



Workforce Development Board
County of Middlesex

Youth Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday, November 14, 2017 9:30am

Present: Lisa Alexander, Candace Crane, Sherri Goldberg, Gabriel Lavigne, Dawn Lystad, Meredith Masin-Blount, Tracey Montani, Jose Montes, Debra Patterson, Evelyn Rosa, Sabrina Sullivan, Naomi Vliet, Earl Wiggley

Staff: Sandra Ciccone, Janice Alexander, Nicole Montero

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

Evelyn Rosa motioned to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2017 YAC meeting as distributed previously by email and Naomi Vliet 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**

- As of October 31, 2017 there was 46 new participants and 57 new enrollments in the youth program.
- 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.
- Silver Line by Andersen Windows on October 30, 2017.
- The next industry tour will be held at Pepsi in Piscataway on December 7, 2017.

IV. Guest Speakers

➤ **Elba Hinstroza, Coordinated Family Care**

- Provides child guidance, options, and assistance to families who live in Middlesex County.

- Service's youth between the ages of 5 – 21 with behavioral, social, emotional, mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse.
 - Perform Care has to refer the youth to the program.
 - No eject/no reject policy.
 - Has over 1,000 youth currently enrolled in the program.
 - Partner with DCPC.
 - Wraparound approach.
 - Create Crisis Plans.
 - Developing Individualized Service Plans (ISP).
 - On call 24 hours/7 days a week.
- **Anarai Meza, Family Support Organization of Middlesex County**
- Family Support Organization of Middlesex County is located in Edison, NJ.
 - Provides support to families with youth between the ages of 13 - 21 with behavioral, emotional challenges, and developmental disabilities.
 - Between 19 - 23 youth are enrolled in the program.

VII. Committee updates

- HSE graduation was held on August 16, 2017 at Middlesex County College in West Hall.
- Affinity Federal Credit Union oversees the Financial Literacy curriculum for the Youth program.
- Every six weeks the youth staff attends the Parent of Offender at Family Court in New Brunswick, NJ.
- The youth staff attended a Job Fair in Old Bridge and handed out information about the WIOA Youth Program and services.
- The youth staff attended an event held by Middlesex County Regional Chamber of Commerce and handed out information about the WIOA Youth Program and services.
- The youth department has established a Work Experience worksite with the Perth Amboy Police Department.
- Middlesex County Office of Workforce Development now offers Skills UP Middlesex.
- Street Smart outreach program serves participants between the ages of 13 – 21.
- Elijah's Promise held an event called Race Against Hunger on November 11, 2017.
- East Brunswick Youth Council is offering to volunteer their serve to organizations.
- Middlesex County College is offering free HSE and ESL classes.
- The State Theatre is now offering autism friendly performances.
- Gabriel Lavigne asked the YAC members for recommendations and/or referrals for any organizations who have outreach program funding for autism.
- Jewish Renaissance Foundation held an event called Trunk or Treat in October, 2017.

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

- One participant who was placed on a worksite as a mechanic's helper was hired as a seasonal employee pending his Credential; 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.

- A participant who obtained his HSE was placed on a worksite at Middlesex County College as a teacher assistant was hired part time as a High School Equivalency (HSE) tutor making \$18.00 dollars an hour.
- Another participant who attained his Electrical credential was hired as an Electrician's Assistant making \$16.25 an hour.

Gabriel A. Lavigne adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting of the Youth Advisory Council is Tuesday March 27, 2018