



Supporting the Development and Retention of a World Class Workforce

Jeffrey S. Swartz, Executive Director

Matthew Verney, Chair

**YOUTH INVESTMENT COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2022, 9:00AM – ZOOM MEETING**

**ATTENDANCE**

Name	COMMITTEE INFORMATION AND ATTENDANCE			25-Aug-21	27-Oct-21	26-Jan-22	23-Feb-22	24-Aug-22
	Organization	Trustee Member						
Verney, Matthew CHAIR	Truist Bank	X		X			X	
Arroyo, Rosy	Camden County Youth Services Commission			X	X	X		
Banks, Evangeline	Juvenile Justice Commission		X	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
Davis, Pastor Keith	Camden Dream Academy			X				
Fetty, Brett	CCTS							
Godorov, Lori	The Work Group	X	X	X	x			X
Gorman, Ginger	Winslow Township High School					X	X	
Hill, Lauren	Camden County College				X		X	
Lofton, Vance	Respond, Inc.		X	X	X		X	
Maguire, Laurie	Camden County One-Stop					X	X	X
Pasiglaio, Marion	NJ Youth ChalleNge Academy			X	X			
Peterson, Jyi	Camden County One-Stop		X	x	X		X	X
Scott, Kenneth	Winslow Township High School		X	X	X		X	
Selby, Andrew	CPAC		X	X	X		X	X
Sinclair, Nidia	Camden County One-Stop						X	X
Vasquez, Marisol	Camden County One-Stop			X				
Velasquez, Gil	Camden Probation Division		X	X	X			
Waller, Darchelle	Winslow Township High School							X
Wardlow Hurley, Rhonda	HACC Youth Build		X	X	X		X	X
Williams, Jen	Covenant House							
Swartz, Jeffrey S.	WDB		X	X	X		X	X
Levitt, Alex	WDB		X	X	X		X	X
Vaughn, Debra	WDB					X	X	X
Williams, Leslie	WDB		X			X	X	X

**Welcome**

Jeff Swartz led the meeting in the absence of Matt Verney, WDB Chair/Youth Chair. He welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order at 9:00am and asked meeting attendees to introduce themselves. The Committee was then asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the June 29, 2022 meeting. Motion was made by Lori Godorov and seconded by Frank Cirii. By unanimous vote to the affirmative, the motion carried, and the minutes for June 29, 2022, were approved.

**Committee Goals Update**

- Alex Levitt stated a primary goal of the Youth Committee is to elect a Vice-Chair. Jeff noted that any individual who is a provider or is involved with an entity that receives any funding from the WDB, should be excluded, in order to avoid any conflict of interest. He said, ideally, the Vice-Chair candidate should be a private sector member with no direct connection to WDB funding.

- The second goal of the Youth Sub-Committee is to gain the youth perspective with the creation of a youth focus group. Lori Godorov stated the sub-committee has a plan to hold a focus group in the first week of September. Shaneka Boucher will coordinate her available dates to facilitate the group with Alex and Rosy Arroyo will provide the funding to the WorkGroup for participant compensation, which will be paid with checks immediately after the meeting. The recruitment is completed and they have the number of participants from desired locations to participate. The plan is to hold the first focus group meeting, get feedback (using an electronic survey via text) and then meet to decide the next stage.
- Shaneka Boucher commented on the lag in youth applying for employment and also provided insight into the slow sign-ups for Summer Youth Employment Program and what could improve the numbers of youth who apply to participate in future programs:
  - The documents about the SYEP program are not in multiple languages. In Camden City, almost 60% of the population speaks Spanish and many youth live in a home where the parent only speaks Spanish.
  - The timeline is difficult for youth because of competing priorities, such as sports. They have competing demands on their attention and sometimes miss the notifications or the deadlines.
  - A partnership with the schools would be useful to get information to students earlier to help prepare them for job opportunities. For youth who are less independent, they may have little or have no experience filling out paperwork, and some are shy and won't ask for assistance. Shaneka suggested hiring an intermediary to build relationships and connections at schools, so information can be shared directly with the person in position to be of assistance.
  - Working papers are no longer handled in the Camden schools, there are time constraints to obtaining and processing the documents from the district. Additionally, obtaining the required physicals is challenging, especially depending on health insurance coverage.
  - Leslie noted that changes in the working paper requirements and processes may make it easier for youth to obtain their working papers. Jeff commented that the WDB is in a unique situation because the funding comes from the State and is often not approved until later in the Spring, where it would be helpful for the funds to be awarded in March, so recruiting could begin much sooner.
- Darchelle Brooks, (Winslow Twp HS School-based Youth Services Program), commented that after the challenges of having students transitioning to being back in school, there will be more opportunity for the Summer Youth Employment Program to gain candidates from Winslow Twp. HS.
- Sarah Barbella (Camden County Probation Dept.) added that for youth who are 18 years old, the high school diploma or a GED is still valuable to take advantage of employers willing to train or opportunities in the trades such as carpentry and electricity.

