



County of Mercer Workforce Development Board

Mailing Address: 640 South Broad Street, PO Box 8068, Trenton NJ 08650-0068
Administrative Offices Location: 26 Yard Avenue, Trenton NJ 08609
Phone: 609 989-6824 ▪ Email: wdb@mercercounty.org



Virgen Velez
Acting Director

Brian M. Hughes
County Executive

Keith Secret
Chairperson

WDB Youth Investment Council

August 9, 2022 ♦ Zoom Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

Renee Pfaff (PCIL), Mereides Delgado (Anchor House), Greg Rapport (Aging Out Angels), Keith Secret (WDB Chair)
WDB /One Stop Staff: Virgen Velez, Maribel Duarte

Welcome & Introductions

Keith Secret hosted the meeting. Introductions were made.

Review and Approval of June 14, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Greg Rapport made a motion to approve minutes; Keith Secret seconded the motion. Motion passed.

One Stop Staff Update

Kendra Lee resigned from the One Stop.

Update - Summer Youth Employment Program 2022

Highlights:

- Currently working with 115 youth
- Some had challenges obtaining employment sites; we will work in closer collaboration with agencies to ensure youth have all the support services – some were referred to DVR
- 42 participating employers
- 8 job readiness workshops facilitated to date
- Program ends August 26th. The last workshop will be of a celebratory nature and will provide for special recognition of youth that have excelled in the program.

OSY Contracts

There were two OSY contracts that started in October 2021 and ended in June 2022 – service delivery included the obtainment of HS equivalency, job readiness, work experience

- The contract with *Equus* was not renewed
- Isles contract was extended – July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

YCC Activities

YCC activities will resume in September. Targeted population will have their high diploma/equivalency and be in search of occupational training or employment. Youth who do not have their high school diploma/equivalency will be referred to Isles.

PY 22 RFP

No open RFP at this time. We need to determine what services are needed before putting one out because we currently have some services that address occupational and employment needs.

The Career Fair originally scheduled for September has been put on hold. There's currently a "waiting list" of individuals that need to be processed first.

Member Discussion

Greg Rappaport (Aging Out Angels) - Bridge to Employment program is located at MCCC; Youth are referred to MCCC classes.

- Targeted population are those that have had some relationship with the foster system & those who have had difficulty in traditional educational setting.
- Students prepare to test for the Hi-Set (High School Equivalency)
- Discuss will be held to strengthen collaboration with YCC to identify ways YCC can assist by providing specific services (workshops, internship, use of computer in the Learning Link lab)

Mercedes Delgado (Anchor House) commented that lack of motivation is an issue. Monetary incentives are not always the answer.

- Longevity stamina is difficult for youth to maintain (commitment issues)
- Greg's program is great because it allows youth to obtain their high school equivalency in weeks
- It's key for the youth to bond with their tutor

Meeting Adjournment

Greg made the motion to adjourn and Keith Secrest seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 1:19 p.m.

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

October 11, 2022
December 13, 2022

February 14, 2023
April 10, 2023
June 13, 2023