



County of Mercer Workforce Development Board

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Virgen Velez
Acting Director

Brian M. Hughes
County Executive

Keith Secret
Chairperson

WDB Youth Investment Council

October 10, 2023 ♦ 12:30 p.m. ♦ Zoom Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

Latoya Wilson (WCR Consultancy / YIC Chair), **Dave Nash** (MCTS), **Dawn Paquette** (NJM Insurance Group),

WDB /One Stop Staff: Virgen Velez

Welcome & Introductions

Latoya Wilson hosted meeting as YIC Chair.

Review of June 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes *(August meeting was canceled)

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
 - 13 achieved their HSE
 - Contract was renewed – July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

A new RFP will be available next Spring. At the next meeting, the Committee will begin to identify what services can be in-house vs. contracted.

- YCC
 - Orientations have resumed the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month - Information is provided regarding training and internships
 - About 5 youth from the SYEP have been extended into October and will be offered all services through the YCC

- Performance Measures
 - We did well in meeting our performance measures
 - We exceeded the two Youth Employment Retention measures & the Youth Credential measure
 - Skill Gains measure was not met; we will explore to identify the cause(s) and implement solutions

PY 2023 Youth Update

- The SYEP ended on September 1st; Data will be reported to the State and shared at the next meeting
- 130 youth began the program and over 100 completed
- SkillUp was used for the job readiness component; this was 2.5 self-driven hours weekly; data on how many youth actually participated will be determined for report

OSY Programming

- Isles – contract was renewed based on their performance and 1-year extension option

WDB Local Plan / Goals 2023 – 2026 (*Plan was emailed to members)

Highlights

- Need to increase YIC membership and meeting attendance
- Events can be developed with Central Jersey Partners (Middlesex, Ocean and Monmouth)
- Highlight employer benefits
- Improve awareness of services to youth populations, utilizing an array of social media

Latoya suggested exploring how AI is impacting job training and employers.

Plan needs to be reviewed periodically and revised as needed. It can be separated into short and long-term goals.

Announcements – Agency/Community Events

- The OS is hosting a Job/Career Fair on 10/25 at the Cure Arena (3:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.)
 - Aside from employers, there will be training resources – MCCC, MCTS, vendors, possibly some trade unions; as well as resource information (County Energy Assistance Program)
 - Target population are adults and young adults who did not enter post-secondary upon graduation
 - Dave Nash is sending information to all seniors and alumni
 - An ad will be published in the Trentonian next week
 - The event will be advertised on the Arena digital marquee
 - PTAs will also be sent information

Meeting Adjournment

Latoya Wilson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded by Dave Nash. Meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Next Meetings:

2nd Tuesdays Bi-monthly ♦ 12:30 p.m.

December 12, 2023

February 13, 2024

April 9, 2024

June 11, 2024