



**Joint Youth Investment Council/
Newark & ECWIB**
50 South Clinton Street, 4th Floor
East Orange, NJ 07018

Minutes : January 8, 2015

Alexander, Mary	DTE	Holman, Alicia	Youth Services Com Rep.
Billingsly, Jeff	Cobblestone Multimedia	Lew, Kirk	SETC
Celestin, Judith	ECC	Puryear, Tom	NAACP
Caldwell, Apryl	DEDTE	Schaeffer, Janine	ECWIB
Colon, Monica	Youth Coordinator	Therman, Shelton	EC Youth
Coreus, Carrel	DVRS	Uzoka, Chike	EC Youth
Davis, Elizabeth	DVRS	Viapree, Don	Cablevision
Earl, Qonisha	WIA Services	Williams, Sonja	Newark One-Stop Youth
Farquarson, Lincoln	Rutgers	Wilson, Shanequa	United Airlines

Apryl Caldwell opened the meeting with introductions.

Corrections to the minutes included the spelling of "Sonja", the inclusion of times of the meeting that are alternating between mornings (10:00AM) and afternoon (2:30PM) with the next meeting being at March 12th at 10AM, May 15th at 2:30pm, July 9th at 10AM, Sept. 10th at 2:30PM, Nov. 12th at 10AM. The minutes will be offered for approval at the next meeting.

WIOA

Kirk Lew stated that the biggest change with the new legislation is that there more of an emphasis on out-of-school youth which now will have to account for seventy-five (75%) percent of youth funds. There will be six performance measures that will be consistent across the board. Moving forward you will have to look at credential attainment.

Kirk stated that the regulations are due at the end of the month and they will come from the Federal government that tells us how the law should be implemented. The State will give guidance on how to implement at the local level.

Any services for youth must be competitively procured through an RFP process. There is a fifteen (15%) percent government reserve, which is reserved by the governor to be allotted based on a State-wide systemic youth initiative like Youth Corps. The young people have to meet certain income levels and have a barrier. There is also talk of a "high poverty zone/ area" which has yet to be defined. Also, if a youth has dropped out of school they are automatically eligible for services, so the income requirement has been waived for this group. The eligible age has been increased to twenty-four (24). There is a big focus looking at career pathways, Essex hosted a youth event last year specifically focusing on career pathways, so Essex is already doing this.

The legislation wants us to look at program design and add some elements into it. Education offered concurrently with workforce preparation, and apprenticeships. We are being asked to teach financial literacy, entrepreneurial

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skills training, and exploration of in demand industry sectors. Twenty (20%) percent of funds now must go to work experience whether paid or unpaid because the kids need a place to practice work skills. In the law it is no longer a requirement to have a youth investment council, however the SETC will mandate that there will be a YIC. So the SETC will create the plan and the NJLWD will implement and operationalize the plan.

Apryl stated that with the change in the legislation, they have decided to end the in-school youth program. She stated that most counties in NJ are eliminating the in-school youth program. As a consequence the out of school program will be expanded.

Newark stated that they went out for bid with an RFP and the program should start Feb 2nd. They are doing the 75/25% now. They have a music program that will be starting as well, which is outside the RFP process geared to out of school youth. As far as the in-school portion is concerned, they will be working with the eleventh and twelfth grade.

Outreach & Recruitment

Apryl asked the group to consider how they can support the WIB with a plan to increase outreach and recruitment and she asked for recommendations. Kirk stated that it is important to know what everyone else is doing. An important part is in marketing the programs and outreach to businesses. It is imperative that we meet the kids where they are. He thinks that social media will be an important element going forward.

Kirk told the group that their purpose is to look at the WIOA funds, so funneling kids into those programs are what specifically the YIC should be looking at. We should be triaging the kids so they are in the right program. You are going to be measured on placement and education in the second quarter post placement. And retention in the fourth quarter, earnings and attainment of a degree. Kirk stated that the performance measures will ultimately drive what your purpose is.

There was a discussion about how recruitment is currently being done, Sonja stated that Newark goes to the schools and in some cases visits the kid's houses in order to recruit for their out-of school program. Essex County is in a transition period and currently does not have a good method for recruiting out- of school kids. Shelton Therman stated that most of the students are basic skills deficient, even those with high school diplomas. Most of the kids are coming from Youth Build, because they are better prepared to enter the Essex County program. There are a number of issues as to why a student can't be placed. Kirk stated that the DVR model of job coaching that is done individually builds relationships, and that when staff is not working with the kids they are out promoting the program and talking to employers.

Deb Warner, educational consultant, who has a contract with East Orange, works with businesses and the surrounding community to place High School students. She worked with four hundred (400) contacts in order to get thirty (30) placements. The students go through a week long soft skill training in order to prepare the students for work environment. They had asked for six (6) weeks and about thirty-five (35%) percent are still employed.

Kirk asked Shelton how they find employment for the youth and Shelton responded that he uses the One-Stop services. Kirk stated the discussion for the YIC is should we RFP, hire staff, etc.

Apryl asked if anyone brought information to distribute in order to share their information. Mary Alexander was outlining the items that were distributed dealing with child support, and food stamps (SNAP). She stated that we can pass along her contact information to anyone who might fit the criteria for out of school youth and she will serve them. Apryl asked again to bring their information to the next meeting.

Next Meeting May 14th, 2015 2:30PM

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