



Workforce Development Board
County of Middlesex

Youth Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday, March 26, 2019 9:30am

Present: Liza Beauchamp, Allison Bejar, Melissa Bernstein, Sherri Goldberg, Gabriel Lavigne, Ushindi Lewis, Tracey Montani, Joes Montes, Debra Patterson, Martin Schamberger, Sabrina Sullivan, Jessica Tomkins

Staff: Sandra Ciccone, Janice Alexander, Ricky DeJesus, 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 members and guests in attendance.

II. Approval of Minutes

Jose Montes motioned to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2018 YAC meeting as distributed previously by email and Ricky DeJesus 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 Program Year 2018**

- As of February 28, 2019 there were 85 new participants and 95 new enrollments in the youth program.
- Affinity Federal Credit Union oversees the Financial Literacy curriculum for the Youth program.
- The youth department has established Work Experience worksites with the Northeast Carpenter Apprentice Training Center and NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness).
- 28 participants in the Youth program obtained their HSE (High School Diploma).
- The first Industry tour was a visit to the State Theater in New Brunswick. The second Industry tour was a visit to The New Jersey Carpenters Union.
- The youth department started a new program called the Information Sessions. The sessions meet on the 1st and 2nd Tuesday of each month at 11:00 am. Qualified participants will attend a one-week workshop which will be held at the end of each month.
- Middlesex County College HSE contract was extended for program year 2019 – 2020.
- The youth department is in the process of creating a survey monkey.

- The youth staff attended the following job fairs and handed out information about the WIOA Youth Program and services:
 - Parent of Offender Presentation at Family Court in New Brunswick, NJ
 - Staff Development Day at Edison High School
 - Case Manager Coming Home Middlesex County
 - Staff Development Day at Sayreville High School
 - Employer Job Fair at Brighton Community Center in Perth Amboy, NJ
 - Shared Youth Vision Council Meeting
 - Youth Corps
 - Career Fair at Metuchen High School
 - FAFS passport to Education
 - Transition Fair at Middlesex County Vocational and Technical School in Piscataway
 - College and Career Fair at New Brunswick Adult Learning Center

- Ricky DeJesus and Nicole Montero reported four success stories of participants in the Youth program:
 - A participant who was placed on a worksite at Port Jersey Logistics as a File Clerk was hired full time as a HR Talent Assistant making \$15.00 an hour.
 - Another participant who completed the Construction Trade and Green Technology program was hired at Target making \$15.00 an hour.
 - The third participant, who completed the Certified Nursing Assistant program, is in the process of obtaining employment.
 - The fourth participant who completed the Electrocardiography/Phlebotomy Technician program and passed her state exam, obtained employment.

IV. **Guest Speakers**

- **Jessica Tomkins, COO of Literacy New Jersey and Melissa Bernstein, Program Director of Literacy New Jersey**
 - Literacy New Jersey provides free instruction to adults and youth who need help with reading, writing, and communicating effectively.
 - Trained volunteer tutors work with adult students.
 - Offers free adult literacy services in eight counties: Burlington, Gloucester, Mercer, Middlesex, Ocean, Sussex, Union, and Hudson.
 - Help students improve their basic reading and writing skills to prepare for their High School Equivalency diploma (HSE).
 - Middlesex County locations: Carteret Public Library, Metuchen Public Library, Monroe Township Library, North Brunswick Public Library, Old Bridge Public Library, Sayreville Public Library, Woodbridge Public Library, Menlo Park.

- **Jose Montes, CEO of Puerto Rican Action Board, Inc (PRAB)**
 - PRAB main office is located at 90 Jersey Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ
 - PRAB offers two early childhood programs: Early Childhood Centers and Parent Infant Care Center.

- PRAB offers the following youth programs which are New Brunswick School Based Youth Services Programs: After School Academic Enrichment Program, Youth Intervention and Mentoring Program, and Artists Mentoring Against Racism, Drug, and Violence Summer Enrichment Program.
- PRAB offers three family programs: Harmony Family Success Center, Family Leadership Academy, and Parents as Teachers.
- PRAB offers social services program which are Service Access Center/Outreach, Immigration and Counseling Program, and Housing Coalition of Central Jersey.
- PRAB offers three energy conservation programs which are Home Energy Assistance Program, Weatherization Assistance Program, and Lead-Safe Home Remediation Pilot Program.

VII. Committee Member Announcements/Updates

- Ushindi Lewis is the new Vice Chairperson for The Youth Advisory Committee.
- Middlesex County College Open House will be held on Sunday, April 7 from 10:00am – 1:00pm.
- Elijah’s Promise started a new program called Family Feeding. The program is on Mondays and Thursdays from 3:30pm – 5:15pm at the Community Soup Kitchen 18 Neilson Street, New Brunswick, NJ.
- NJ Family Success Center will be sponsoring an event called Family Fun Fair on Tuesday, April 23, 2019 from 11:00am – 3:00pm at Richardson Elementary School 318 Stockton Street, Perth Amboy, NJ.
- Jewish Renaissance Foundation and their partner Middlesex County College will be sponsoring a Career Fair on Wednesday, April 24, 2019 from 10:00am – 1:00pm at Middlesex County Vocational School 457 High Street, Perth Amboy, NJ.
- Jewish Renaissance Foundation testing center is now offering the HiSET test which is a five subject high school equivalency exam. The exam covers language arts reading, language arts writing, mathematic, social studies, and science.

The next meeting of the Youth Advisory Council is Tuesday, June 25, 2019.