



Workforce Development Board
County of Middlesex

Youth Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday, August 1, 2017 9:30am

Present: Ingrid Castanos-Beaton, Candace Crane, Sherri Goldberg, Charles Hager, Gabriel Lavigne, Ushindi Lewis, Dawn Lystad, Jose Montes, Evelyn Rosa, Naomi Vliet, Lana Whitehead, Mark Merris, Atiba Page, Liza Beauchamp, Debbie Patterson, Sergio Corvil, Sereena Singh

Staff: Sandra Ciccone, Rick DeJesus, Janice Alexander, Nicole Montero, Shamara Gatling-Davila

I. Welcome and Introductions of Committee Members

Gabriel Lavigne, Chairperson for the Youth Advisory Committee, began the meeting with the introduction of all present members and guests.

II. Approval of Minutes

Jose Montes motioned to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2017 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.

III. Update of MCOWD Entry Level Internship Training & Employment (E.L.I.T.E)

➤ **Statistics for the current Program Year**

- From June 30, 2016 to present, the youth program has served 171 participants.
- In 2016 program year 28 participants obtained their HSE diploma; since the beginning of program year 2017- 2018; 2 more participants obtained their HSE.
- A copy of the Youth MCOWD Program was handed out.

➤ **Industry Tours**

- Rutgers University on November 15, 2016.
- The Carpenters Union in Kenilworth on November 29, 2016.
- Sunny Delight Beverages Co in Dayton on March 23, 2017.

Program Year 2017 Budget

- Youth funding was cut 20.6 percent for program year 2017 - 2018.

IV. Policy Resolutions

- The youth department is no longer providing participants with bus passes.
- Work Experience hourly wage will be increased to \$12.00 dollars per hour.
- A copy of the Policy Resolution was handed out.

V. Guest Speakers

➤ Lana Whitehead, Sharpened Mindz

- Sharpened Mindz is a professional coaching and mentoring service provider located in Perth Amboy, NJ.
- Family support organization.
- Partner with Smarties Candies.
- WVU Sports Management program.
- Life skills workshops.

➤ Liza Beauchamp, New Brunswick Adult Learning Center

- HSE
- Literacy/Basic Skills.
- Citizenship Classes.
- English as Second Language (ESL)
- Certified testing site for HSE.
- Creating Alternative Route to Education Success (C.A.R.E.S) is a high school program for eligible New Brunswick High School students.

➤ Ushindi Lewis, NJ Youth Corps of Middlesex County

- Is a year round voluntary program which serves participants between the ages of 16 – 25.
- Basic Skills
- Last year served 56 participants.
- 43 participants obtained their HSE
- Life and employment skills.
- Personal and career counseling
- Community services.

➤ Sherrie Goldberg, Jewish Renaissance Center

- Started a new program called Silver Linings Senior Resource.
- Jewish Renaissance Center has a Family Success Center.
- School Base Services program which is held at Perth Amboy High School.
- Step Up program for high risk youth.
- Started a new entrepreneurship program.
- Established a Community Health Center which is located in Edison, NJ.
- Has an AmeriCorps Program.
- Became a Baby Box distributor.
- Civil Justice Corps (CJC) name was changed to Alternative Education Institute.
- Jewish Renaissance Foundation was approved to become a certified testing site for HSE.
- Four months' program which serves participants between the ages of 16 – 26.

VII. Committee updates

- Affinity Federal Credit Union oversees the Financial Literacy curriculum for the Youth program.
- The youth staff attended Family Day in Perth Amboy and handed out information about the WIOA Youth Program and services.
- The youth staff attended Career Day at Middlesex County Vocational and Technical School in Piscataway and in East Brunswick, NJ.
- The HSE graduation will be on August 16, 2017 which will be held at Middlesex County College in West Hall.
- Ms. Ciccone attended the Parent of Offender Presentation at Family Court in New Brunswick, NJ.
- Ms. Ciccone attended the Expungement Series in Perth Amboy, NJ.
- Stouts Transportation was awarded the youth transportation contract for program year 2017 – 2018.
- Middlesex County College was awarded the HSE contract for program year 2017 – 2018.

Ms. Ciccone reported two success stories of participants in the Youth program:

- One participant who was placed on a worksite as a mechanic's helper was hired at the end; he is now enrolled in an ITA.
- A participant who was placed on a worksite as a Legal Secretary Assistant was hired at the end.

VIII. Committee Brainstorming

- The YAC members were asked for recommendations and or referrals for any Municipalities that would be willing to offer worksites.

Gabriel A. Lavigne adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting of the Youth Advisory Council is Tuesday, November 14, 2017.