



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

Thursday, March 9, 2017
50 S. Clinton Street, 5th Floor Conference Room
10:00 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Mary Alexander, Itunu Balogun, Jasmyne Beckford, Mariselis Bonilla, Apryl Caldwell, Monica Colon, Qonisha Earl, Dorothy Edgerton, Keisha Flemming, Garret Harvest, Aziza Johnson, Mien Patrick Mombo, Sam Okparaeke, Jerry Prevete, Pamela Ross, Shelton Thurman, Chike Uzoka, Sonja Williams

Committee Business

WIOA Program Status Updates

Apryl (Co-Chair) advised that the Essex County Youth Program is continuously running its 4-week Youth Readiness Course. The program helps to give the youth direction in terms of college or trade school. The counselors are integrated to come up with individual plans for the participants. Once a month, usually during the first week of the course, Apryl goes to the class to engage with students. She thanked Chike for answering questions that two students had about entrepreneurship.

Sonja (Co-Chair) advised that orientation is held twice a week for participants. The out of school population is from age 16-24. She advised that the agency has been seeing parents encouraging their youth to drop out of high school to take for the GED because they feel that it is easier. There is also a 5 day- Professional Development Series is offered once a month and offering plethora of skills to help them be more marketable to employers. Upon completion of the training, participants receive a small stipend, a certificate of completion and a resume. The classroom training programs, which include the Continental Summer Assist and the Panasonic Programs. The college youth programs include about 20-30 college graduates who are assisted with employment. The certification process has started for the Newark Municipal Summer Program, which aims to put 3000 youth to work for Summer 2017. She advised that the program is still open for vendors.

Mr. Okparaeke thanked the co-chairs and committee members for their time and dedication. He expressed that the YIC has become one of the best committees of the Workforce Development Board. Sam also acknowledged Pennoni for its willingness to serve and assist the community. He stressed the importance of such partnerships. Jerry volunteered to speak with a participant that expressed an interest in engineering.

Apryl thanked Mr. Okparaeke for his continuous support of the committee, specifically the YIC Closet. She told committee members that she appreciates all their hard work and added that they make it easy to get the much-needed support.

Coach Carol advised that Essex County's (5-day) 4-week youth program targets youth from ages 16-24. Self-discovery, career development, job search assistance and education development using a holistic approach. The program offer wrap around services as students look to further their education. During the program, in-demand skills and jobs are examined to assist staff in providing coaching and support to students. Because the program is incentive based where students may earn up to \$300 for four weeks. If eligible, many students have access to a \$4500 stipend that will fund their career track through an ITA. The partnerships have grown over the years, ultimately providing more resources for the participant. Coach Carol invited everyone to tour the state of the art Youth Training Room. She and Apryl spoke about how well the program prepares the youth for the tough workforce.

YIC SUB-COMMITTEES

Business Engagement

An edited draft was distributed to committee members. The sub-committee members are looking into collaborating with the City of Newark's IT Department to create a domain where Newark and East Orange youth may submit resumes that are searchable by employers. Although the group thought it would be a great idea to start a YIC Facebook page, the question of who will maintain the page is a matter for further discussion. Apryl suggested that all correspondence for the committee should be sent to Kelli's email address. Sonja advised that Rigoberto Salas has contacted Seth from the IT Department, who advised that the domain project could be done.

Mentorship Sub-Committee

Apryl reported out on behalf of Keisha. She advised that she is still actively working and is soliciting assistance with the work of the subcommittee.

The YIC (Closet)

Qonisha advised that the group is in receipt of many donated items and the group is looking to increase their donations by collaborating with more agencies. A few of the items that were donated include lamps, fixtures, shoes, purses, hangers and gently used items from a cleaners that went out of business. Kwa shared a few of the youth's art pieces that will be on display in the YIC were created by the youth. The next step of the subcommittee is to create a design board. Kwa expressed that the group can benefit most by individuals volunteering to donate time. All décor items are graciously accepted at this time and everyone will be informed once The YIC is

able to accommodate clothing donations. Quo reported that one of the youth was able to benefit from by obtaining clothes for a job interview.

Apryl thanked the subcommittee and committee members for their input and hard work. She asked that committee members submit their contact information to be included in the YIC Directory.

Services and Resources-

A Construction Trade Recruitment is being held on March 17th through a partnership with L&M Development. The goal of this initiative is to assist L&M on their projects at Georgia King Village and 540 Broad Street, as well as to help assist individuals into union membership and apprenticeships. Interested individuals may be referred to 1008 Broad Street in Newark.

The City of East Orange College Intern Program is hosting a HBCU College Fair on Saturday, April 8th at Cicely Tyson School. Applications for the Summer Work Experience Program will also be available to East Orange residents.

Apryl thanked everyone for their commitment and encouraged the group's continued engagement. A motion to adjourn was moved and approved. Meeting was adjourned.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2017 at 2:30 p.m.