



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

Friday, December 8, 2017  
50 S. Clinton Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
10:00 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

**Attendees:**

Sonja Williams, Ida Chimbay, Jasmyne Beckford, Mikki Fuller, Gary Harvest, Itunu Balogun, Quonisha Earl, Quonisha Calendar, Raymond Joseph and Janae Jackson.

**Meeting Called to Order, Co-Chairperson, Sonja Williams**

Sonja introduced herself. A round table roll call of meeting attendees was completed.

Meeting attendees reviewed the minutes from the last meeting held in 9/14/17. Sonja presented a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. The minutes were approved Itunu Balogun and seconded by Mikki Fuller.

**2018 Goals, Co-Chairperson, Sonja Williams**

- Continue with 2017 goals as the committee lost members due to relocation, change in department and new employment
- Mentorship Programs; invite Big Brothers Big Sisters to one of our meetings
- Invite new members
- Retention of youth
- Obtain feedback from employers as to their needs and expectation when hiring our youth
- Work Readiness Credential; Jasmyne advised the Business and Economic Development have been working on establishing a Work Readiness Credential and getting it approved by the State which can be challenging because it's something a business must first accept

**YIC Closet, Interns: Quonisha Calendar, Raymond Joseph and Janay Jackson**

Quonisha advised she was in charge of dressing the mannequins and separating it by category and by size. She also advised larger sizes are needed as well as coats and sweaters.

Raymond advised he was in charge of the male clothes assorting, creating charts of the inventory and advised the lack of regular size clothing and the need of more dress shoes for men.

Janae advised she helps Quonisha and creates list of clothes by brand, size and color.

Ms. Earl advised the YIC Closet has serviced a few clients both male and female but, has not serviced a large population as the closet is still doing inventory in order to properly provide full outfits for interviews. She also advised male clothes, shoes and accessories are needed. She also advised the interns will do a spreadsheet to keep track of incoming and outgoing inventory. She advised a Grand Opening date sometime around April or May, however, it is not a definite.

### **Updates:**

**Newark Youth One-Stop Center-** Sonja advised their RFP process is completed. Currently in school and out of school programs available. Summer Youth Program is now available and applications are available online. Much success with Individual Training Agreement (ITA).

**Division of Vocational Rehabilitation-** Mikki advised Gary Havest and herself do information sessions in the evening with parents and students to inform them of WIOA and how it's changing for transition students. They've done workshops in a few high schools and intend on continuing with more workshops. Mikki advised WIOA brings change and how early counselors can engage the youth. DVR can be accessed as early as freshman in high school which will help retention and as they approach graduation they'll have a better idea of what they wish to pursue and have overall realistic goals. DVR has been trying to organize a fair, however, there is no type of funding available which does not discourage their goal. DVR may plan on hosting it at a school.

Gary advised starting January they will continue with additional workshops.

**Newark Workforce Development Board-** Jasmyne advised she's currently working on My Brother's Keeper which is not WIOA but, an Obama Foundation which will be hosting an event in February that will provide orientation/training, onsite resume assistance and assessment.

**East Orange Youth One-Stop Center** – Itunu advised they are prepping for their Summer Youth Programs which will launch in April 2018 in addition to HBCU Fair which provides college and post-secondary opportunities. In order to get an application, the individual must attend the April 2018 event. For the event they want to feature Step Shows featuring fraternity and sorority of the Divine Nine. Itunu did ask if anyone has any HBCU alumni contacts to please share the information so they can be reached out and hopefully come and represent their school. She advised last year's event was very successful with more than 800 attendees, multiple fraternities and sororities groups, 15 HBCU's representatives, local colleges and universities.

**East Orange Workforce Development Board-**Quonisha Earl advised December 14<sup>th</sup> they are having an Open House to promote WIOA's Youth Programs which will talk about the program and overall serve as an information session.

Quonisha Calendar advised she is currently in the process of taking the math portion of the TABE Test and suggests that a new version should be incorporated which will help our new generation as math is being taught differently.

Raymond suggested one-on-one counseling session that can help student alleviate their trauma as he finds one of the biggest issues he's seen and experienced.

Calendar matter was discussed and dates were chosen. Dates are as follows: 1/11, 3/8, 5/10, 7/12, 9/13 and 11/30. Same location and time alternates. Vote was made by Quonisha and seconded by Itunu in regards to the calendar. Meeting adjourned by Sonja.