



***Joint Newark & Essex County Workforce Development Board
Youth Investment Council Committee Meeting***
Wednesday, November 30, 2016
50 S. Clinton Street, 5th Floor Conference Room

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Mary Alexander, Itunu Balogun, Jasmyne Beckford, Kelli Bell-Taylor, Amina Bey, Apryl Caldwell, Demetrius Canty, Jean Carter, Monica Colon, Wendy Cubano, Elizabeth Davis, Qonisha Earl, Dorothy Edgerton, Keisha Flemming, Mien Patrick Mombo, Joy Olabegi, Tom Puryear, Patricia Roberson, Pamela Ross, Larry Sermons, Sabrina Sullivan, Shelton Thurman, Chike Uzoka, Carolyn Wallace, Nicole Vasquez- Wise, Sonja Williams

Welcome & Opening Remarks:

Apryl Caldwell- ECWDB

Apryl Caldwell thanked everyone for being present. After the meeting attendees introduced themselves, she made a motion to approve minutes from the last meeting. The minutes were approved.

Program Updates

Essex County Youth Program Update- Apryl Caldwell

Coach on Call has been contracted to provide in house work readiness. This 4-week program provides life and work readiness skills to act as a filtration system and guidance measure. Essex County has partnered with Youthbuild and they will be doing ABE, internship credit and mentoring for 50 students. The county continues its relationship with ECC for GED and basic skills. Numbers are still small, yet they are making progress.

City of Newark- Youth Program - Sonja Williams

The RFP programs have started. The agency has been working on innovative programs and contracted vendors to get more youth into career paths. The city is in the process of organizing a 5 Day Youth Workshop scheduled for January 2017. The workshop will include work readiness, resume writing and interviewing skills. The agency is also looking to have a Youth Summit in the Spring to bring out-of-school youth and vendors together.

Apryl expressed that the sub-committees help to keep up the momentum of the committee. The best way to ensure that the work of this committee is effective and meaningful is through the work of the sub-committees.

Sub-Committee Updates

Business Engagement- Ms. Alexander and Monica created a concept and started with artwork that was passed around to each meeting attendee. Ms. Alexander communicated that there is a need for a webpage connecting Newark and Essex County. She explained that the page should serve as a place where youth may post resumes, retrieve information on positive recruitments, learn of training programs, be advised of afterschool activities and be informed of any upcoming initiatives.

Wendy suggested that during employer engagement, we should think about some of the pragmatic issues and list them as bullet points on the flyer. She added that the points should include and identify what supports are being provided to young people and to the employer. She also informed the committee of a free probable resource offered through NJIT through the Capstone Program. Senior students create webpages and links based on an organization's needs. Chike suggested that an app can be developed and he could reach out to Professor Osama Elgabiri to find out if slots are available for the Spring semester. The downside would be that the project may not be done until April or May 2017. He also mentioned the Code for Newark Initiative at Audible twice a month on Wednesdays as an alternative to app assistance.

Amina expressed her excitement about the portal and app development and felt that it would serve the committee and community well. Apryl explained that this project would be a huge undertaking and would require additional resources and need an immense degree of commitment and input from YIC committee members. The group agreed to start the engagement initiative with a flyer and eventually move into having a portal created. Jasmyne mentioned that Rutgers Law School may be able to assist in managing the legal aspect of webpage and app creation once the group decides to move forward.

Amina said that she would commit the Newark IT Department to the project and get more individuals from the Newark One Stop involved in this committee. She also suggested that participants from the various programs within our network be pulled together to create a focus group of youth ages 14-24 to provide feedback. The following committee members volunteered to assist in this effort: ***Wendy Cubano, Pamela Ross, Mary Alexander, Amina Bey, Jasmyne Beckford, Apryl Caldwell, Sonja Williams, Chike Uzoka, Monica Colon and Joy Olabegi***

Business Engagement Members- Monica Colon, Mary Alexander and Mien Mombo

Mentorship- Keisha Flemming is leading charge for the Mentorship Sub-Committee. The sub-committee members opted to research and partner with organizations that currently work with children instead of reinventing the wheel. Keisha collaborated a listing of agencies in Essex County that service youth from ages 14-24. She mentioned that the only drawback with the Newark Mentoring Movement is that they only service Newark residents.

Mentorship Members- Keisha Flemming, Tom Puryear, Nicole Vasquez-Wise, Shelton Thurman, Larry Sermon, Demetrius Canty and Mary Alexander

YIC Closet- Qonisha advised that they had been unsuccessful at getting the wall painted in a “non-governmental color”. The alternative is to bring color into the space through canvas art and a colorful rug. Chike suggested that we can use the idea of an artsy and decorative competition to get youth vested. Apryl said that assistance will be needed to help with planning, organizing and managing day to day operations of the closet. Wendy suggested that we hook up with Jersey Cares and Home Depot to have them to donate materials. Carolyn Wallace said that she can provide labor assistance from her organization. Monica suggested Rutgers Arts students be contacted. Youth Investment Boutique and the YIC Closet were the names suggested for the closet.

YIC Closet Members- Qonisha Earl, Mary Alexander, Judith Celestin and Dorothy Edgerton

Events, Services and Resources-

Chike- UMDNJ/ Rutgers Medical- Saturday- December 10th where young men are at workshops on different topics. Ages 11-19 boys.

Joy- free uniform and bus card for CAN Academy

Coach Carol Lucas- young people looking for vocational training- Ages 17 to 24. Stipends and up to \$4500 in training are available for youth.

Orange NAACP- Dec 17th Youth Workshop about Black Lives Matter from 10 to noon at the Fellowship Center in East Orange- 1 Fellowship Circle in East Orange.

2017 YIC Committee Meeting Dates

The second Thursday of the month

1-12-2017 at 2:30 p.m.

3-9-2017 at 10 a.m.

5/11-2017 at 2:30 p.m.

7/13-2017 at 10 a.m.

9/14-2017 at 2:30 p.m.

11/30-2017 at 10 a.m.

Apryl presented a motion to agree to 2017 meeting dates. Dates were moved and approved. She thanked everyone for their commitment. Meeting is adjourned.

Next YIC Meeting: Thursday, January 12, 2017 at 2:30 p.m.