



***Joint Newark & Essex County Youth Investment Council Committee***

Thursday, November 12, 2015  
50 S. Clinton Street, Room 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
10.00 a.m.

**Agenda**

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Approval of Minutes
- III. Business Community Relationships
- IV. 2016 Calendar
- V. Resources
- VI. Adjournment

**Please note: This is the last committee meeting scheduled for this year.**



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

Thursday, November 12, 2015  
50 S. Clinton Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
2:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

**Attendees:**

Marsha Armstrong, Kelli Bell-Taylor, Apryl Caldwell, Judith Celestin, Monica Colon, Carrel Coreus, Quonisha Earl, Makeba Green, Keisha Flemming, James Harris, Alicia Holman, Marland Jenkins, Tom Puryear, Pamela Ross, Shelton Thurman, Alexis Trusty, Chike Uzoka, Sonja Williams, Nicole Vazquez-Wise

**Welcome & Opening Remarks:**

**Apryl Caldwell- ECWIB**

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

**Committee Business**

**Recap of Business & Economic Development Committee Meeting**

Apryl (Co-Chair) spoke of utilizing the relationship with the Business and Economic Development Committee to help provide employment opportunities for youth. She attended the last two meetings; one of which she presented questions to the committee. She emphasized that she and/or Sonja Williams (Co-Chair) would be regularly attending the Business Committee Meetings to ensure that the youth population is represented and included in the employment conversation among businesses. Members of the Business Committee suggested and communicated the following:

-YIC should partner with the Regional Business Partnership and Mayor Baraka's Business Advisory Council.

-When youth are hired they generally are between 18-21 years of age, yet they lack work readiness skills so they try to include mentorship to help address professional attire, conflict

resolution, attendance, financial literacy, self-esteem, communicating with supervisors, business culture and emotional intelligence.

**Looking Ahead-** Apryl relayed some of the previously discussed committee goals which include increasing youth and business engagement. Committee members agreed that it was important to have

-Committee members collectively suggested that the group should start a cohort based Citywide Work Readiness Initiative for 9-12<sup>th</sup> Graders through partnership with City of Hope. They discussed the possibility of stipend and/or transportation being provided for students. They also spoke about recruiting businesses owners to serve as mentors.

The target population of youth to be serviced includes those who are 16-24 years of age that are not registered in a public/ charter school. They can be enrolled in a program such as Youthbuild.

### **YIC COMMITTEE SUB-COMMITTEES**

#### **Readiness Credential Sub-Committee**

Chike Uzoka (point person)

This sub-committee will look at both the national and locally used work readiness credential and its components. Seeing which elements best serve our local youth. The committee will look at the math, writing and reading requirements of the current credential. They will also focus on areas that the credential may not address but the committee feels are needed, specifically a “Dress for Success” model and civic engagement course.

#### **Employment/ Business Engagement Sub-Committee**

James Harris (point person)

This subcommittee will focus on increasing business engagement with our YIC and hiring local youth. This committee will also be looking to help launch our own “dress for success” model program. The idea of having a “physical store” where

#### **Mentorship Sub-Committee**

Makeba Green (point person)

This sub-committee will focus on creating a mentorship program through the YIC.

A committee member suggested that idea of coordinating a conference call number so that members of the sub-committees can strategize between regularly scheduled meetings. Each point person is responsible for the following:

-Contacting Co-Chairs to inform them of sub-committee meetings/activity to ensure that support is provided.

-Reporting progress of sub-committees at each regularly scheduled YIC meeting.

Apryl and Sonja said that arrangements can be made for sub-committees to physically meet.

## **2016 YIC Meeting Dates-**

1/14/16 at 2:30 pm  
3/10/15 at 10 am  
5/12/16 at 2:30 pm  
7/14/16 at 10 am  
9/8/16 at 2:30 pm  
11/30/16 at 10 am

## **Upcoming Events**

Mayor Baraka's office is planning a college tour scheduled for March 2016. A Young Women's Summit is also being organized for 2016 and Ms. Trusty is seeking to partner with Essex County to help make it successful. Ms. Trusty was recently honored at a Media Gala Event as an "Unsung Hero."

If anyone knows high school and/or college students who might be interested in participating in a mentorship program, please contact Makeba Green. She also told the group about a scholarship opportunity with a deadline of April 30, 2016.

Macy's Hiring Event on November 15, 2015 from 10am-1pm for seasonal employment.

Essex County College Career Fair will be held on November 15, 2015 from 10am- 4pm in the gym. Employment candidates must be Newark residents with a college degree. The email regarding this event was sent electronically to all committee members.

Butterfly Dreamz will be hosting an event on November 19, 2015 at 5pm behind the Masonic Temple in Newark. For more information, visit [Butterflydreamz.org](http://Butterflydreamz.org).

City of Newark (Youth) went out to bid for RFP's for vocational training. Classes will start mid-December. Any youth interested in training may contact the Newark Youth One Stop Career Center.

Essex County has a Juvenile Reporting Center in the basement at 50 S. Clinton Street. The County's Youth Resource Center is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor. They are in the process of setting up computers and there is room for a Dress for Success Closet. The GED, ABE, and internships are still running for youth in need of services.

## **Closing**

Apryl thanks the committee for their commitment to the youth. She expressed that the progress made in 2015 was awesome. Meeting is adjourned.