



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

Thursday, July 13, 2017
50 S. Clinton Street, 5th Floor Conference Room
10:00 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Mary Alexander, Jasmyne Beckford, Kelli Bell-Taylor, Mariselis Bonilla, Apryl Caldwell, Jean Carter, Judith Celestine, Qonisha Earl, Dorothy Edgerton, Mikki Fuller, Garret Harvest, Aziza Johnson, Andrew Nieves, Tom Puryear, Sonja Williams

Committee Business

Apryl and Sonja thanked everyone for attending the meeting. A roundtable rollcall is conducted. Apryl presented a motion to approve the minutes. The minutes were moved by Sonja and seconded by Ms. A.

WIOA Program Status Updates

Essex County extended the contract for its Work Readiness class to run through the summer. Counselors are being cross-trained in WIOA. A think tank will be put together to review current youth programs and forecasting for the year. The RFP's are being worked on for youth and adult RFP's. Apryl welcomed anyone who was interested in the review process to speak with her after the meeting. The agency is working on a small pilot program for transitional jobs which will start with about 10 youth. In this program, a counselor will identify any deficiencies that the youth may have and place the youth with an employer where they can gain that missing skill. This serves as a resume and skill builder to prepare them for OJT.

Newark's traditional youth program has started in which young people gain work readiness skills, classroom training and ITA's so that they can gain a credential and work experience. The City of Newark recently started the summer intern program in which about 2,000 city youth started working at various companies throughout the city. A determination has been made on the vendors chosen for the RFP and it must go before Newark Municipal Council for approval.

YIC SUB-COMMITTEES

Business Engagement

There are no current updates. Ms. A is open to continuing to head the brochure and she advised that she will look into what changes need to be made. Judith volunteered to help format the brochure.

Mentorship Sub-Committee

Ms. Flemming is in limbo with many of the agencies that she has partnered with. She is open to any suggestions on how to get agencies more involved. There will be a sub-committee meeting on August 17th at 11 a.m. at 50 S. Clinton Street. Keisha's contact information is Keisha.flemming@dol.nj.gov / 973-395-8556.

The YIC (Closet)

About nine students from Coach Carol's program were extremely excited about their contribution to the closet and they are anxious to come back to assist. Judith welcomed the donation of frames for donated student artwork to be displayed in the closet. The sub-committee is in need of full length mirrors, desk organizers, male shoes, ties, slacks, socks and cufflinks. Qwa elaborated that they wanted to incorporate the corporate and business look of the closet. They are looking for an October Grand Opening of the YIC Closet. Organizing will be done in the committee next Wednesday. Items may be dropped off at that time also. Apryl suggested that clothes may be donated to the youth center and she asked that any clothing items be clean since the agency doesn't have the capacity to clean them.

Apryl asked that everyone by providing support through feedback to those individuals who have committed to working on the sub-committees and projects. She congratulated everyone.

Services and Resources-

DVR is still looking for a location for the Transition Fair. Once they lock in a location, more details will be provided.

The ribbon cutting ceremony for the YIC will be in October. It will be a huge event in which organizations, businesses, chief elected officials will be invited.

Apryl communicated that youth are being affected by budget cuts and many people have been laid off from their positions. She stressed the importance of all agencies working together and collaborating resources. Apryl asked that any new information regarding sub-committees be sent to Kelli so that it can be sent out to the committee.

Sonja presented a motion to adjourn the meeting. Garry seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

