



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

Thursday, September 8, 2016  
50 S. Clinton Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
2:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

**Attendees:**

Mary Alexander, Kelli Bell-Taylor, Apryl Caldwell, Monica Colon, Elizabeth Davis, Qonisha Earl, Dorothy Edgerton, Keisha Flemming, Mien Patrick Mombo, M.A., Tom Puryear, Patricia Roberson, Pamela Ross, Larry Sermons, Shelton Thurman, Nicole Vasquez- Wise, Sonja Williams

**Welcome & Opening Remarks:**

**Apryl Caldwell- ECWDB**

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

**Program Updates**

**City of Newark- Youth Program - Sonja Williams**

The summer program is over and WIOA programs will be starting soon. Five RFP vendors have been selected; three of the programs target out-of-school youth and two target in-school youth. The agency is currently working on the GED and transitional programs designed to provide work experience and interviewing skills. The college program is offering tutoring services to participants as needed. Panasonic hired a few interns to stay on permanently. The upcoming GSETA conference will honor former RU Ready in-school program participant, Roxanne Hall, who is currently teaching.

**Essex County Youth Program Update- Apryl Caldwell**

Three RFP vendors have been selected to target the out-of-school youth population. In the past, the Essex County Youth Program offered a program orientation which lasted for four weeks. Since then, this program was contracted out through an outside vendor. The mentorship, basic skills and educational programs will also be contracted out. All classes will start up in 1<sup>st</sup> week in October. Essex County's Star Awardee came in through the Essex County Work Readiness Program and began to volunteer; she has been an intern for two years. Essex County is currently working on an OJT to bring her on as an Essex County employee.

Apryl asked everyone to review the handout and provide feedback. After review, group members made the following suggestions: to include a contact person and contact information including an email address on the one-pager, to incorporate a bullet point format in either pamphlet or flyer form and to add a component of how the YIC could be of benefit to the business community. It was also suggested to include information for businesses to be directed to the NWDB Website to serve as a resource of additional information about the YIC Committee.

### **Sub-Committee Updates**

YIC Closet- The floors are done and within the next week or so, it will be painted. NWDB and ECWDB are fully vested in hosting a ribbon cutting ceremony to open the closet which will provide work and interview attire for youth. Qonisha suggested that we all make donations from our closets to include but not be limited to shoes, accessories and even hygiene products. She stressed that all donated clothes should be clean. Apryl volunteered to donate a steamer. If anyone is interested in making a donation, Quo's contact info is 973-395-5936 /[qearl@dedte.essexcountynj.org](mailto:qearl@dedte.essexcountynj.org).

YIC Closet Members- Qonisha Earl and Judith Celestin

Mentorship- The group agreed that it would be best to put together a list of existing mentorship programs to include mentor and mentee criteria so that the group can build upon and collaborate with existing organizations. Keisha will put everything together to present to the committee at the next meeting.

Mentorship Members- Keisha Flemming, Tom Puryear, Nicole Vasquez-Wise, Shelton Thurman, Larry Sermon and Mary Alexander

Business Engagement- will work on the business brochure. Apryl advised that an email blast from Essex County's Employer Event can include the brochure and meeting dates. The contact database will be used for the blast.

Business Engagement Members- Monica Colon, Mary Alexander and Mien Mombo

Apryl passed out the final report for the WDB Retreat.

### **Upcoming Services/Resources-**

-The Essex County Resource Center is up and running. Out-of-school youth from ages 17-24 will be serviced on 3<sup>rd</sup> floor at 50 S. Clinton Street for GED, Basic Skills and ITA's.

-Amazon (looking to hire 400 people), Fed Ex and BJ's are also hiring.

Apryl thanked everyone for attendance. Meeting adjourned.

**Next YIC Meeting: Thursday, November 30, 2016 at 10 a.m.**