



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

CUMBERLAND · SALEM · CAPE MAY

Youth Council Committee

Center for Workforce & Economic Development
3322 College Drive, Vineland

January 23, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.

"DRAFT- MINUTES"

A meeting of the Youth Council Committee was held on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at the Center for Workforce & Economic Development located on the Rowan College of South Jersey Campus.

Attendance: Alicea Nelson, Amy Ronketty, Anne Garrison, Cameron Hudson, Christine Colon, Domenic Merendino, Elizabeth Reed, Katie Czajkowski, Kevin Pilieri, Lani Allen-Davis, Maribel Bermudez, Rachael Wilson, Rebecca Iacovone, Steve Medio, Susan Jurusz

Staff: Amanda Barnes, Christy DiLeonardo, Cindy Angelo, Jaime Gomez

I. **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Christy began the meeting at 10:05 a.m. She welcomed all members and requested all attendees to give a brief introduction. Prior to reports, Christy explained what is required to receive or apply for RFP's. Following the meeting an email will be sent out which will provide information detailing how to register for Cumberland and Salem County.

Requested a motion to approve the minutes from the October 24, 2023 meeting.

2023 October 24 Minutes

1st Christine Colon 2nd Anne Garison

Abstention: Amy Ronketty
Maribel Bermudez

All in favor, vote passes

II. **Youth Provider Reports- PY 22-23**

❖ *Salem*

- **Mid-Atlantic States Career & Education** - OSY contract dated 10/1/23 – 6/30/24
Alicea Nelson has taken over the program and reported out. 2 youth have been approved with 1 in the process of being approved. Christy added that the classes in Mid- Atlantic's proposal have all been approved on ETPL.

❖ *Cumberland*

- **PathStone** - Out of School Youth (PY 22-23) Contract Dates: 7/1/23-6/30/24
Christine Colon- 19 Enrolled; 7 currently attending Workplace Readiness; 9 have completed Workplace Readiness with a minimum of 50 hours; 7 attending Career Awareness Planning; 9 completed Career Awareness Planning with a minimum of 12 hours; 15 attending GED preparation; 8 obtained Skills Gain; 1 High School Diploma;

2 entered and completed Work Experience with a minimum of 75 hours; 0 entered employment/military/secondary education; 10 pending enrollments. Level of service is 40. Recruitment is going well; the 10 pending enrollments have started the process.

- **Hopeloft** - In School (PY 22-23) Contract Dates: 7/1/23-6/30/24
Domenic Merendino – 10 youth enrolled through Millville Highschool; 5 in the process of being approved for eligibility; out of the 10 enrolled- 2 have completed Work Readiness Training- 8 should be done by the end of this week; placements expected by the end of next week. Level of service is 30. Recruitment is going. Hopeloft is planning to make one more big push in Millville High School. There is another grant which will provide funding for an individual to be physically present and coaching at the District Charter School, which may prove to be a good connection for referrals. Reported that Hopeloft also works with Bridgeton High School.

Alicea Nelson asked how Domenic was able to get connected to High Schools and for advice with obtaining referrals. The conversation opened with several members giving suggestions of how to obtain OSY referrals such as finding connections through School to Career Counselors, Guidance Counselors, or request a Dropout List. Christy added that a connection with the County Superintendent in Cumberland has been made, and a connection is in process with the County Superintendent of Salem and Cape May Counties to start receiving the dropout list. This list will be shared to those with OSY programs.

❖ *Cape May*

- **Jersey Cape Diagnostics**
 - In School Youth (PY 22-23) Contract Dates: 7/1/23-6/30/24
Anne Garrison- Level of Service is 14; 10 fully enrolled with an additional 11 in process; 5 have completed Workplace Readiness and Career Planning; 2 are Participating in Work Experience; 1 has been accepted to Atlantic Cape Community College.
 - Out of School Youth (PY 22-23) Contract Dates: 7/1/23-6/30/24
Anne Garrison- Level of Service is 30; 16 fully enrolled; 1 discharged; 6 have completed Workplace Readiness and Career Planning; 5 obtained their GED; 1 is looking for work experience; 4 have employment. Have been recruiting from social media marketing, Chamber events, Senior Citizen events to speak with grandparents. However, word of mouth seems to be the most successful way to receive referrals.

III. Other Provider Reports

- **Wawa Program**
Jaime Gomez- Follow-up was completed for the last program year. The 2024 summer preparations have begun. All the information sessions at the schools have taken place and interviews are scheduled for the second week of February. Wawa plans to hire 160 youth in their shore locations during the summer. So far, they have 280 applications throughout the schools.

- New Jersey Youth Corps
Steve Medio reported on behalf of Sherry Wilkins- they have changed locations as of April/May. They are now located behind the Landis Administrative Building
- US Job Corps
Shelly Allbright- no longer with organization. New contact needed.

IV. Old/New Business

Christy reminded everyone about Cindy Angelo's ongoing work on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and turned the floor over to her to give an update.

Cindy- We were tasked with submitting a draft copy of the MOU. As the months went by additional items were added such as required meetings. For most of the partners, the focus was to meet with the administration of each county. These meetings were held through December. There is now a better understanding on the county and state level regarding how customers will be shared and how they will work together to provide needed services. A general information form will be distributed to community partners to make sure all information collected is up to date and contacts for all agencies are correct.

Christy added that they are waiting on feedback from the state regarding additions such as Co-Enrollment. A meeting will be held in Trenton to further explain the additions which Christy and Cindy will attend. After which they will be more prepared to have a more in depth conversation with the committee during our next meeting.

V. Adjournment

Christy requested a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Steve Medio and seconded by Domenic Merendino. All in favor, meeting adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.