### **Youth/Summer Youth Employment Program**

- Leslie stated that she will definitely share Shaneka's feedback about hiring an intermediary with the State for inclusion with the next grant. She added that, to Darchelle's point, she did hear from schools that student transition back to in-school learning was difficult.
- Forty youth participated in the Summer Youth Employment Program, with 39 completing the program. This year, the participants were paid \$15 per hour and, as of the end of the program on August 19<sup>th</sup>, most completed their required work hours. A survey will be sent to the youth as

well as the worksite employers. One employer communicated that an offer of employment would be extended to their summer intern. The participants have all been logged into the One-Stop through the AOSOS. Leslie stated that the 2022 program was pretty successful and invited feedback from everyone who interacted with the program, with suggestions on what improvements could be made. There were 23 employers, including some from the southern part of the county. This year's program involved the largest number of participants and worksites than previous years.

### **Camden County One-Stop**

Frank Cirii, Camden County One-Stop, Area Director

- The State entities and partners are working on 3/2 hybrid schedules (days in or working from home).
- With people being able to self-schedule UI appointments, there has been an uptick of people on-site for assistance and sharing between partners. An allowance was set for 49 people to be scheduled for claim assistance per day. Walk-ins are permitted to use the UI phones, but on a first come-first served basis.
- The use of the QR code, which is included in a lobby video that will loop for visitors and will also be used in the Fall outreach campaign, is expected to boost the services accessed at the One-Stop.
- The State partners are still largely serving customers virtually. The One-Stop is providing services both in-person and virtually.
- Frank thanked Leslie for assisting with the success in getting the first cohort of 11 participants started in the Youth Work Experience Program. He thanked Jyi for securing the participating vendors, which are located in the mid and southern part of the county and offer work in different types of occupations. The Youth Work Experience Program offers the participants the additional opportunity for educational assistance through the Learning Link and occupational training.

Laurie Maguire, MIS Manager

- The fiscal year ended on June 30<sup>th</sup>. One hundred-twelve youth began services with fifty-seven completing all of the WIOA steps and actually enrolled. The Camden County One-Stop did meet and exceed all of the youth performance standards under WIOA. She thanked the providers, Jyi and everyone who is involved in serving the youth. She thanked the WDB for its support.

Nidia Sinclair

- The HiSET schedule begins in two weeks.

## **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

### **Camden County Workforce Development Board**

Jeffrey Swartz, Executive Director

- Theo Primas has resigned after sixteen years and a new Program Evaluator/Monitor is being sought.
- The quarterly board meeting is on Wednesday, September 21, 2022 at 8:30am. The meeting will be virtual. Please let Alex know if your would like to attend so he can include you in the distribution of the meeting information and Zoom link. Kevin Kurdziel, Executive Director of the Middlesex County Workforce Development Board and GSETA President, will be the featured speaker. He will discuss what GSETA is doing statewide and nationally.

- ACE Initiative – The 2023 cohort will likely begin in early Winter 2023. Night outs and community career events are being attended to share information about the opportunity.

