



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

June 13, 2023 ♦ 12:30 p.m. ♦ Zoom Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

Latoya Wilson (WCR Consultancy / YIC Chair), **Dawn Paquette** (NJM Insurance Group), **Greg Rapport** (Aging Out Angels), **Keith Secrest** (Kinetics Industries)

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

Welcome & Introductions

Latoya Wilson hosted first meeting as YIC Chair.

Review and Approval of April 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Correction: Kassia Bukosky did not attend the 4/11/23 meeting.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Latoya Wilson, seconded by Dawn Paquette.
The motion carried and minutes were approved.

PY 22 Youth Update

- Contracted Services – Isles
 - 35 youth served : 13 achieved their HSE / 5 became employed / 3 received “other” credential
- YCC
 - 35 started and 26 completed
 - 9 had individual circumstances
 - Homelessness
 - Found job or other training on their own
 - Moved
 - 8 are currently in training; 3 completed
 - 5 in holding pattern; will retest on CASA to increase scores to enter training
 - 2 are working; 1 as a result of her OJT at a property management agency who paid for her training
 - 3 are expecting positive employment outcome

PY 2023 Youth Update

SYEP 2023 (Award: \$380,013 / LOS: 115)

- Recruitment (Youth & Worksites)
- 446 applications received
 - An electronic lottery was held to select 146 applications (to ensure LOS is attained)
 - \$3,000 maximum stipend over 8 weeks (\$15.00/hr.)
- 49 worksites with 181 available positions; targeted matches will be made
- Job Readiness (SkillUp)
 - An on-line program provided by Metrix Learning; will account for 3 hours of weekly paid instruction
 - “Game” format that will translate into employability skills

- Program Design
 - Orientation: June 26-28
 - Work Experience: July 3 – September 1

OSY RFP

- Isles was the only proposal received
 - Latoya was part of the Review Committee
 - The Board of Commissioners have to approve the OS recommendation

Career Awareness Events – August/September 2023

- Target population will be youth who graduated in June but have no plans
- Conference Format – General Session & Breakouts
- Virtual late afternoon/early evening
- Presentations:
 - General – Labor Market Information (LMI)
 - General – Job Search techniques; educational & interactive
 - Breakouts
 - Advanced Manufacturing
 - MCCC Certificate Programs
 - Occupational Training & SkillUp
 - Trades

**Please send any suggestions to Virgen*

- NJM will participate
- Include information for MCCC and other training opportunities
- Marketing has to encompass social media

WDB Local Plan – Future Programming

- Use as a reference tool to determine goals and keep track of how the committee is progressing in accomplishing the goals
- Open to changes as needed
- Events can be developed with Area Partners (Middlesex, Ocean and Monmouth)

Announcements – Agency/Community Events

- Latoya attended a 2-day Pathway event in Atlantic City
- Credentialing was a major focus
- “Credential as you go” was a suggestion
- Important to expose student in lower grades to advanced manufacturing and other trades
- AI will affect the way training is delivered

Meeting Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by LaToya Wilson and seconded by Keith Secret. Meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Next Meetings - 2nd Tuesdays Bi-monthly ♦ 12:30 p.m.

August 8, 2023

October 10, 2023

December 12, 2023

February 13, 2024

April 9, 2024

June 11, 2024