



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

Thursday, March 10, 2016
50 S. Clinton Street, 5th Floor Conference Room
10:00 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Kelli Bell-Taylor, Itunu Balogun, Mariselis Bonilla, Apryl Caldwell, Jean Carter, Judith Celestin, Denise Crawford, Elizabeth Davis, Qonisha Earl, Dorothy Edgerton, Mignon Glenn, Keisha Flemming, Touree Freeman representative, Shakema Pankey, Tom Puryear, Alexis Trusty, Chike Uzoka, Mark Van Kampen, Nicole Vazquez-Wise, Sonja Williams

**Welcome & Opening Remarks:
Apryl Caldwell- ECWIB**

Apryl Caldwell thanked everyone for attending and led a roundtable introduction of meeting attendees. She then asked everyone to review the minutes. A motion to move the minutes; they are approved.

Committee Business

Mrs. Caldwell reviewed the role of the YIC as it pertains to the Workforce Development Board. She spoke briefly of the sub-committees and relayed that they would be reporting out any progress since the last meeting. She distributed the SETC Employment Environmental Scan Tool, provided by Kirk Lew who introduced it at the last committee meeting. During that meeting, he suggested that we could benefit from using it to determine what resources are best utilized in our area. The County is currently using it by categorizing agencies based on their services. Next they evaluate the quality of service. The scan also provides a comment area where it details referral information and what type of relationship the service organization has with the agency. This process helps to determine which services will be outsourced through RFP's. Mrs. Caldwell asked if there was anyone who is or knows of a service provider that targets youth to please contact her so they may be incorporated into the tool.

Strategic Plan

Mrs. Caldwell gave out the template designed to create the strategic plan. She asked everyone to review it and relayed the she and Ms. Williams were actively working on bringing it all together using previous meeting notes and WIB Retreat Breakout Session notes. She expressed that the plan will be made available to committee members upon completion.

Guest Introductions

Since there were so many guests present at the meeting, Ms. Caldwell asked them to introduce themselves. Mark Van Kampen, NJDOL, is part of a newly created WIAO Technical Service Team who conducts technical service, eligibility and case management for youth. Denise Crawford of Essex PTA stated that her purpose for joining the committee was to help disseminate information to the masses. She expressed that there is a gap between the services and the youth that need to be serviced. Mrs. Caldwell urged that the committee is working to help close that gap by bringing all stakeholders around the table to collaborate resources. Donett Green of DCPD invited everyone to attend the Youth Conference on May 17th. Chike Uzoka is a member of the Essex County WDB, Great Newark Enterprises and founder of a for-profit organization formulated to provide entrepreneurial opportunities for youth. Mrs. Caldwell thanked Chike for engaging and inspiring Essex County youth on their last day of class. Elizabeth Davis of Essex County DVR works with disabled high school students who are transitioning into the workforce. Itunu Balogun of the East Orange Mayor's Office of Employment and Training informed the committee that her office services both adult and youth, but focuses on youth primarily in the summer months. She shared information about an upcoming HBCU College Tour and the Summer Youth Employment Kickoff. Mrs. Caldwell encouraged everyone to continue to share resources by bringing flyers. John Carter of the Office of Internal Audit in Trenton stated that he will be monitoring programs in East Orange to get ahead of federal audits. Tom Puryear of the NAACP of the Oranges and Maplewood shared information on upcoming scholarship opportunities. Shakema Pankey of Change Professional Development represents a program that offers workplace readiness, Microsoft Office certifications, entrepreneurial training and it is currently in the process of adding a cosmetology component. Sonja Williams, YIC Co-Chairperson and Coordinator of the Newark Youth One Stop Career Center (NYOSCC) spoke of the RFP programs which include construction and building trades, GED, patient care and work readiness. The NYOOSC has partnered with United Airlines who has committed to hiring 15 young people. This project is in the pre-screening phase which entails mock interviews, a dress for success model and work readiness. Ms. Williams relayed that the agency is doing a pilot program this year and participants will be mandated to complete 16 hours of work experience and 4 hours of work readiness. The program aims to aid the out-of- school youth population gain permanent job placement. This upcoming summer, the City of Newark aims to hire 3500 youth.

Sub-Committee Update- these committees meet between meetings

Readiness Credential- this sub-committee decided to hold off on moving forward until the state outlines the plan, yet they will continue to work with the Business and Economic Development Committee. Space has been designated and cleaned for a Dress for Success Initiative. Clothes

have already been donated. Funding is always one of the largest issues. Mrs. Caldwell urged that anyone with knowledge of funding opportunities.

Mentorship- the committee is in the process of revamping their recruitment effort to target WIOA eligible youth

Employment and Business Engagement- no one present to report out

Questions

A question was raised about how vendors are notified about RFP opportunities? Ms. Williams advised the RFP's are advertised in the newspaper or contact information can be forwarded to the Contracts Department.

The co-chairs stressed the importance of sharing information and bringing information and concerns to the table. Ms. Crawford urged everyone to leave their information if they have an interest in participating in the Parent Event on April 1st at the Robert Treat Hotel, starting at 9 am.

One of the committee members asked if the 3500 Newark summer youth being recruited for employment consisted of both in-school and out-of-school youth. Ms. Sonja expressed that the program targets in-school youth, but it could be open to the out-of-school population if they are short of the goal.

Upcoming Events

Ms. Caldwell announced that there is a Ribbon Cutting Event coming up on March 22nd for the Day Reporting Center, Youth Resource Center and the Juvenile Justice Commission. The County is hosting a vendors meeting on March 23rd at 2:30 pm to provide information on the changes with WIOA and answer questions.

Irvington is having Business Summit on March 11th from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

2016 Upcoming YIC Meeting Dates-

7/14/16 at 10 am

9/8/16 at 2:30 pm

11/30/16 at 10 am

Closing

Apryl thanked the committee for their commitment to the youth. A motion to adjourn the meeting is presented and moved. The meeting is adjourned.