



Youth Investment Council Meeting

Tuesday, August 19, 2014 9:00am

Present: Lauren Balkan, David Blevins, Sherri Goldberg, Charles Hager, Lew Kirk, Bertalan Kormann, June Launay, Sean McDonald, Harriet Slonim, Mary Tarrant

Staff: Kevin Kurdziel, Jody Bramson, Rick DeJesus, Hilda Alonso, Janice Alexander, Nicole Joseph, Nicole Montero

Jody Bramson, Youth One Stop Manager, began the meeting with the introduction of all present members and guests.

Approval of minutes from the May 6, 2014 Meeting

Bertalan Kormann moved to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2014 YIC meeting as distributed previously by email and Charles Hager seconded. The vote was called and the motion passed to approve the minutes as written.

Introduction of Kevin Kurdziel, Director

Ms. Bramson announced there were a lot of changes; she presented Kevin Kurdziel as the new Director for Middlesex County Office of Workforce Development and Workforce Investment Board. Kevin Kurdziel has 24 years of experience working in workforce development and social services and started out as a Family Service Worker in 1990 in Essex County.

Staff Changes

Ms. Bramson announced the resignation of Shamar Spencer, Youth One Stop Coordinator for the Youth One Stop Center. He moved to Dallas, Texas and is working for Workforce Development Office there. Nicole Montero will become the new Youth One Stop Coordinator for the Perth Amboy Office and Hilda Alonso is now a Career Development Counselor for Work First Department in Perth Amboy and Nicole Joseph is the new MCWAG Coordinator.

Meeting Location Change

Susan Pasternack from Raritan Bay Medical Center is the new Chairperson for YIC but was unable to attend today because she was called away to a conference. The Youth Investment Council meetings have been changed back to 550 Jersey Avenue, New Brunswick and Ms. Pasternack will be at the next YIC meeting.

Program Year-End Report

Ms. Bramson reported that the youth program served 170 youth this 2013 – 2014 program year which met most of their goals this program year. There were 54 participants in ITAs. MC4YOU Perth Amboy served 58 participants this year, MC4YOU New Brunswick served 27 participants and MCWAG enrolled 13 participants this year.

High School Equivalency Examination

Ms. Bramson reported that we are having major issues with the High School Equivalency Examination reporting. Students who took the examination on June 12 or 14, 2014 did not receive the results until the end of July and we now know that 3 more students passed the HSE examination in Perth Amboy. The second issue is that the students themselves are receiving their diplomas and scores; Middlesex County College is no longer receiving the students' test scores. The College is no longer able to sign into the GED123 website in order to find out test scores. The students are now solely responsible to report the results to the program and to deliver a copy of the transcript stating that result. If the students do not pass one of the sections on the HSE examination they have the option to retake the section they failed and we have to pay for the students to retake that section. The third issue is the reporting and recording the results in a timely fashion into the State computer system.

Sherri Goldberg from the Jewish Renaissance Foundation informed the YIC members that they are having the same issues with the HSE examination reporting and that they are trying to become a testing site.

Ms. Bramson stated the people at the testing centers in Perth Amboy and New Brunswick have been very helpful.

Ms. Bramson reported that many of the students from the GED programs are interested in taking courses at Middlesex County College in September, but are being held up until we receive the results of their examination.

New Program Year: Status of Five Programs

MCC Work Readiness:

Ms. Bramson reported that the MCC Work Readiness program is having major issues in recruiting students for the program this year. They are adding another cycle this year because of the low enrollment.

Seven participants have completed the MCC Youth Work Readiness program. All will be attending Middlesex County College in September for Computerized Accounting, Computerized Medical Office or Software Technology.

MCC Perth Amboy GED:

There are a total of 12 participants in the Perth Amboy GED program including 7 carry-ins. All 7 carry-in participants are awaiting their results. We cannot terminate the students until we receive their test scores.

MCC Carteret GED:

There were a total of 14 participants in the Carteret GED program including 4 new participants and 10 carry-ins. All 14 participants are active. Six students retested in August and are waiting for their test results.

Perth Amboy MC4YOU

21 participants were carried In from PY 2013 -14 MC4YOU program in Perth Amboy..

New Brunswick MC4YOU

Juan DeJesus, MC4YOU New Brunswick Youth Coordinator, reported there are a total of 17 participants in the program. Ten participants are in Individualized Training Accounts, 1 participant is at the Adult Learning Center for Basic Skills and HSE Preparation, 3 participants are in Job Search and there are 3 new youth researching training options.

MCWAG Report

Hilda Alonso, the former MCWAG coordinator, reported there were 18 participants, served through the MCWAG program (13 New and 5 Carry-Ins) during program year 2013-2014. Eight of these participants were successfully employed at the end of the MCWG program.

Nicole Joseph, the new MCWAG Coordinator, reported there were a total of 10 participants in the program starting July 1, 2014. Seven were Carry Ins from the prior year and 3 were new for Program Year 2014 – 2015.

Need for Employers

Ms. Bramson reported that the Youth Department needs Pharmacy Technician and HVAC/ Plumbers employers and asked the YIC members if they had any recommendations on any employers that Ms. Joseph could use as a worksite.

Industry Tours

Ms. Bramson informed the YIC members that the Youth program had four successful Industry tours for Program Year 2013 - 2014. There will be four industry tours scheduled for Program Year 2014 - 2015. The first tour will be Park Site (a manufacturing plant) in October 2014. Ms. Bramson asked the YIC members to please inform the Youth Department if they had any recommendations on any industry tours.

Lew Kirk, Policy Analyst from SETC, volunteered PSE&G to do an industry tour for the fall. They did one two years ago that was very successful. He was going to contact Ms. Joseph with information to schedule the tour.

Sherri Goldberg from Jewish Renaissance Foundation asked if her students could go on the tours with the group. Ms. Bramson informed Ms. Goldberg she would inquire into this and get back to her once she had more information.

Drop out Reports

Ms. Bramson reported that 245 students dropped out of Middlesex County school districts school from July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014. Of those, 20 students were from Perth Amboy (in past years Perth Amboy refused to release the information to the One Stop). South River did not report any drop outs for the last program year.

In addition to the Program reports, Ms. Bramson stated that the Youth Department served 74 people who were WIA non eligible this year.

Announcements

WIA Youth Program is hoping to have another graduation ceremony in January.

An advertisement for WIA Youth programs is being displayed on public transportation vehicles. (A flyer was show at the meeting.)

In May 2014, the Youth Staff set up a table with information about WIA Youth Programs and services at the Esperanza Neighborhood Project in New Brunswick. On October 10, 2014 the Youth Staff will set up a table with information about WIA Youth Programs and services to children who are aging out of foster care at the Aging- Out Conference at Middlesex County College.

The Youth department received a \$2 million budget for this year. Charles Hager from MC Family Court inquired if there was money in the current year's youth budget that could be allocated to an aftercare program for reentry of youth from correctional facilities. Ms. Bramson informed Mr. Hager that she would will look into this and try to get an answer to his question.

Ms. Bramson adjourned the meeting.

The next YIC meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2014