



# Camden County Workforce Development Board

Supporting the Development and Retention of a World Class Workforce

Robert Weil, Chair  
 Jeffrey S. Swartz, Executive Director

## YOUTH INVESTMENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2017

### ATTENDANCE

Members		28-Jul	25-Aug	29-Sep	27-Oct	15-Dec	23-Mar	25-May	27-Jul	28-Sep
	Bi-monthly meeting dates as 10/17									
<b>Verney, Matthew CHAIR</b>	TD Bank		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Arroyo, Rosy	CPAC		X		X		X	X		
Banks, Evangeline	Juvenile Justice Commission		X			X	X	X	X	X
Barclay, Arthur	Camden County One-Stop					X				
Cooper, Diane	CPAC			X	X					X
Cope, Heather	Camden City School District					X				
David Goodman	Youth Build HACC					X		X		
Davis, Keith	Camden Dream Center Tech. Trng. School					X		X		
Friedman, Joshua	Director, CC Resource Center			X				X	X	
Gentile, Stephanie	NJ Youth Challenge							X		
Godorov, Lori	The Work Group	X	X	X	X	X			X	X
Harley, Darron	Camden CorpsPlus							X	X	
Jeffery Lake	Winslow Township High School			X	X	X	X			
Jennifer Rodriguez	Camden County Technical Schools				X	X	X	X		
Jyi Peterson	Camden County One-Stop					X	X	X	X	
Kelly, Siobhan	Camden County Technical Schools	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Korber, Stephanie	Rutgers, Camden							X		
Maguire, Laurie	Camden County Resource Center	X	X							
McKinsey, Denise	Respond Inc.	X			X		X	X	X	X
Mombo, Mien	Division of Children and Family Services				X		X	X		
Nikke Feagin	Center for Family Services						X	X		
Pryor, Regina	LWD Division of Operations and Business	X	X	X				X		
Rhodon, Daniel	Hopeworks									
Riggins, Matthew	Riggins Oil Inc.	X	X	X			X	X		X
Santiago, Jamia	Rising Global Leaders							X		
Sinclair, Nidia	Camden County One-Stop	X	X	X	X			X	X	X
Stettler, Mark	T & M Associates				X		X	X	X	X
Taguwa, Denise	LWD WDB Coordination & Support									X
Vasquez, Marisol	Camden County One-Stop	X	X	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		X
Williams, Tasha	Youth Advocate Programs, Inc.			X						X
Swartz, Jeffrey S.	WDB Executive Director	X	X		X	X	X	X		
Primas, Theo	WDB Program Evaluator									
Stubblefield, Lelia	WDB Administrative Assistant						X			
Williams, Leslie J	WDB Comptroller	X	X	X						
Varallo, Kathleen	WDB Administrative Assistant	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Robert Weil	WDB Chair								X	
Guests										
Dr. Stanley B. Yeldell	Associate Professor, Rowan University								X	
Guy Rozier	Former NFL								X	
Jill Anne Duca	Lourdes							X		

### WELCOME

Matt Riggins, Co-Chair, filling in for Matt Verney, Chair Youth Committee, welcomed the committee and asked for round table introductions.

## YOUTH SERVICES UPDATES

### YOUTH MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Nidia Sinclair, Youth One-Stop Manager reported that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and resolution, regarding the Youth Mentoring program, was submitted to the Board of Freeholders for approval. The program was presented at the last Youth meeting on Thursday, July 27<sup>th</sup> by Dr. Stanley B. Yeldell, Associate Professor, Rowan University Law & Justice Studies. We would like to start the program in October assuming all parties approve the MOU. Marisol Vazquez and Jyi Peterson, Youth Counselors will start to look for youth we are serving that would benefit from the program. Nidia said that volunteer Rowan University student mentor/interns would be assigned to guide and encourage participants to complete the process toward training and further coach them on what kinds of career opportunities there are in the Justice/Law area.

### YOUTH AGING OUT OF FOSTER CARE.

Nidia said she and Joshua, Director, One-Stop received an invitation to attend Youth Aging Out of Foster Care Committee. The committee involves the County Family Court, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Certified Public Manager Program (CPMP), and the Division of Youth and Family Services. (DYFS) and the One-Stop will now be a part of that committee. We will be presenting our services and finding ways to work together with the courts to serve this youth population. Nidia also said we will be assigning Arthur Barclay, One-Stop Para Professional, to attend Family Court and connect with these youth or their representative to make sure they are aware of One-Stop services available to them. Apparently, Family Court convenes five days per week so Art will be attending every week on as many days possible according to his schedule. Jyi Peterson, YOS Counselor, will be attending with him for the first few weeks.

