



Workforce Development Board
County of Middlesex

Youth Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday, June 26, 2018 9:30am

Present: Candace Crane, Donna Horan, Steve Jobin, Gabriel Lavigne, Bill Lillis, Anarai Meza, Yvette Molina, Debra Patterson, Jessica Pultro, Evelyn Rosa, Pearl Thompson, Naomi Vliet, Donna Horan

Staff: Sandra Ciccone, Janice Alexander, Ricky DeJesus, Latoya Perry

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 November 14, 2017 YAC meeting as distributed previously by email and Jessica Pultro seconded. The vote was called and the motion passed to approve the minutes as written. Naomi Vliet and Candace Crane abstained from voting.

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

➤ **Statistics for the current Program Year**

- As of May 31, 2018 there were 108 new participants and 133 new enrollments in the youth program.
- A copy of the Youth MCOWD monthly Program statistics was handed out.
- Latoya Perry is the new Youth Job Developer for WIOA Youth Program.
- The youth department has established Work Experience worksites with Farmers Insurance, Port Jersey Logistics, AvTech, and Tektaurus.
- 20% of the youth funds have to be used on work experience.
- Every six weeks the youth staff attends the Parent of Offender Presentation at Family Court in New Brunswick, NJ.
- The youth staff attended the following job fairs and handed out information about the WIOA Youth Program and services:
 - Coming Home in Service
 - Assemblyman Danielsen Annual Job Fair in Somerset, NJ
 - Metuchen High School Career Day
 - Hackensack/JFK Career Day
 - MCVTS Piscataway Career Day
 - Construction Industry Career Day
 - Career Fair at Sayreville Public Library
 - Business Summit on Disability Awareness
- The Youth RFP for program year 2018 – 2019 has been released.

- HSE graduation will be held on July 25, 2018 at Middlesex County College in West Hall.
- The YAC members were asked for recommendations for any employers that would be willing to offer worksites.
- SkillUp™ Middlesex – Middlesex County is offering over 4,500 courses through a free online learning platform. Register at www.middlesexcountynj.gov. Search “SkillUp™ Middlesex.”
- Ms. Ciccone reported three success stories of participants in the Youth program:
 - A participant who obtained her HSE in April was placed at a worksite at Middlesex County College as a Teacher Assistant.
 - A participant who completed her Dental Assisting program was placed at a worksite at Perth Amboy Pediatric Dentistry & Orthodontics and was hired part time. She attained her Infection Control credential.
 - A participant who completed her Dental Assisting program was hired at a Dentist Office located in Somerset, NJ.

IV. Guest Speakers

- **Bill Lillis, Partnership for a Drug Free NJ**
 - Is a not for profit 501(c)(3) corporation whose main goal is prevention of substance abuse. It does this by offering free school-based programs such as: 3rd grade contract for a Healthy Life; students and their parents sign a contract to live a healthy life, free of substance abuse.
 - 4th grade folder contest; artwork contest in which children unleash their creative ideas of fun things to do instead of drugs.
 - 5th grade parent alert; a guide packed with crucial facts and resources for parents to help them talk to their children about the dangers of substance abuse.
 - Middle School PSA Challenge; students create a 30 second PSA (Public Service Announcement) with a peer to peer prevention message.
 - Parents Education Program.
 - Media Campaign.
 - NJ Shout Down Drug; high school students create music containing powerful prevention messages for their peers.
 - Drugs free work place; assists business owners and public sector employers to establish a drug free workplace policy.

VII. Committee Member Announcements/Updates

- Middlesex County Family Support Organization will be sponsoring an event called Self advocacy on July 10, 2018 from 6:00pm – 8:00pm at 1 Ethel Road, Edison, NJ
- Middlesex County Family Support Organization will be sponsoring an event on July 12, 2018 called Family Picnic from 1:00pm – 3:00pm at Babbage Park in North Brunswick, NJ
- Middlesex County Family Support Organization will be sponsoring a workshop presented by The Arc of New Jersey on July 17, 2018 from 10:00am – 11:30am at Green Way Family Success Center.
- Middlesex County Family Support Organization will be sponsoring an event called Self Advocacy on July 10, 2018 from 6:00pm – 9:00pm at 1 Ethel Road, Edison, NJ.

- Elijah's Promise will start a new Prep and Line Cook training program in September. The program length is for two months and will be held at night Monday – Friday from 5:30pm – 10:30pm.
- Middlesex County College located in New Brunswick, NJ is offering a free summer program called High School Summer Institute (HSSI) for high school students who reside in New Brunswick, NJ. The program starts on July 2, 2018. Monday – Friday from 9:00am – 1:00pm.
- The Youth Advisory Committee came up with 3 areas they would like to see emphasis placed upon for PY 18. They are: transportation, homelessness, and mental health.

Gabriel A. Lavigne adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting of the Youth Advisory Council is Tuesday September 25, 2018.