



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

Thursday, January 12, 2017
50 S. Clinton Street, 5th Floor Conference Room
2:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Kelli Bell-Taylor, Jasmyne Beckford, Apryl Caldwell, Demetrice Canty, Judith Celestin, Monica Colon, Wendy Cubano, Qonisha Earl, Dorothy Edgerton, Keisha Flemming, Mien Patrick Mombo, Tom Puryear, Lori Scott-Pickens, Shelton Thurman, Nicole Vasquez-Wise, Deb Warner, Sonja Williams

Welcome & Opening Remarks:

Apryl Caldwell (ECWDB) and Sonja Williams (NWDB)

Apryl Caldwell and Sonja Williams thanked everyone for being present. After the meeting attendees introduced themselves, a motion was presented to approve the minutes from the last meeting. The minutes were approved with one amendment. Qonisha advised that Dorothy Edgerton should be included among the YIC Closet Members.

Committee Business

WIOA Program Status Updates

Apryl (Co-Chair) advised that currently the Essex County Youth Program has continued the 4-week Youth Readiness Course. It is going well and the program is always seeking additional youth. The program includes GED, HS Equivalency Prep and can pay up to \$4500 towards an ITA to pay for a school in an in demand career. They have begun strategic planning and program framework. At the next meeting, everything will be outlined.

Sonja (Co-Chair) advised that on Jan 23rd there is a Professional Development Series Event. This program targets high school graduates who have finished high school, but do not want to get vocational training. It consists of a 5-day training with the Job Development Unit at the Newark Youth Department. Upon completion of the training, participants are sent out for a job. Some of the RFP's that are up and running include GED, JEC, In-School Rutgers and Youthbuild. The

Youth Summit will be in April. The department is seeking to meet with its providers to promote the programs and increase the number of youth serviced.

YIC SUB-COMMITTEES

Business Engagement

At the last meeting, the brochure draft was passed out for critique and review. Monica advised that a few people said that they would email ideas for the brochure, but she hasn't received any feedback yet. Her contact information is as follows: email- monica.colon@dol.nj.gov telephone- 973-395-8663. Ms. A's email is as follows: malexander@dedte.essexcounty.org. They would like to present the final draft at the March meeting and need input from committee members. Apryl advised that she has the list of employers and service providers and will turn it over to be presented with the brochure.

Mentorship Sub-Committee

Keisha advised that she would like to schedule a set date to meet with sub-committee members during the off months. She spoke with Demetrice and Coach Carol in regards to preparing youth for mentorship. Demetrice presented the idea of using fitness as a mentorship tool. The group is in discussion about hosting an event for mentors and mentees involving a panel and open forum. Sonja said that she could assist in the mentorship component. The group has decided to partner with established mentoring agencies that already exist. The committee is deciding whether to get involved in a particular program and to make recommendations to the programs.

The role of the YIC overall is to make recommendations to the city and county to help make the programs work. We can decide how we would like to volunteer our services.

{The YIC} Closet

Qonisha advised that they are working on bulleting their vision and goals for the closet so that it is clear what can be done in the space. Judith found magnets that hang from the ceiling for the curtains. They have accepted donations from organizations and stores for items such as curtains, hangers and shelving. They are also writing letters to companies to solicit more donations. They are looking to partner with the art program in Newark to showcase the pieces in The YIC. They also thought it would be a great idea to have the artists to showcase their artwork at the Grand Opening of The YIC. Qonisha expressed that the sub-committee is accepting donations and are in need of items like show racks, rugs, shelving. They welcome all colors. Qonisha and Judith thanked Apryl for bringing in a steamer.

Deb Warner joined The YIC sub-committee.

Apryl explained that she gave out the YIC Directory and YIC Acronyms. She asked anyone who's information hasn't been included in the directory to fill out the last page of the distributed form so that it may be included in the final draft at the next meeting.

Services and Resources-

Apryl reiterated that Essex County is seeking more participants ages 17-24. They can report to the 3rd floor and ask for Monica Colon, Dorothy Edgerton or Larry Sermon.

Tom Puryear advised the group of a Police Workshop on Saturday, January 14th from 12-2 pm at 103 Valley Street in South Orange at The First Baptist Church of South Orange.

Lori Scott-Pickens shared that Rutgers-Newark School of Criminal Justice is open to partnering with community based organizations. The Center for Law and Justice on New and Washington Streets is a resource for conferences free of charge. The faculty are an additional resource because there are individuals on staff who study various areas that concern youth. The school is also open to sponsoring, co-sponsoring and facilitate events such as police workshops.

Deb Warner spoke of her program called Boot Camp for Job Seekers. The program offers resume and soft skill development. The criteria for enrollment was 20 per day. They have combined job matching. 30% of students from 2014, still have those jobs. They are certified by the state to do site visits.

Jasmyne mentioned the Job Matching partnership through the Rutgers RU Ready Program. This pilot program is looking to match vetted students who have successfully completed the program and virtually introduce them to committed employers.

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