



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

Thursday, July 14, 2016
50 S. Clinton Street, 5th Floor Conference Room
10 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Mary Alexander, Itunu Balogun, Kashonda Barnes, Kelli Bell-Taylor, Mariselis Bonilla, Lashonda Brownstone?, Apryl Caldwell, John Carter, Judith Celestin, Elizabeth Davis, Qonisha Earl, Keisha Flemming, Kirk Lew, Traymanesha Moore, Claudia Roberts, Pamela Ross, Sonja Williams

Welcome & Opening Remarks:

Apryl Caldwell- Co-Chairperson, YIC

Mrs. 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 was presented, seconded and approved.

Updates

Essex County is in the swing of new transition and the agency is adjusting to changes. The Essex County Youth Service Summit went well and was a great conversation starter. It brings a lot of good people to the table to discuss best practices, performance measures and provide helpful information. The most important part is that the youth were involved in the process. Mr. Lew communicated that if we are going to bring youth to the table, we must use their intelligence in a meaningful way. He added that we know what the issues are, but we need to know how do we get them to stay in programs and how do we recruit youth for training and employment opportunities.

According to Ms. Sonja Williams (Co-Chairperson), the Newark Youth One Stop is accepting online applications for Newark residents who are 14 to 24 years old. There is also a recruitment targeting high school seniors for the WIOA Work Readiness Program. College Internships are being offered year round and include supportive services and tutoring. RFP Programs are closing on June 30th. RFP's are available for pick-up at 500 Broad Street for those interested in providing classroom training.

Mrs. Caldwell advised that the RFP for Adult and Dislocated WIOA Programs will be out in the next few weeks. Once more detailed information becomes available, it will be shared with the committee. The County of Essex isn't having a summer program and the focus has shifted to out-of-school youth. In an effort to do what is most proficient for the client's career pathway, program participants are screened for eligibility in three components of the program (Adult, Dislocated Workers and Youth). Mrs. Caldwell added that money is attached to education to help provide incentives for students. Some of the incentives include:

Post-Secondary Certification- 50, Youth Program Orientation-250, Work Experience Training-100 weekly, Basic Skills- 75, Placement-50.

Apryl opens up meeting. Roundtable roll call conducted by group. Motion to approve, second and approve the minutes.

WIOA Program updates

Essex County One Stop

Kirk Lew SETC

Newark One Stop

Internships going on- Program started July 11th for hs graduates who didn't go to college. They are in a work readiness program. The RFPs came in and are currently being scored. The municipal summer program started last week.

Sub-Committee Updates

Work Readiness Credential- Apryl said that we should redirect our focus and table the credential. Kirk Lew said that there are some things that can be done:

-do we wait to see if the credential will be viable locally or attempt to get state guidance

NJBIA- work readiness, soft skills- they are looking to create

YIC Closet-the floor has been done; warm tones for paint and looking at donations and solicit donations. The name of the closet will be the YIC Closet. There are 14 program elements that must be procured. Entrepreneurial Training can be considered an element that has more flexibility.

What do we want our focus to be on as it pertains to business engagement?

-bring them in first and ask for feedback as far as what they are looking for in their businesses.

Suggestions to do a pilot with businesses. Propose a seminar with the Chamber of Commerce to explain WIOA and why we are asking them to be a part of the process. Apryl ask Kirk what is the expectation? The committee is looking at operational issues and how can the group come together to address these issues. There should be members here by giving businesses an opportunity to be a part of the solution.

Apryl and Sonja will work on the one pager to be distributed to employers and send it to committee members for feedback.

Mentorship- There hasn't been an update. The committee agreed that mentorship is important, but perhaps we can revisit the conversation. Mentoring can be done virtually through facetime, computer ect.

Next Steps

YIC Closet name

Business Engagement One pager

Looking for a new head for the Mentorship Sub-Committee

Send out acronyms

Services/ Resources

August 11th end of summer program for East Orange 10 am at Ciceley Tyson School in the auditorium

Family Support Org works w parents and caregivers of students w special needs. If anyone knows of parents who care for youth under 21. They work w parents in need of services. July 19th Conflict resolution workshop and 21st support group for parents of youth w Disabilities

26th Open Forum Parent Group

National Summer Learning Day- Promote summer learning day. It is being launched today. Newark Thrives is a new out of school network. They cover summer learning opp,

Detox and Sports programs was brought up by one of the youth present at the meeting. Any young person w substance abuse issues is eligible for the

Motion to adjourn.

Next Meeting is September 8th at 2:30pm.

Sub-Committee Updates

The Mentorship Sub-Committee

Makeba Green advised that the sub-committee has not met. Mrs. Caldwell solicited help from the group to assist Makeba in shifting the focus of the Mentorship Sub-Committee on participants who meet the new WIOA Eligibility Requirements that Kirk Lew outlined in a previous meeting. She encouraged everyone to become involved in this sub-committee.

Ms. Williams encouraged the leaders of each sub-committee to reach out to the members so that they could work towards the sub-committee goals via email or phone in instances where members are unable to meet in person.

Work Readiness Sub-Committee

Mrs. Earl advised that the committee wanted to put a hold on progress, yet have been moving forward with the YIC Closet. The committee is open to accepting donations for clothing and is in the process of choosing paint colors for the space.

Business Engagement Sub-Committee

Mrs. Caldwell advised that she would continue to attend the Joint Business & Economic Committee Meetings. She informed everyone that the chairperson of this sub-committee is unable to serve. She encouraged group members to help improve our business engagement by soliciting service providers and businesses to join the YIC.

Services/Resources

- The Youth Services Summit will be held June 23rd at 50 S. Clinton Street in East Orange. The purpose is to brainstorm decisions that impact youth by sharing information and leveraging our services.
- The launch of Girls on the Rise, an organization that promotes womanhood, entrepreneurship, health, and wellness will be held on June 25th. Stipends are available for program participants.
- The Stepping Up Conference will be held on May 18th from 9-3 pm at the Paul Robeson Sports Center.
- Tuesday, May 17th the Joint Newark and Essex County WDB Retreat will be held. Please RSVP as soon as possible. This retreat will help committee members gain a better understanding of the WDB, its stakeholders, strategic plan and the purpose of its committees and goals.
- Essex County Job Fair will be held on May 26th at Essex County College. There will be opportunities to be hired on the spot and the committee has run out of tables for employers.
- WIOA will be hosting a workshop for youth. The workshop involves vendors speaking to students about details of their program and they address student's questions. Mrs. Earl asked

anyone who is interested in obtaining more information about the training to see her after the meeting.

2016 Upcoming YIC Meeting Dates-

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, seconded and moved. The meeting is adjourned.