



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

Thursday, May 18, 2017
50 S. Clinton Street, 5th Floor Conference Room
2:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

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

Committee Business

WIOA Program Status Updates

Apryl (Co-Chair) gave a special thanks to Mr. Okparaeke who is present to answer sub-committee questions.

Sonja (Co-Chair) advised that RFP's are coming to an end. Programs are looking to be started in September. Orientation for college programs is coming up. June 2nd and July 7th. Looking to hire 3500 youth for the summer.

The city is working with NAN in the Cisco program

Apryl advised that Essex County's program targets youth from ages 17-24. They are working for RFP's for next year.

Youth Advocate Programs, Juan DeJesus

In charge of CRISP Program, which is mandated by the courts. It is tailored for youth in their home community. They attend work and school and are monitored 6 months to a year. Servicing 12 to 18 years old. There are 26 kids enrolled in CRISP.

OTARI is like a big brother/sister program for at risk youth. It isn't court ordered and youth can be referred by anyone. Advocates support youth 20 hours weekly. He mentioned that the re-entry

program is a great resource and he wanted to partner with partnering with the programs to serve as positive reinforcement for the youth. Individual service plans are also devised for each client.

YIC SUB-COMMITTEES

Business Engagement

Monica passed out the updated brochure. The freeholders, municipal council have been added to the back of the brochure. Grammatical errors. Contact person should be the supervisor of the program. Monica should be listed for Essex and Sonja should be contact for Newark. The purpose is to try to get businesses to hire the youth. Sam advised that the incentives should be clearly stated such as preparation and that being a by-product. Sam said that he is willing to assist in the language used in the brochure. Judith suggested that the brochure can be referred to the program to gain training. Sam advised that he committee should choose between the mission and vision.

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 paintings were a great donation to the YIC Closet. Friday, they set up the closet. They are looking for youth volunteers to help get the closet up to assist with separating, organizing, coding. The closet is in need of mens shoes, belts, cufflinks, ties, dress socks, blazers. The closet needs desks organizers to give the closet a business feel to it. Male bags, portfolios for resumes. Wednesday, May 31st and Friday June 9th about 9:30 a.m. Sam asked when do we think there can be a Grand Opening/ Ribbon Cutting ceremony so that he can advocate. The manicans cost 45 to 50 bucks each, Apryl and Sonja offered to pay for one. Come up with descriptions for positions within the recruitment process as a resume builder. Because it is in a controlled environment, it can be tailored for the need.

Services and Resources-

DVR will be hosting a transition fair in October. Looking for vendors and people to sit at the table to offer information. As more information is available, it will be shared. Still looking for a location to fit about 15 to 20 tables. Sam advised that she connect with Monica. Sonja recommended The Waterfront as a venue.

Apryl mentioned doing a think tank to help come up with creative ways of programming and recruitment.

Sam- incorporate technology into the committee to cater to what the kids want and need. Many of them are not conventional kids. There is a two month window to spend money on technology so that equipment can be ordered. Sam mentioned that the idea of a lounge was brought up where youth can congregate.

Sonja- must continue to find innovative ways to get youth to participate and stay engaged. Apryl thanked everyone for their commitment and encouraged the group's continued engagement. A motion to adjourn was moved and approved. Motion to approve minutes from the last meeting. Pam and Apryl seconded the meeting. The meeting was adjourned.