



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

Thursday, May 09, 2019
50 S. Clinton Street, 5th Floor Conference Room
10:00 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Mary Alexander, Jasmyne Beckford, Kelli Bell-Taylor, Kimia Butler, Apryl Caldwell, Judith Celstin, Wendy Cubano, Qonisha Dasent, Elizabeth Mclily, Sonja Williams., Larry Sermons.

Welcome and Opening Remarks:

Apryl Caldwell (Manager, W.I.O.A Services Essex County One-Stop/ECWDB Co-Chair) and Jasmyne Beckford (Special Project Coordinator Newark Workforce Development Board (NWDB)/ NWDB Co-Chair) thanked everyone for being present. After the meeting attendees introduced themselves, a motion was presented to approve the minutes from the last meeting. The meeting minutes were approved.

Committee Business

Apryl Caldwell asked the committee members if they would like to tackle policy and best practices for our local areas. Addressing issues as outlined in the last meeting around mental health, pathways, and education/literacy. How we can leverage the workforce development boards to go to the State to push for policy changes around youth programs. How we as a committee could tackle credentials that support the needs of youth in our region. If Newark and Essex can show what the needs are in their local areas changes can potentially be made throughout the state.

Jasmyne Beckford informed the committee that Assistant Director Dr. Yolanda Allen from the Office of Youth Programs New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development explained to the committee that providing statistical support to help in efforts to make policy changes around Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and programs. How the committee could push the Workforce Development Boards to utilize their resources with North Jersey Partners, Garden State Employment and Training (GSETA), and the State Employment and Training Commission (SETC).

Judith Celestin (Essex County College) encouraged the committee to utilize vendors as a body of partners to help push changes in building pathways for youth programs and development. Apryl

stated that W.I.O.A regulations are not affected by asking for vendor's opinions about regulations concerning WIOA. She expressed that North Jersey Partners would serve as a body of Workforce Boards that could advocate to the State.

Sonja Williams (Newark Youth Supervisor) stated that the Newark Youth office is meeting completion benchmarks but not attaining the credential. This is an issue that we need to address head on; to insure that our local areas are getting credit for helping the youth at the level at which they are being served. It is difficult to successfully get a credential when WIOA requires that the youth not only maintain employment but receive a credential which all training programs do not offer. Wendy inquired about resources provided to the one-stops for post program articulation check-ins. It was stated that AOSOS and outreach by counselors are the tools utilized by the One-Stops for continued check ins.

The committee agreed that they would like to tackle policy issues, and develop programs and initiatives that serve youth in our area.

YIC Closet

Qonisha Dasent (Assistant to WIOA Manager- Apryl Caldwell) made the committee aware of the donations provided by the Newark Workforce Development Board including hangers, pop up dressing rooms, and drawers for storage. She reiterated the need for assistance to run the closet on a more regular basis is still needed. Sonja Williams stated that she would need the job description and schedule to cover the YIC closet to provide a youth intern for the summer. Wendy Cubano (Program Director Americorp, The Salvation Army) informed the committee that there are grant opportunities that would support a youth worker out of the YIC Closet as a form of employment. Wendy stated that she would work with Apryl to apply for the grant opportunity. Jasmyne suggested as a committee that we will work to apply for future grant and foundation opportunities as a committee.

Qonisha stated that the YIC Closet is in need of toiletries for the youth. Wendy Cubano informed the committee that GOOD360.org helps non-profits by providing them with clothing and toiletry items at a discounted rate. Jasmyne informed the committee that the Newark Workforce Development Board will look into signing up since we are a 501c3 organization.

Apryl and Jasmyne agreed that there is no longer a need for a YIC Closet grand opening as it has been running for a long time. That it would be more fitting to do a clothing drive around the holidays and a spring cleaning event. The committee agreed and discussed potentially looking into more resources and grant opportunities to help with resources for the closet.

Elizabeth McLilly (Manager, Division of Vocational Rehab) asked if the time for the YIC meeting could be held in the morning on an ongoing basis. Jasmyne asked the committee about their feelings around the time of the meeting. The committee members stated they would want to put it up for a vote when a larger percentage of committee members are present. Apryl and Jasmyne both agreed with committee and stated it will be up for a vote at an upcoming meeting.

Resources Sharing/Programs

Apryl Caldwell stated that Essex County Summer Youth program is currently accepting youth for summer employment opportunities as well. That the parents of these youth can currently receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; as well as individuals living in impoverished zip codes per the NJ poverty guidelines.

Adjournment