youth Counselor, CCOS	X	X	X	X	X	
Scott, Kenneth	Winslow Township High School	X	X	X			X
Selby, Andrew	CPAC					X	X
Sinclair, Nidia	Camden County One-Stop	X	X	X		X	
Taguwa, Denise	NJ Dept. Of Labor & Workforce Development			X			
Vasquez, Marisol	Youth Counselor, CCOS	X	X	X	X	X	X
Velasquez, Gil	Camden Probation Division	X	X	X	X	X	X
Waller, Darchelle	Winslow Township High School				X		
Wardlow Hurley, Rhonda	HACC Youth Build	X	X	X	X	X	X
Washington, Daquan	CPAC		X	X			
Williams, Jen	Covenant House	X	X				
Swartz, Jeffrey S.	WDB	X	X	X	X	X	X
Levitt, Alex	WDB	X	X	X	X	X	X
Varallo, Kathleen	WDB	X	X	X	X	X	X
Williams, Leslie	WDB					X	X

WELCOME

Matthew Verney, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:10am. Matt welcomed attendees. The Committee reviewed the minutes from the meeting on Wednesday, June 30, 2021. He asked if there were any further corrections or additions to the minutes. Hearing none, Matt asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Lauren Hill, Director, Adult Basic Skills (ABS), made the first motion and Lori Godorov, Executive Director, The Work Group, made the second motion. By unanimous vote to the affirmative, the motion was carried, and the minutes for June 30, 2021, were approved.

One Stop Update

Matt started by asking for an update on the One-Stop. Frank Cirii, Local Area Operations Director, One-Stop, said the One-Stop has been proactive in digitally on-boarding new customers while still getting as many youths as possible into their system. Frank is optimistic about numbers increasing with Covid restrictions loosening. The virtual services directory has

been distributed at all food drive and immunization events in around the county. Frank mentioned the One-Stop is helping individuals that have been incarcerated or exiting foster care more than any other year. Frank thanked Laurie Maguire, Manager/Management Information Systems (MIS), One-Stop, for updating the numbers and flow charts based off the specifics requested by Matt and the committee. Frank said the Youth Work Experience, as discussed in previous meetings; remains a challenge, but he is making this program another goal for the One-Stop to tackle this year.

Marisol Vasquez, Counselor, One-Stop, updated the committee that the number of customers is slowly getting back to where it previously was. She added that she has been contacted by students who had just graduated and parents on next steps for after high school. Marisol said that between May and June, she has seen the customer numbers double. Marisol informed the committee that the One-Stop is beginning to transition back to in-person attendance for the staff. Jyi Peterson, Counselor, One-Stop, has been handling in person eligibility while Marisol has been doing eligibility over the phone or virtually. Both virtual and in-person eligibility have not been a concern to customers and Jyi and Marisol have been keeping contact with all customers they interview. Frank informed the committee that the One-Stop is open to the public beginning Monday, July 12th. He specified that county employees, not the state, will open their services back to in-person while providing any materials to those who need to be referred to virtual state services.

WIOA Information Reporting

Frank asked Laurie for her update on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) flowcharts. She mentioned that this time of year is when provider contracts are ending. The information from this period helps Laurie and her team formulate the numbers. She said there have been increased numbers since the previous meeting particularly with youth employment. Laurie continued, saying a trouble spot in the reporting has been One-Stop Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System (CASAS) testing. As opposed to provider CASAS testing, Laurie attributed this to a combination of the One-Stop not seeing individuals in-person and the transition to virtual training during this time. Laurie concurred with Frank and Marisol's assessments and said the Youth One-Stop numbers will increase in the next flowchart reporting.

Jeff Swartz, Executive Director, Camden County Workforce Development Board, mentioned a meeting he attended on June 22nd at the Boys and Girls Club. Jeff said a combination of Boys and Girls Club and the One-Stop would be beneficial in terms of customer referrals and eligibility. Frank suggested that Arthur Barclay, Paraprofessional, One-Stop, would be a helpful resource to set up a potential partnership. A move like this would increase the numbers for future WIOA flowcharts.

Gil Velasquez, Vicinage Chief Probation Officer, Camden County Probation, suggested for the group a "cheat sheet" of all acronyms related to the WIOA reporting. He continued saying if the group has a universal understanding of certain terms or references, it will help committee members, not familiar with all the technical language, understand what drives the data provided. Jeff said there is a 9-page document filled with all the definitions and acronyms that he will forward to anyone who needs it.

