



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

CUMBERLAND · SALEM · CAPE MAY

Youth Council Committee

Center for Workforce & Economic Development

3322 College Drive, Vineland

January 28, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.

MINUTES

Approved during the April 22, 2025 meeting

A meeting of the Youth Council Committee was held on Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at the Center for Workforce & Economic Development.

Attendance: Brittney Guthri, Christine Colon, Chuck Nagel, Dani Williams, Emma Curry, Jeffery Dumorin, Jody Classen, Joe Sittineri, Jonathan Cummings, Kelly Dean, Lani Allen-Davis, Maria Alleva, Nordica Powell, Rachael Wilson, Rebecca Iacovone, Sarah Schimeneck, Steve Medio, Susan Jurusz

Staff: Amanda Barnes, April Gomez, Cindy Angelo

I. **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

The meeting began at 10:01 a.m. April Gomez welcomed everyone and started the meeting off with an around the room of introductions.

II. **Approval of Minutes**

April requested a motion to approve the minutes from the October 22, 2024 meeting.

2024 October 22 Minutes

1st Christine Colon 2nd Emma Curry

All in favor, vote passes

III. **Youth Provider Reports- PY July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025**

○ *Salem*

RanchHope – Out of School Youth

Jonathan Cummings – some youths have received their ASE Certifications; few are in the process of earning their GED; 1 has passed the GED; 10 students in the program; expecting to have 5 in work experience programs

○ *Cumberland*

PathStone - Out of School Youth

Christine Colon- 26 out of 40 enrollments and have started college readiness as well as academic skills; 12 have completed their hours; 7 have increased skills gains; 6 obtained high school diplomas; 10 have started GED; 5 have started paperwork on Work Experience; 3 have physically started Work Experience; 1 has completed; 2 have entered employment

LSI - Out of School Youth

Dani Williams- 1 enrolled; waiting for paperwork for 4 others

Nordica Powell – Has been reaching out to agencies in both Cape May and Cumberland Counties. The enrollment process has been challenging. Hopeful that they will see improvement as information spreads through word of mouth and social media. Program is online making it easier for participants with transportation challenges to work towards their GED.

Cumberland Employment & Training – In School Youth

April Gomez – Reported out on behalf of Jaime Gomez who was absent due to a schedule conflict. Enrolled 20; Level of Service 20; 20 completed Workplace Readiness; 14 Career Exploration; 20 Financial Literacy. Currently working to set up work experience sites for all 20 youth - starting in February.

○ *Cape May*

Jersey Cape Diagnostics

• In School Youth

Emma Curry – introduced the team from Jersey Cape.

Brittney Guthrie- oversees the In School Youth; 26 students in Pre-ETS; at least 1 from each high school

• Out of School Youth

Kelly Dean- 7 enrolled; completed intakes that brought numbers up to 9; working with 2 more to get them enrolled. She shared a success story about a student who came from Poland with his family to the United States. Jersey Cape started working with him in July and he finished his GED by November. Expecting more students to test by February.

Jersey Cape is looking to build an ESL class into their program for individuals that need counseling and teaching. Also, looking into starting a podcast centered around education and obtaining GEDs.

Joe Sittineri – mentioned some of the challenges of locating the out of school youth for programs. Discussion opened up within the group regarding challenges with paperwork and working with schools to find those individuals dropping out.

IV. Other Provider Reports

○ Wawa Program 2024

April Gomez- Gearing up for the upcoming season.

○ Summer Youth Work Experience Program

April Gomez – Workforce Development Board applied and are waiting for the information about the reward to be released.

V. Old/New Business

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m. Motion made by Emmy Curry and Jody Classen