



**Joint Youth Investment Council/
Newark & ECWIB**
50 South Clinton Street, 4th Floor
East Orange, NJ 07018



Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Program Updates
4. WIOA Updates
5. Services/ Resources
6. Open Discussion
7. Adjournment

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***Joint Newark & Essex County Workforce Investment Board
Youth Investment Council Committee Meeting***

Thursday, March 12, 2015

50 S. Clinton Street, 5th Floor Conference Room

10:00 am

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Kelli Bell-Taylor, Apryl Caldwell, Monica Colon, Elizabeth Davis, Alicia Holman, Davetta Lane, Joy Olagbegi, Tom Puryear, Pamela Ross, Janine Schaeffer, Alexis Trusty, Sonja Williams

Welcome & Opening Remarks:

Apryl Caldwell- ECWIB

Apryl Caldwell thanked everyone for being present. After meeting attendees introduced themselves, she made a motion to approve minutes from the last meeting. The minutes were approved.

Ms. Sonja Williams begins with providing program updates for Newark Youth One Stop Center. The RFP has been completed. As of now there are 7 programs (2 target in-school youth; 5 target out-of-school youth). The agency services twenty five percent in-school youth and seventy five percent out of school youth. Current and upcoming initiatives include The United Airlines Internship, Newark College Institute, Newark Summer Youth Employment Training Program and the Newark Youth Music Program. Essex County's program is in the strategic planning phase and will be putting out RFP's next month. Standard programs (ABE, GED) are being reviewed. They are looking at changing and incentivizing to improve these programs to make them more attractive to the out-of-school population. There are conversations with the school districts about creating a referral into Essex County's Programs.

WIOA Update

Mrs. Caldwell distributed a WIOA handout. The handout gives a better understanding of the differences between WIA and WIOA. The details cover eligibility, criteria and requirements. Ms. Williams discussed that the Youth One Stop Career Center had been experiencing notable challenges with obtaining the required documentation to certify youth who are considered "drop-outs".

Mrs. Caldwell informed the meeting attendees that the committee's questions that were submitted, had not yet been answered. She assured the group that if any questions, concerns or information involving the group comes out, she will share it. She advised that any questions regarding WIOA, Kirk has agreed to come back.

Services/ Resources

Mrs. Caldwell distributed a list of acronyms that are youth specific and advised that if anyone has something to add, they may submit it to her. She talked about the importance of a member directory and distributed a YIC Membership Directory Information Sheet so everyone's information can be collaborated and used as a resource tool.

Jeff Billingsley, Founder of Cobblestone Multimedia, LLC provided information about his company. The company was founded in 2004 and is an award winning company comprised of music, film, television, video content, a casting agency, a state of the art professional recording studio and several youth entrepreneurial music and film apprenticeship programs. Cobblestone Media has partnered with Training, Inc. at Essex County College to provide a Multimedia, Music & Film Course for out-of-school Newark Youth between the ages of 18 and 24.

Ms. Williams suggested that it is important for partners to understand that specific performance measures are in place for agencies that provide services to the youth. She clarified that the process is not as simple as placing youth into a program and paying the vendor for the service. In such cases, the youth must have a credential, or gain employment in order for the agency to get credit for servicing the participant.

Elizabeth Davis of the New Jersey Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services shared information on transitioning from school to work. This agency helps students who have an IEP and/or disability, to get specific services to help them gain the necessary skills to be able to obtain and keep a job. Alexis Trusty of suggested that some of the youth that participate in Project Hope could benefit from the services that DVR provides. She suggested that Elizabeth meet with her director.

Monica Colon shared information about services provided by the Essex County Youth Resource Center. This agency services youth who are in the age bracket of 18 to 21 years old and are eligible under the WIA guidelines for education and employment services. Participants are able to get the following services: work readiness training, resume writing, job development, interviewing skills, life skills training, vocational training, counseling, basic skills development, career resource center services and college prep.

Joy Olabegi talked about the CNA program at the Academy of Training and Employment that she directs. It targets the out of school population and services individuals who are age 18 and up.

Open Discussion

Alexis Trusty expressed that Project Re-Entry has an initiative called Project Hope which is a transitional job training program for at risk young people. The youth work four days a week and get soft skills and job readiness training on Fridays. She spoke about collaborating with DVR to fill the gaps and help those individuals who may benefit from the services.

Sonja Williams commended the committee members for their commitment to working to bring forth positive changes in the lives of our youth.

Dates to Remember

- March 21, 2015- Youth Summit at Rutgers University with Sista Soulja
- April 10, 2015- Career Fair
(collaboration of NWIB, ECC & City of Newark) sponsored by Prudential Center
- May 30, 2015- Re-Entry Conference

Apryl Caldwell asks everyone to please bring referrals, acronyms, important dates, events and activities so that the information may be disseminated at the next meeting on May 14, 2015 at 2:30 p.m. She thanked the meeting attendees for their participation, reminds them to fill out the membership directory form and adjourned the meeting.