### **Camden Probation Division**

Sarah Barbella

- A career job fair was held in the Probation Office on August 15<sup>th</sup> with Accu-Staff and APEX. The next one is August 25<sup>th</sup> with Home Depot in the office from 11:00am to 2pm.
- The Positive Intervention Committee hosted an off-site, outdoor event for approximately 30 youth at Mercer State Park. Among the activities was mindfulness, meditation, yoga, entrepreneurship, and a guest speaker who provided lunch and gave his testimony of overcoming his personal obstacles. The event was a success, with a positive response from youth participants. Jeff invited Sarah to share her event flyers with Alex for posting on the Events pages of the WDB website.
- Coaches came into the office on August 10<sup>th</sup> to participate in a mentorship program, which garnered 4 referrals for coaches. The coaches will return for another session on August 31<sup>st</sup> from 11:00am until 2:00pm.

### **Social Responsibility Through Me (City of Camden)**

Shaneka Boucher

- Sheneka shared that the organization is expanding and hiring, and she will share the job description.
- Social Responsibility Through Me will be in a few Camden City schools providing after-school programs, serving over 200 children in grades K - 8. They will be providing an arts program, as well as offering peer-to-peer mentoring and juvenile justice programs.

### **HACC/Youth Build**

Rhonda Wardlow-Hurley, Program Coordinator

- HACC's new executives are acting Executive Director is Melody Johnson-Williams and acting Deputy Director is Edith Pagan, who is the former Director of Resident Initiatives.
- HACC will apply for the DOL Youth Build Program again.
- The HACC has received vouchers under HUD, along with DCP&P, to provide 25 youth who are aging out of foster care/DYFS systems with 3 years of housing and supportive services. There are currently 21 youth on the Fostering Youth to Independence wait list, so if anyone knows of a qualifying individual, they should contact Rhonda.
- There will be a Community Day Festival Resource Fair in Lawnside on Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup> from 11:00am to 5:00pm at Lawnside Park on Charleston Ave. Hosted by Mayor Maryann Wardlow - Borough Of Lawnside, The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New Jersey and the Camden County Board of Commissioners, the free event will offer entertainment, health screenings, vaccinations, workshops and supportive services. Anyone interested in having a table should contact Rhonda. A flyer has been provided to the WDB for posting.

### **The Work Group**

Lori Godorov, Executive Director

- The WorkGroup has been selected to embark on creating a Civilian Climate Corps, apart from the Youth Corps Program. It will be coming through our national association. The initial couple

of years is funded by Pew, but this will be dedicated specifically to green jobs and climate work. Enrollment of corps members and activities will begin in the Spring.

### **Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC)**

Evangeline Banks, Court Liaison

- In June, NJ acting Attorney General Matthew Platkin joined acting JJC Executive Director, Jennifer LeBaron, PhD, and members of the executive management team, superintendents, and program staff visited Voorhees Residential Community Home, The Juvenile Medium Secure Facility (JMSF), The Female Secure Care and Intake Facility (Hayes), an Albert Elias Residential Community Home and the Independent Living Program. The Attorney General got a chance to get a first-hand view of the programs available at multiple locations.
- The recipients of the Governor's Juvenile Justice And Delinquency Prevention Committee (JJDP) summer expansive program grants were announced through a press release <https://www.njoag.gov/acting-ag-platkin-announces-18-grants-totaling-304000-to-expand-summer-programs-for-at-risk-youth/>  
Eighteen grants totaling more than \$304,000 were awarded to police departments, schools and non-profit organizations across the State to expand summer youth employment programs. The grants provide up to \$30,000 to organizations already running successful summer programs for at-risk youth, to enhance their programs and increase the number of youth they serve. The organizations awarded these grants will be able to provide summer employment and an array of recreational, educational and character-building activities that will benefit approximately 600 youth in communities throughout NJ.
- Training is being provided to assist young people in finding gainful employment once they are released back to their communities. Residents from multiple JJC facilities have enrolled in programs such as an OSHA Certification Program, Pesticide Application Certification Program, a Transportation Logistics course, and an Entrepreneurship class.

### **Adjournment**

Jeff asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Evangeline Banks motioned, seconded by Frank Ciri. By a unanimous vote to the affirmative, the meeting adjourned 9:52am.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 26, 2022, at 9:00 am via Zoom.

### **Submitted by:**

Debra Vaughn

Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director