



Workforce Development Board  
County of Middlesex

**Youth Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 27, 2018 9:30am**

**Present:** Lian Farrer, Sherri Goldberg, Gabriel Lavigne, Stuart Grant, Joseph Kriete, Ushindi Lewis, Dawn Lystad, Anarai Meza, Debra Patterson, Jessica Pultro, Evelyn Rosa,

**Staff:** Sandra Ciccone, Janice Alexander, Nicole Montero, Ricky DeJesus, 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**

Ricky DeJesus motioned to approve the minutes of the November 14, 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**

- As of February 28, 2018 there was 83 new participants and 102 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.
- Pepsi Beverage Company in Piscataway on December 7, 2017.

**IV. Guest Speakers**

➤ **Sherri Goldberg, Jewish Renaissance Foundation**

- Is a community action agency which is located in Perth Amboy, NJ.
- Provides assistance to the following municipalities in Middlesex County East; Perth Amboy, Woodbridge, Carteret, South Amboy, Sayreville, Edison, and Highland Park.

- Has an AmeriCorps Program and 21 AmeriCorps volunteers.
  - Family Success Center.
  - Partner with PES&G.
  - Established a Community Health Center which is located in Edison, NJ.
  - Offered education and childcare services.
  - Employment and training.
  - Community Development and Housing.
  - Health and Wellness.
  - Emergency assistance and income management.
  - School Base Services program.
  - Programs which serve participants between the ages of 17 – 26.
- **Lian Farrer, Vice President of Education, State Theatre of NJ**
- State Theatre is located in New Brunswick, NJ
  - Private, not for profit organization.
  - Committed to making programming affordable for students, children, and adults.
  - Provides free tickets for NJ veterans to attend performances.
  - Tickets for schools to attend performances are \$8.00.
  - Autism friendly relaxed performances.
  - State Theater Benefit Gala will be held on May 12, 2018.
- **Kevin Kurdziel – NJ Reentry Corp**
- Helps formerly incarcerated people to find employment and more.
  - Located on 57 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ
  - One-week orientation.
  - Assistance with getting fines reduce.
  - Provides assistance with driving license restoration.
  - Provides assistance with getting their birth certificates.
  - Provides legal assistance.
  - Job search assistance.
  - Trying to establish an apprenticeship program in architecture and landscaping at the county jail.
- **Diane Seavers – SkillUp Middlesex**
- Middlesex County offering over 4,500 courses through free online learning platform.
  - Register at [www.middlesexcountynj.gov](http://www.middlesexcountynj.gov). Search SkillUP Middlesex.
  - Basic skills and Soft skills courses.
  - IT (Information Technology) courses.
  - Microsoft Office.
  - Human Resources courses.
  - Six Sigma.
  - Project Management courses.
  - Certification courses.
  - Career pathways.

## VII. Committee updates

- The YAC members were asked for recommendations for Industry Tours and any employers that would be willing to offer worksites.
- The youth department has established a Work Experience worksite with the Perth Amboy Police Department, Perth Amboy Pediatric Dentistry & Orthodontics, Soul Sisters Bakery, Information & Technology Management (I.T.M.), Kaizen Technologies, New Brunswick Chamber of Commerce and Middlesex County Office of Workforce Development.
- Every six weeks the youth staff attends the Parent of Offender Presentation at Family Court in New Brunswick, NJ.
- 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 staff attended an event held by Carteret High School and handed out information about the WIOA Youth Program and services.
- Ms. Ciccone, Barbara Heyward, the Vendor Administrator, and Shamara Gatling-Davila, the WDB Policy Analyst, are in the process of finalizing the RFP for program year 2018 – 2019.
- HSE graduation will be held in July at Middlesex County College in West Hall.
- Gabriel Lavigne help arrange a meeting with GSETA Executive Board and Robert Angelo, the Labor Commissioner in Trenton.
- GSETA arranged to start having bimonthly meeting with Robert Angelo, the Labor Commissioner.
- Needs more employers and business representatives on the Youth Advisory Committee and Workforce Development Board.
- NJ school funding was increased by 3.5 percent, which is a total of 283 million dollars for next fiscal year. Middlesex County was increased by 4.3 percent.
- The Middlesex County Workforce Development Board is in the process of creating a 501(c)(3).
- Middlesex County Workforce Development has started using a new texting application called Guide by Cell. Jobseekers who wants to start receiving information about job recruitments or job fairs could sign up by texting “workforce” to 56512. The job seeker will receive texts on recruitments and other events.
- Elijah’s Promise will be sponsoring an event on June 11, 2018 called Chef’s Night at the Palace in Somerset, NJ
- Elijah’s Promise will be sponsoring an event on April 21, 2018 called Earth Day at Promise Garden on Tabernacle Way in New Brunswick, NJ
- Hub City Music Festival will start on April 2 – 29, 2018. Asking for donations of \$5.00 - \$10.00. All money receive will be given to Elijah’s Promise.
- Rising Tide Entrepreneurship will be held on April 2, 2018 at Elijah’s Promise on Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ

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

- A participant who obtained his HSE at the end of November; enrolled at Ideal Driving School attained his CDL A license was hired by Carolina Cargo making \$53,000 a year.

- A participant who attained his Electrical credential was hired at Infinity Electric as an Electrical Apprentice making \$13.00 dollars an hour.
- A participant who completed her Dental Assisting program was placed at a worksite at Perth Amboy Pediatric Dentistry & Orthodontics. She attained her Infection Control credential.
- Another participant, who was placed on a worksite as a mechanic's helper at Perth Amboy Public Works, was hired at the end making \$52,000 a year.

Gabriel A. Lavigne adjourned the meeting.

**The next meeting of the Youth Advisory Council is Tuesday June 26, 2018**