



Youth Advisory Committee Meeting

Tuesday, February 2, 2016 9:00am

Present: David Blevins, John Carter, Candace Crane, Charles Hager, Bertalan Kormann, Ushindi Lewis, Dawn Lystad, Thomas O'Connor, Evelyn Rosa, Naomi Vliet

Staff: Kevin Kurdziel, Nina Rios-Rivera, Jody Bramson, Rick DeJesus, Janice Alexander, Nicole Montero

Approval of minutes from the November 10, 2015 Meeting

Dawn Lystad motioned to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2015 YAC meeting as distributed previously by email and Evelyn Rosa seconded. The vote was called and the motion passed to approve the minutes as written.

Status of WIOA Transition

Youth Transition Plan

The WIOA Youth transition report was due to the state on January 25, 2016. A copy of the Middlesex County Youth Transition Plan was handed out. Ms. Bramson stated that 20% of the youth funds have to be used on work experience. WIOA, is heavily focused on youth/young adults that are in need of a high school equivalency diploma.

Worksites

The Middlesex County Office of Workforce Development (MCOWD) - Youth Department needs to find employers who are willing to be worksites for the youth participants as well as those who can offer possibilities of permanent employment at the end of the program. Mr. Charles Hager from MC Family Court stated the youth department could use his department as a worksite.

YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Expansion of Roles of Committee Members in WIOA

WIOA doesn't mandate a Youth Investment Council (YIC) but Middlesex will be keeping the committee. WIOA has renamed the YIC (Youth Investment Council) to YAC (Youth Advisory Committee). The Committee is seeking more employers and business representatives, to join. Public and nonprofit agencies, public schools, and banks will also make up the committee. Ms. Bramson asked the YAC members to recommend employers who might be willing to become members of the Youth Advisory Committee. Kevin

Kurdziel, the Director of Middlesex County Office of Workforce Development, stated that it is not mandated under the federal government, but under state laws, it is.

Environmental Scanning

Ms. Bramson asked the YAC members for an updated list of all the services their community/towns offer.

Transportation Issues

Mr. Kurdziel reported that the Youth Department had been using a state shuttle for several years and since the service have not been procured in quite a while, the service have to go for bid. The Middlesex County purchasing department mandates that the county vendors have to be used for purchase – e.g. vendors Home Depot in Keyport, and the Army and Navy stores to buy uniforms from. He also reported that transportation issues should be resolved in 60 or 90 days.

Industry Tours

The Youth Department had four Industry Tours in PY14/15. The first Industry Tour for PY 15/16 was on November 5, 2015 at Rutgers. The tour was very successful. The next Industry Tour will be held at the Carpenters Union in Kenilworth.

Audit Results

Ms. Bramson reported that we did well on the State audit that focuses on compliance and case management conducted in December.

Status of Programs

<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>MCC</u>	
<u>Work Readiness</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>Perth Amboy HSE</u>	<u>29</u>
<u>Edison HSE</u>	<u>24</u>
<u>Youth One Stop</u>	
<u>Perth Amboy</u>	<u>25</u>
<u>New Brunswick</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>REFERRED</u>
<u>Worksite</u>	<u>4</u>

Worksite Report

Ricky DeJesus, the Youth One Stop Coordinator, reported that the Youth Department needs employers and asked the YAC members if they had any recommendations for any employers that the youth department could use as a worksite. Ms. Bramson reported that participants who finished their ITA were placed at a worksite for 90 days and will receive \$9.00 per hour wages. If the employer decides to hire the participant at the end of the program, the employer will be reimbursed for three months' worth of wages. Middlesex County College will start offering worksites to their students.

New Business

The Youth Program name was changed to Entry Level Internships, Training, and Employment (ELITE).

Ms. Bramson reported that 27 students have passed the HSE examination. The Youth Program is planning a graduation to be held in May, 2016.

The Youth program is serving 110 participants. The overall goal for enrollment this year is to serve 135 participants.

The New Brunswick and Perth Amboy Youth One Stops have merged. The office is currently located at 161 New Brunswick Avenue in Perth Amboy. Juan DeJesus (Rick) has relocated to that office. Rick, will start doing out-reach recruitments.

Ms. Bramson reported from June 30, 2015 to present, 111 students dropped out of school according to reports received from the school district.

The Youth staff will be attending the Middlesex County Aging Out Youth Conference on May 6, 2016 and will set up a table and hand out information about the Youth Programs and services.

Mr. Kurdziel reported that the SETC voted to designate WDB regions and Middlesex County is part of the Central Region along with Mercer, Monmouth, and Ocean Counties. Regional designations will provide opportunities to work together on a lot of different areas with our WDB regional partners.

Mr. Kurdziel reported that starting in July, the SETC is requiring that each Workforce Development Board have four designated staff members. Middlesex currently have three, the Director, the Deputy Director and one support staff member. A Policy Analyst position will be added to comply.

Mr. Kurdziel also reported that a letter was submitted to SETC requesting that Middlesex County be designated as a Local Workforce Area.

Every two years the Workforce Development Board has to be recertified and everything has to be submitted to the state by May, 2016.

Jody Bramson adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting of the Youth Advisory Council is Tuesday, May 10, 2016.