

Workforce Investment Board Youth Council

Minutes of November 19, 2013

Attendees: *Curtis Myers, ASPIRE Youth Development/YMCA; Shawn Smith, Behavioral Health and Youth Services; Valerie Hawkins, Burlington County College; Cicely Watts, Board of Social Services; AC McIntosh, Division of Child Protection and Permanency; Ann Disare, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation; Dr. Amy Dean, Faith in Action; Aaron Samuels, Henkles and McCoy; James Stanmore, Mid-Atlantic States Career & Education Center; Kathleen Neal, Resources for Independent Living; Kirk Lew, State Employment and Training Commission (SETC); Gregory Wilson, The Children's Home; Seigha Omuso, The O'League; Bill Freeman, YMCA of Camden/Burlington Counties*

I. State Employment and Training Commission (SETC) Update

- Social Media Study to be conducted. Need to bridge the gap. How are employers using social media and how will they use in future? Can use data as a teaching/training tool.
- Saturday, December 5th the State will host a World Café to gain youth perspective. Looking to have between 100 – 125 youth for a 1 ½ session.
- State is doing Resource Mapping to see what services are being duplicated.
- WIB Eligibility, State looking at creating a program for youth who are not eligible based on WIA Eligibility. Manpower is partnering with State WIB for development.
- Department of Education's Career Technical Educational arm is rolling out a pilot program in NJ for in-school youth stackable credentials. Looking at priority Talent Network sectors and entry level employment (in-demand occupations).
- Department of Ed is issuing an RFP, may be more of a Notice of Obligation, to pilot areas to conduct youth summits. Possible funds available \$20,000 expected March 2014.
- PY13 Performance Measures to be released soon.

II. Coordination of Services-Year Round Programming: Vendor Meeting/Employment

- Vendors met to coordinate services and to maximize the impact of the services provided to youth.
- Each vendor provides services in and around employment; from preparation to placement.
- Need to work on employment: where are we and how are we getting the right positions for our youth?
- Recognized challenge: Getting youth to understand that what the job is isn't how they dress for an interview. It's not just image, its attitude.
- Youth who are involved with Division of Child Protection and Permanency; DCPP will provide clothing and other basic needs. Cicely to reach out to AC McIntosh with list.
- Recommended: Look at what "we" can control. Create a policy for dress? Need to be consistent.

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- Recommended: Engage employers to speak with youth about why they don't hire. Need to meet employers where they are (this is a Core Value of the Workforce System).
- Recommended: Look at systematic change – need for better role models. If a vendor, case manager, director, etc is wearing sweatpants – why should the youth feel the need to be in a suit?

III. Youth Program/Community Transition Update

- Cicely announced that the Administrative Supervisor of Workfirst and Youth retired from her post after 38 years at the Board of Social Services. Kathy Walsh will assume the Administrative Supervisor roll and Lisa Timpson will be Supervisor of the Workfirst NJ Unit. Barbara will add Kathy to the email distribution list.
- Cicely reported that majority of the youth in the program have been referred to a vendor(s). She asked that each vendor be mindful that she needs the weekly attendance/participation report, so that when she is asked for supportive services she can be certain that the youth has been an active participant of the program. Plus, it helps to know if their goals/objectives are being met.

IV. Teen Youth Summit

- Summit was held Saturday, November 16th at the Emergency Services Training Center. Approximately 65 girls, ranging in age from 12-15 were in attendance. Dr. Dean reported that the day was an inspirational and interactive one. It was a true collaborative effort by all those who offered their services that day. She said that the girls walked away extremely inspired. She quoted a participant as saying “I can see that I have a brighter future”.
- The boy's summit “EmpowerMENT” will be held on Saturday, December 14th at the same location and time.

V. Other Youth Business

- Dr. Dean announced the Faith in Action will be providing food, clothing and toys to families in need on December 21st. She asked that families register, as FIA's last drive was inundated with families. They want to make sure there is enough.
- Greg Wilson announced that the Children's Home is conducting a Food/Toy Drive. Details can be found on their website www.childrenshome.org.
- Greg also announced that as a 501C3, The Children's Home was the selected charity of Miller Subaru for their Share the Love Program. For everyone who purchases a Subaru – the Children's Home will receive \$250.
- Shawn Smith announced, on behalf of Seigha Omuso, that The O'League is having a fundraiser on Monday, December 9th. Shawn said he would email the flyer to Barbara for distribution to the committee mailing list.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 17th at 9:00 AM at Burlington County College High Technology Business and Life Science Incubators, 100 Technology Way (formerly 900 Briggs Road), Mount Laurel, NJ 08054