



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

October 11, 2022 ♦ Zoom Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

Renee Pfaff (PCIL), Mercedes Delgado (Anchor House), Greg Rapport (Age Out Angels), Keith Secrest (WDB Chair), Wanda Webster Stansbury (Children's Future)

WDB /One Stop Staff: Virgen Velez, Kassia Bukosky, Maribel Duarte

Welcome & Introductions

Keith Secrest hosted the meeting. Introductions were made.

Review and Approval of August 9, 2022 Meeting Minutes

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

One Stop Staff Update

Kassia Bukosky is the Acting Youth Manager

Update - Summer Youth Employment Program 2022

Final Report: [Kassia provided a PowerPoint presentation showcasing the youth's experiences]

- 338 Applicants; 1st year in which every municipality was represented – the majority (58) from Trenton
- Our LOS was 110; 131 started & 109 completed the SYEP
- Of those youth with barriers – most of them had an IEP
- 86 were returning to high school; 13 returned to college; A couple were beginning the YCC track
- 3 were hired by their summer internship employer; 2 were extended
- 50 Employer Partners; Overall great feedback from participating employers
- Biggest barrier this summer was the requirement of Covid-19 vaccinations required by some employers, which limited some offerings
- Top requested positions by youth was for camp aides and daycare workers
- Great weekly presentations during Friday sessions. Special Thanks to WDB members who offered their time

OSY Contracts

- One contract was renewed to Isles and will run through June 30, 2023
 - They offer HSE instruction, job readiness and work experience

YCC Activities

Started last week with 6 youth; 1 was referred to Isles. Youth must meet low-income guidelines and have a barrier. Program sessions start on a monthly basis.

- Targets 18-24 youth who possess a high school diploma or equivalent; those that don't have are referred to Isles
- Program provides job readiness, financial literacy, presentation skills, counseling – with goal of entering occupational training and/or obtaining employment
- Those that test below 9.0 reading/math levels are referred to the Workforce Learning Link to increase their CASA scores
- Paid internships are available
- The provision of a stipend while the youth is in training is being explored. It was suggested reaching out to reach out to private entities for funding
- YCC is available to make YCC presentations at community agencies

Job and Career Fair

- *October 26th at the CURE Arena (3:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.); many seasonal opportunities will be available*
- We have at least 72 interested employers
- A career segment is being added to this event; Unions are being recruited
- Marketing flyers will be sent out this week

Member Discussion

A booth may be available at the Career Center to highlight WDB and its committees

Meeting Adjournment

Greg Rapport made the motion to adjourn, Keith Secrest seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

Upcoming PY 21 Meeting Dates: 2nd Tuesday on bi-monthly basis ♦ 12:30 p.m.

December 13, 2022

February 14, 2023

April 10, 2023

June 13, 2023