



Workforce Development Board
County of Middlesex

Youth Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 2, 2017 9:00am

Present: Lauren Balkan, Charoulla Castanos-Beaton, Ingrid Coutinho, Sherri Goldberg, Gabriel Lavigne, Ushindi Lewis, Dawn Lystad, Jose Montes, Evelyn Rosa, Naomi Vliet, Earl Wiggle, Sergio Corvil, Thomas Crane, Meredith Mason-Blount, Zachary Taylor, Marge Drozd, Lana Whitehead

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

Naomi Vliet motioned to approve the minutes of the February 7, 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**

Ms. Ciccone reported that from June 30, 2016 to present, the youth program has served 145 participants. 22 participants received their HSE diploma. A copy of the Youth MCOWD Program was handed out.

➤ **Industry Tours**

Three industry tours have been completed for program year 2016 - 2017. The first Industry Tour was on November 15, 2016 at Rutgers University and the second Industry Tour was on November 29, 2016 at the Carpenters Union in Kenilworth. The third Industry Tour was on March 23, 2017 at Sunny Delight Beverages Co in Dayton. All three tours were very successful. The last Industry Tour will be a visit to Pepsi.

IV. Resolution 2017-02 Youth Requiring Additional Assistance

Mr. Lavigne reported that under WIOA, for a youth to be eligible for the program the youth has to be low income and have one of the following criteria:

- Has been referred to or is being treated for a substance abuse related problem
- Is or has been involved in gang related activities
- Did not pass the state proficiency exam

- Does not have access to adequate public transportation to and from work/school
- Has inadequate or no work experience
- Lacks marketable occupational skills
- Is being served, or has been served by the Department of Children and Families (DCF)
- Has never held a full time job for more than 13 consecutive weeks
- Has a family history of chronic unemployment
- Child of an Incarcerated Parent
- Child of a Veteran
- Lives in a High Poverty Area
- Child and/or recipient of recurring Public Assistance

A copy of Policy Resolution was handed out

V. St. Peter's University Hospital-Community Health Needs Assessment and the Community Health Improvement Plan

Zachary Taylor, Chip Coordinator from St. Peter's University Hospital reported the purpose of Community Health Needs Assessment is to identify health issues affecting Middlesex County residents. A copy of Saint Peter's University Hospital flyer was handed out.

VI. Helping Young Adults (Ages 16-24)

Ingrid Countinho, from Edison Job Corps reported for a youth to be eligible for the program the youth has to be between the ages of 16 – 24, low income, can't have any felonies, and must be drug free. Ms. Countinho reported Job Corp offers Vocational Technical training and also helps participants to obtain their HSE if they don't already have one. Job Corps main goal is to help the participants receive the skills they need to become employed. Job Corps will have a Networking Luncheon on June 1, 2017.

VII. Committee updates

Mr. Kurdziel reported the Federal budget has been resolved temporarily through September, 2017. The WIOA federal funding will remain flat for this program year.

Mr. Kurdziel reported he is in the process of establishing an architectural apprenticeship program with the county jail.

Ms. Ciccone reported Middlesex County is rebranding their logo and the youth department will have a new youth flyer.

Ms. Ciccone reported the youth department has established a Work Experience worksite with Raritan Bay Medical Center.

Ms. Ciccone asked the YAC members for recommendations and/or referrals for any employers that would be willing to offer worksites.

Ms. Ciccone will be attending the Prisoner Reentry Services Seminar on May 16, 2017.

Ms. Ciccone reported she met with Diane Roman who will start an Expungement Series in Perth Amboy. There will be three sessions. The first session will be held on May 23, 2017, the second will be in June and the last session will be held in July.

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

- One participant who was placed on a worksite as a mechanics helper was hired at the end; he is now enrolled in an ITA.
- A participant who completed the CDL A&B Tractor Trailer program was hired at Ideal Driving School as an instructor.

Ms. Ciccone reported the Youth Department finished the RFP for program year 2017 - 2018.

Mr. Lavigne reported that the Workforce Development Board is in the process of establishing a Marketing Committee.

Mr. Lavigne reported that the Middlesex County Workforce Development Board approved funding to assist businesses with incumbent worker training.

The Office of Workforce Development has established a contact with Sunny Delight Beverages, and due to the approval of the incumbent worker training funding, 100 Sunny Delight Employees are receiving their Six Sigma training. Mr. Lavigne reported Middlesex County Office of Workforce Development is the first county in the state to start incumbent worker training.

Mr. Lavigne reported next week he and Ms. Ciccone will be looking at the attendance of the past three meetings and will be sending out a general email to the YAC committee to inquire if the YAC member would like to continue their membership on the committee.

Lana Whitehead, from Sharpened Mindz reported Sharpened Mindz will be sponsoring an event called Community Resources at the New Brunswick Library on June 10, 2017. Sharpened Mindz is a professional coaching and mentoring service provider located in Perth Amboy, NJ.

Sherri Goldberg, from Jewish Renaissance Foundation, reported the Civil Justice Corps (CJC) name was changed to Alternative Education Institute. Ms. Goldberg reported they also became a certified testing site for HSE and will start testing at the end of May. The Jewish Renaissance Foundation also started an entrepreneurship program. They are recruiting both high school and out of school students in Perth Amboy to team up with local businesses to provide services and to start their own businesses as consultants and/or provide assistance with social media. Jewish Renaissance also became a Baby Box distributor.

Ms. Ciccone reported the Youth Program is planning a graduation for August which will be held at Middlesex County College.

Marge Drozd, from Saint Peter's University Hospital reported Saint Peter's University Hospital will be at Sacred Heart Church on May 7, 2017 from 11:00am – 2:00pm. Blood pressure and blood sugar screening, body mass index, and nutrition counseling will be done by Saint Peter's RN and

RP staff. Ms. Drozd reported her staff will also be performing derma scan for sun safety and will be supplying giveaways. Financial counselors will be on site to enlist people into different insurances.

VIII. Committee Brainstorming

➤ **Assistance with Child Care and Housing**

Ms. Ciccone asked the YAC members for recommendations on how much money the youth program should give the participants towards child care and housing.

➤ **Work Experience Stipend**

Ms. Ciccone asked the Youth Advisory Committee if the youth program should raise the participants work experience stipend to \$10.00 dollars per hour.

IX. Other/Future Business

Dawn Lystad, from Middlesex County Vocational and Technical Schools suggested the Youth Advisory Committee meeting start at 9:30am instead of 9:00am. The question was put to a vote, and the proposal was approved unanimously to change the YAC meeting start time to 9:30am.

Gabriel A. Lavigne adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting of the Youth Advisory Council is Tuesday, August 1, 2017