GOALS FOR YOUTH COMMITTEE IN 2021

Matt segued into a further discussion on 2021 goals for the Youth Committee. Matt said he wanted to make the Boys and Girls Club partnership an action item for the committee and that he had connections to help Arthur facilitate some outreach opportunities. Marisol added that she will provide Arthur with a One-Stop referral form for any interested youth. Once received, Marisol or Jyi can begin gauging interest from these candidates and offer potential interviews or meetings to see if the One-Stop services can be useful to the potential youth. Kathleen Varallo, Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director, WDB, added that a potential sub-committee could be assembled with youth to further discuss items of interest from their perspective. Matt added that this would be a starting point for further youth engagement.

Lori said she checks in with her youth to find out about what they would want out of an engagement group. Marisol added that she has done the same type of follow-up with her customers. Gil said he also checks in with any youth he is in contact with, but expresses that youth representation, on a committee dealing with youth related issues, sets a tone and models behavior for future youth. Lori suggested that if there was an assembled committee of youth participants, members of the youth committee could attend and bring up topics of discussion brought up during meetings. Matt liked the concept the youth based sub-committee with members of the main youth committee providing direction and agenda topics on what is required from them. Once they have met, Matt said a member from the sub-committee should attend the meetings to bring up what was discussed during the subcommittee meeting. Lori added that a mentorship opportunity could stem from this as well. Marisol said this could potentially tie in for the Work Experience Program. Lori said that would be allowable as this would fulfill a public service commitment. Lori also added that a youth “ambassador” could be beneficial for attracting more youth customers at the One-Stop. Matt is looking forward to seeing how this action item has progressed at the next meeting in August.

Matt continued, adding that another goal for the committee is the completion of the success story video. Once the video is finished, Matt said it should be formatted not only for social media usage, but as a selling tool for providers such as Boys and Girls Club to inform what services the Youth One-Stop can provide for potential customers. Marisol said she had submitted requests from 2 potential customers to be shown in the success story video, but they both had conflicts.

SUCCESS STORY VIDEO FOLLOW-UP

Alex Levitt, Administrative Assistant, Workforce Development Board, updated the committee on the status of the success story video. There was now new version of the video shown. Since the previous meeting, Alex was able to go inside of the One-Stop to shoot additional footage and take pictures that can be added to the next round of edits. He plans on shooting more footage that includes customer interaction with the counselors which will be added to the introduction of the video. Alex is waiting on more additional customer testimonials. Jyi and Marisol are continuing their outreach to find candidates for the video. Alex mentioned that an employer testimonial is another idea to consider for future edits. Another goal for the video was to get it under 5 minutes and formatted for additional social media usage. Alex said that a new cut of the video will be available to show the committee for the August meeting with an end goal of having a complete version for the September Quarterly Board Meeting.

YOUTH COMMITTEE UPDATES

-Kathleen mentioned that all committees are engaged and working on their respective projects. She said the Literacy committee has put together a library and literacy guide for Camden County. It includes an ad for the One-Stop. She continued with the Operations committee and their focus on financial literacy on meeting agendas. Kathleen also brought up the Abilities committee and their October event aimed at HR managers. The topic is dealing with PTSD in the workplace and issues related.

-Jeff mentioned the WDB is beginning to promote the Atlantic City Electric Program for new individuals. The new cohort would begin in 2022, but Jeff said the recruiting process would begin in the fall of 2021. He said it would be a great opportunity to offer customers that Jyi or Marisol are working with at the One-Stop.

-Rosy Arroyo, Administrator/ Community Engagement Reentry Coordinator, Camden County Youth Services Commission, mentioned their "Reimagining Juvenile Justice" curriculum. It's a program that helps system stakeholders and the education community to study and encourage positive youth engagement. An open session is scheduled for July 8th with a focus on youth telling their experiences with youth services.

-No other committee updates were provided.

SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

Leslie Williams, Comptroller, Workforce Development Board, gave an update on the Summer Youth Employment Program. She said the program is currently underway with 37 intern applications received, and 34 enrolled in the program. Leslie added that there were 13 employers that committed to being a worksite for the interns. Most of the applicants began the program on Monday, June 28th with 2 beginning the next week due to scheduling. Kathleen is coordinating work readiness workshops for the interns which take place over Zoom every Friday for 2 hours. These workshops would incorporate peer to peer connection exercises, group discussions, and a multitude of different guest speakers. Their topics of discussion range from resume writing to professional internet behavior. Leslie said all interns are registered with training modules utilizing NJ SkillUp. Youth are paid for time spent in these modules as part of the stipend they receive. Leslie sent all participant information to Laurie so they can be entered in the AOSOS system. She then mentioned that after the program, Jyi and Marisol could follow up with some of the interns to see how they might assist in determining their eligibility further for training and career development. (Re-arranged wording)

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 25th at 9:00am via Zoom.

Submitted by, Alex Levitt, Administrative Assistant, WDB.