### RE-ENTRY PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS

The County has received a grant to put together a network of organizations, including the One-Stop, to assist Adult ex-offenders being released from incarceration at the Camden County Correctional Facility (CCCF). There are many different agencies represented including DVRS, ES, Mental Health, Board of Social Services, Social Security, Motor Vehicles and more. The program will serve adults but can include youth as well. Sharon Bean, CCCF Jail Population Coordinator, is the lead organizer.

Nidia reported that all the agreements for the re-entry programs are in place. This program is slated to start in January, 2018. The coordinator is taking her time to put the program together and make sure the partners solidly understand their role.

### YOUTH WORK EXPERIENCE

Nidia reported that Joshua is working on a plan Youth Work Experience program. We plan to start that program in January and will present a formal written policy to the WDB for approval. We will be starting work experience in public or county departments at committed offices such as Special Events and Public Parks. The participants will be paid a stipend that is to be decided. According to the law, a twenty hour work week must include an additional twenty hours of education. We are planning some type of matching credential to the program, of course the HIGH Set being one type of credential if needed by the youth. We considering the purchase of an online Microsoft Office Suite Training program that would be run through the Learning Link and result in a credential.

### FAMILY LITERACY DAY

Kathleen reported that the WDB Literacy Committee is planning to host a family Literacy Day at the Clementon Memorial Library, on Saturday, October 14th, 2017, 9am-12noon. Our goal is to provide information to adults about how they can get work readiness and literacy help at the library and in the county. The event will bring together families with the idea that promotes reading to a child can help develop better literacy skills in an individual that may have some language or other barriers to reading. We are planning to give each child one or more books that can be shared by the parent. We will also be highlighting literacy services offered around the county.

Lori Godorov, Director, The Work Group, asked if there was a list of Literacy services. She said we are seeing more and more youth testing at first and second grade reading level. These are youth 18 to 20 years old. Kathleen said she hopes to have a definite list in time for the event. Nidia said there is a Literacy Volunteer of America (LVA) office right here is the One-Stop Resource Center. Volunteers are here on a regular basis and help participants improve their reading skills. Marisol suggested referring those in need of literacy help to a youth counselor and they will help determine what type of help the customer needs. Nidia introduced, Mikala Allen, Senior Administrative support at the Resource Center's LVA office. She reviewed some of the many types of assistance offered including one on one tutoring, group reading, general writing and grammar classes. She also presented a newsletter to the committee that contains current new articles enhanced with reading pronunciation. Nidia said that we merge the services of the LVA with the Learning Link for some customers depending on their need.

Diane Cooper invited Mikala to speak at a Community Café event on November 7<sup>th</sup> Parent advocates from around the county gather to talk about family issues. They would like to hear more about LVA. She said some of the Family Success Centers in the county offer reading programs as well.

Family Success Centers are "one-stop" shops that provide wrap-around resources and supports for families before they find themselves in crisis. Family Success Centers offer primary child abuse prevention services to families and bring together concerned community residents, leaders, and community agencies to address the problems that threaten the safety and stability of families and the community. There is no cost to access services provided by Family Success Centers (FSCs). For a complete list of the state's FSCs visit link <http://www.nj.gov/dcf/families/support/success/#4>

#### Camden County

Evolution Family Success Center  
2850 Federal Street  
Camden City, NJ 08105  
856-963-0270

Promise Neighborhood  
Family Success Center  
580 Benson Street  
Camden City, NJ 08103  
856-964-8096

Building Bridges Family Success Center  
180 White Horse Pike  
Clementon, NJ 08021  
856-309-5300

Orchards Family Success Center  
416 Sicklerville Road, Unit A-2  
Sicklerville, NJ 08081  
856-513-8829

The committee discussed the issue of youth testing below the required 9<sup>th</sup> grade reading level. Youth must test at this level before they qualify for training under the state and WIOA law. Lower TABE testing scores are a growing concern. Some youth participants often become disillusioned or embarrassed when they find out their test scores and disappear. Some return later realizing they are not getting any further in their job or career search without improving reading skills. If a youth is looking for employment, they can be referred to employment services. If they are looking for training they must go through the eligibility process of identification, documentation, testing, career planning and remediation. All agreed it can be frustrating and this is where we are losing some youth. All agreed that a unified plan and joining of services if needed in the county to address the deficiencies that are facing youth. Are we directing our resources in the right places to really make a difference? Mark Stettler said the flow chart is important because it not only explains the process in an easy way for youth to understand. It also explains it the concerned citizens like myself who want to help but do not clearly understand the system. Matt Riggins agreed that there is still a disconnect in understanding how the flow of services works and how we as a committee can help direct our focus toward helping the Youth One-Stop.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:30am.

#### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 9:00am, at the Camden County One-Stop Career Center, 2600 Mount Ephraim Ave., Suite 105, Camden NJ 08104.

Submitted by,

*Kathleen Varallo*, WDB Administrative Assistant