



Workforce Development Board  
County of Middlesex

**Youth Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Tuesday, September 24, 2019 9:30am**

**Present:** Melissa Bernstein, Jian Bland, Candice Covington-Thomas, Candace Crane, Julia Gibson, Gabriel Lavigne, Itzeel Martinez, Anarai Meza, Debra Patterson, Jessica Pultró, Shaliza Sheriff, Hector Smith, Naomi Vliet

**Staff:** Janice Alexander, Ricky DeJesus, Jasmina Dizdarevic, Shamara Gatling-Davila, Martin Schamberger, Nicole Montero, 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**

Ricky DeJesus motioned to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2019 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 Program Year 2018**

- As of June 30, 2019 there were 139 participants enrolled in the youth program.

- Affinity Federal Credit Union oversees the Financial Literacy curriculum for the Youth program.
- Middlesex County College was awarded the HSE contract for program year 2019 – 2020.
- 38 participants in the Youth program obtained their HSE (High School Equivalency Diploma).
- HSE graduation was held on July 31, 2019 at Middlesex County College in West Hall.
- The first Industry tour was a visit to the State Theatre of NJ in New Brunswick. The second Industry tour was a visit to Northeast Carpenters Apprentice Training Center in Edison.
- 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 Work Experience worksites with Hackensack Meridian Health at Raritan Bay Medical Center, Providence Medical Center, Paramount Assets, Housing Management Resources, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), and Perth Amboy Pediatrics.
- The Youth office now provides services at the Middlesex County Adult Correctional Facility, the Juvenile Detention Center and the Middlesex County Youth Shelter.

- Starting in October, the Youth office will be providing Soft Skills training to the youth at the Middlesex County Youth Shelter every Wednesday.
- The Youth office started a direct referral system with Adult Corrections, Juvenile Commission, and the Youth Shelter.
- Martin Schamberger is in the process of updating the 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
  - Old Bridge Job Fair
  - CASA Representative of Middlesex County
  - Edison High School Staff Development Day
  - Case Managers Collaborative at Coming Home of Middlesex County
  - Sayreville Staff Development Day
  - Employer Job Fair at the Brighton Community Center in Perth Amboy
  - Shared Youth Vision Council Meeting
  - Youth Corp
  - Metuchen High School Career Fair
  - Passport to Education at the Professional Center in New Brunswick
  - Transition Fair at Piscataway Vocational Technical School
  - New Brunswick Adult Learning Center College and Career Fair
  - Edison Housing Authority Job Fairs at Robert Holmes Gardens
  - Julius Engel Gardens
  - Perth Amboy High School Guidance Department
  - Career Fair at Highland Park High School
  - J.P. Stevens High School Guidance Department
  - South Plainfield High School Guidance Department
  - Assemblyman Joe Danielsen Annual Job Fair
  - Juvenile Justice Commission Staff
  - Career Options Day at Hackensack Meridian Health in Edison
  - Support Suicide Prevention Event with Family Support Organization
  - Reentry Job Fair in Perth Amboy
  - Career Construction Industry Day
  - Passport to Success Youth Fair
  - Superior Court Judge Toto and the criminal judges of Middlesex County
  - Pretrial Services of Middlesex County

#### IV. Guest Speakers

- Hector Smith/Julia Gibson, Director/Business Community Liaison, Edison Job Corps Center
  - Edison Job Corps is located at 500 Plainfield Avenue, Edison, NJ.
  - Job Corps is a federal career training and education program.
  - Edison Job Corps offers the following training programs: Advanced Manufacturing, Automotive and Machine Repair, Construction, Health Care, Homeland Security, Hospitality, Information Technology, Finance and Business.

- Services income eligible individuals between the ages of 16 – 24.
- Job Corps offers an online career planning system called MyPACE. MyPACE helps participants to establish a plan to help them achieve their career goals.
- Edison Job Corps offers High School Equivalency Diploma program.
- Participants who obtained their High School Diploma receive a \$1000.00 stipend after completion. Participants who completed a training program will receive a \$700.00 stipend.
- Every two weeks the participants receive a \$25.00 stipend from Job Corps.
- Job Corps has a psychiatrist and nurse on site.

➤ **Candace Crane, Director Community Impact, United Way of Central Jersey**

- United Way of Central Jersey is located at 32 Ford Avenue, Milltown, NJ.
- United Way of Central Jersey offer free income tax preparation to low income individuals.
- Works with low-income first time pregnant individuals to help ensure healthy birth results.
- Offers Parent Child Plus Program to low income individuals between the ages of 0 – 5.
- Works with Family Child Care providers.

**VII. Committee Member Announcements/Updates**

- Elijah's Promise will be updating their Strategic Plan for the next three years 2020 - 2023 on Thursday, October 17, 2019 from 8:30am – 12:00pm at the Hyatt 2 Albany Street, New Brunswick, NJ.
- Middlesex County Family Support Organization and Harmony Family Success Center will be sponsoring their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Haunted House on October 29, 2019 from 5:00pm – 7:00pm at 255 Livingston Ave, New Brunswick, NJ.

**The next meeting of the Youth Advisory Committee is Tuesday, December 12, 2019.**