



## County of Mercer Workforce Development Board

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Virgen Velez  
Acting Director

Brian M. Hughes  
County Executive

Keith Secrest  
Chairperson

### WDB Youth Investment Council

#### December 13, 2022 ♦ Zoom Meeting Minutes

##### In Attendance

**Mereides Delgado** (Anchor House), **Dave Nash** (MC Technical Schools), **Keith Secrest** (Kinetics Industries, Inc. / WDB Chair), Latoya Wilson (WCR Consultancy)

**WDB /One Stop Staff:** Virgen Velez, Kassia Bukosky

##### Welcome & Introductions

Keith Secrest hosted the meeting.

##### Review and Approval of October 11, 2022 Meeting Minutes (Tabled until end of the meeting)

Keith made a motion to approve minutes; Mereides seconded the motion. Motion passed and minutes were approved.

##### Summer Youth Employment Program 2022 – Final Report

Kassia provided an update at the last meeting.

- 131 youth started the program and 109 completed
  - SYEP contract was funded for \$338,000; \$261,601 was expended - balance due to not all youth maximizing their full earnings potential, and staff was less than anticipated

We look forward to notification of funding in the new year for another SYEP.

- Assuming the same funding allocation as this year, more youth (approximately 125) will be targeted

## PY '22 Youth Initiatives Update

Only contract is with Isles

- 16 are currently enrolled; may increase in January with some referrals from YCC
- Some youth are expected to obtain their HSE within the next couple of months

## YCC Activities

The program restarted in September.

- 13 youth have enrolled and are currently on Group 3; Group 4 will commence in January
  - Youth are divided during orientation into groups - with new classes scheduled monthly
  - Youth have been utilizing the WLL to increase their skills and prepping for the CASAS test
    - CDL still remains the most popular training option – 4 youth from PY 2022 will be starting at Smith & Solomon Truck Driving School in January
- The program has been modified due to staffing changes; Orientation will remain on a hybrid system (mostly Zoom); workshops are in-person which engages the youth more
- 1 youth currently in an internship – rollover from SYEP, who is expected to be hired by the company

## Career Awareness Events

The One Stop has internally discussed hosting several events in the Spring that will target youth that are not college bound and unsure of their next step

- In-person *career fair* to be held in late Spring in the early evening; invites - Local Trades, NJMEP, MCCC, MCTS
  - Focus to be on healthcare, advanced manufacturing and one additional sector
- A virtual information session is also being planned for those that are unable to attend the in-person events; will be marketed to parents, counselors, PTA/PTOs, etc.

A subcommittee may be created to assist in the planning around the aforementioned events.

As an educator, Dave thinks the career awareness events are much needed, and inviting parents is crucial.

A career fair is being hosted by MCTS for its Adult Evening School students at the end of January/beginning of February

- If successful, another one will be hosted and made open to the public

## Member Discussion

- The One Stop is collaborating with Mercer County Probation Services and will serve on their *Gun Control Advisory Committee*

## Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

**Next Meeting Dates - 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday on bi-monthly basis ♦ 12:30 p.m.):**

February 14, 2023

April 10, 2023

June 13, 2023

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