



2 South Main Street 2nd Floor Pleasantville, NJ 08232

Telephone: 609.485.0153 Fax: 609.485.0067

Atlantic County Workforce Development Board Youth Advisory Council Meeting
February 21, 2017 9:30 a.m. Pleasantville One Stop

Attendance:

Rhonda Lowery Dan Konczyk Dr. Phil Guenther Stephanie Koch Anne Dillon

Staff:

Alicia Oatman

Minutes:

Meeting called to order by Dan Konczyk. Rhonda Lowery gave the Youth Coordinators report for Rev. Maddox in his absence. We are currently receiving 20-30 referrals from Workfirst NJ case managers for the Out of School Youth Program. Youth Corps has an LOS of 50 and is in the second cycle with a total of 23 participants to date. PY 2016 Youth Works update is as follows: Atlantic County Special Services School District (ISY) has 78 enrollments (LOS 75), Mainland Regional High School (ISY) 12 enrolled (LOS 15). OSY: America Works (OSY LOS 40) is conducting eligibility sessions for 3 youth, Ideal Institute of Technology (OSY LOS 50) conducting sessions for 5 youth. Rhonda Lowery informed Anne Dillon that any youth that is currently in the OSY program can in fact transfer into Youth Corps as this is WIOA funded.

Stephanie Koch mentioned, that her agency is piloting the CAMT for the first time this spring, as an optional, extra-curricular activity for our Property Maintenance students. JEVS' Orleans Technical College (OTC) is a post-secondary school, where students must have a driver's license, clean criminal background, and a GED or high school diploma (all required by accrediting body). Read more about OTC here, <https://orleanstech.edu/>.

This is not to say the CAMT would not be a fit for high school students or opportunity youth, just sharing a bit more about the population we will be piloting it with. Below are the links for more information: <http://www.njaa.com/750> <http://www.jvsla.org/programs-and-services/career-services-and-training-programs/jvs-apartmentworks/>. I will happy to share outcomes with you early this summer, upon request. Rhonda Lowery also added that this could possibly tie into the One Stop Youth Real Program. Dr. Phil Guenther reports that ACIT is seeking to hire a principal due to retirement of the present principal, however the bigger issue is transportation for the youth. We are planning to have a carpentry class in the near future which may be an evening course as well as public works. Rhonda Lowery interjected that the youth are given a stipend and it would be an easier fix if these classes were during the day as we could provide transportation. Dan Konczyk also added that he would work with the unions to assist in this matter.

Old Business

Rhonda Lowery informed the committee that we are below our LOS and we are considering beginning our In-House Youth program that we've had in the past. This is to meet the need of

funding and may possibly hiring an instructor to facilitate the program. Our vendors will also have access to the instructor and with this program, youth will be able to enter already having a diploma. The contract will be developed possible in April 2017 and the in-house program can begin at any time using my current staff, however the instructor will be for all youth programs. We currently have two prospects to bring on board. Dan Konczyk is in agreement with and realizing that there is a need for Out of School Providers. I have developed a good rapport with ACME markets; we have been given a \$25,000 grant to train youth while they are in the youth program. This will assist our youth to advance and we want to open this grant to dislocated workers as well as incumbent workers. ACME wants to begin to hire baggers, customer service reps, and cashiers. There is one issue, there are 3 ACME store in Atlantic county and they are seeking to have Atlantic County Community College (ACCC) to offer the training. ACME's projected date of training is January 2018 and the plan is to meet with Rhonda Lowery along with ACME Reps. Dan Konczyk further explained that this is a stipend program, ACME has committed to hire 25 PT persons. Rhonda Lowery stated that as a program the One Stop has a staff person that will be able to place those qualified customers although permanency is not guaranteed. Youth could also be placed in retail as well. As per Stephanie Koch Shoprite Stores has their own training program that targets a specific group of individuals. I suggest that we have an employer pool to come to the table so that we can ask them what their requirements are to become employed with their establishments, this is to help better serve them as well as the customers.

Dan Konczyk also stated that he would like to create a retail apprenticeship program as well as a bakery, meat, etc.; Dr. Phil Guenther stated that he has a coordinator in his office that will assist. ACCC is willing to assist with the classroom work as well. Dr. Guenther added that this is good time to approach ACCC due to low enrollment. Although funding may be an issue as per Stephanie Koch we should consider Barista Training. Currently the focus is to recruit in other counties to employ our youth. Acme has Certified Clerk and Clerk positions and it is my intention that should they hire one of our youth to fill the clerks position they would transition into the certified position as this would be an advancement. We understand that some may not want to work in certain positions however we should offer the youth an incentive such as a cell phone plan. After meeting with Acme and Shoprite, I would like to have them meet with the committee to further discuss employment of our youth. JEVS is also on board to create a program here in Atlantic County for our youth.

According to Rhonda Lowery, data from the local schools are not readily available even at the request of the State of NJ. Keeping customers engaged in hospitality retail is vital yet older individuals fare better than the younger generation. With that said, we are in need of more employers that will hire referred youth. Employers should verbalize to us the skills that are needed in order to fill the positions that they have available. This makes it effective and it also guarantees that the youth will get hired. Upon research there are 518 positions in the casino industry that can't be filled and I endeavor to get an answer as to why by meeting with the Casino Control Commission. Out of school youth contracts are 70/30, 60/40, etc. with a possible renewal after one year.

Adjourned 11:20am

