

Workforce Development Board

Youth Council Minutes

Friday, March 17, 2023

Attendance: via ZOOM

Attendees:

Caren Freyer – PSEG, Chair

Curtis Myers – Aspire Youth Development

Shana Jarvis – Aspire Youth Development

Jennifer Veneziani – Div. Voc. Rehab Svcs.

Jodie Glenn – Bordentown Adult Education

Jared Toscano – Palmyra High School

Randy Hamilton – Smith & Solomon

Randy Brolo - Labor

Patricia Holiday – Juvenile Justice Commission

Barbara Weir – WDB

Call to Order: 10:04AM – Caren Freyer, Chair

I. Career Fair Update –

The **Youth Job Fair** will be held on **Thursday, May 25 from 4:30 to 7:00 PM** at the **Human Services Facility, 795 Woodlane Road, Westampton NJ 08060**. The fair is open to all youth 16 and up.

The flyer is official and has been sent to WDB Members, WDB Committees, other County Divisions, and on the WDB LinkedIn page.

Curtis created a google doc for employer registration. To date 10 have registered; resource table, labor unions/apprenticeship, and employers (Amazon, Funplex, McDonald's). Curtis will send Barbara a complied list each Friday so she can keep a running list of participating employers. This list will be posted on the WDB website and share with the group, schools, etc.

Jen reported the DVRS team has been promoting the fair at schools, employers on Route 73 (Mt. Laurel area), as well as at the Lenape Job Fair. She will be reaching out to Cinnaminson and Riverside High Schools and sending to the SJ Transition Coordinator for distribution. Jay has sent to his Superintendent for Superintendent Round Table distribution. Need to send to Guidance Counselor group.

Shana confirmed Quandell of SJ Millennials to come speak/kick-off fair. Randy can also speak to youth on Labor aspects, etc. The issue is logistics, not all youth will be present at start time, in and out, not a focused group. Having someone kick off the Fair is a good idea, having speakers during the event may pose difficulty. Could ask youth “who is interested in learning more about an Apprenticeship... then we could do an event where Randy would present on Skilled Labor Apprenticeships. Will circle back.

II. **Career Fair Discussion –**

Preparing youth for the fair – video? While Curtis doesn't have an in-house video, there are many he could pull to use. Plus, there are PowerPoint presentations on the WDB Youth Career Fair site <https://www.co.burlington.nj.us/1964/Career-Fairs> - *Build a Better Resume* and *Preparing for a Successful Interview*.

The Career Fairs is both a Job Fair and a Career Fair. Trying to recruit on both sides to meet both “getting a job” and “looking for a career”. While the WDB/AJC cannot single out individual vendors to speak about their certificate programs (i.e., RCBC, Merit, and Smith & Solomon, etc.) we can have someone to speak to all certificate programs/career pathways and the process in getting there.

Caren inquired what the hook would be to get youth in the door? Can there be a raffle, employer giveaway, swag bags? With County Government we are not permitted; plus, the NJ Division of Consumer Affairs requires a license for any raffle, etc. (Legalized Game of Chance). Additionally, the WDB cannot solicit the employers participating in the Career Fair. Employers bring items to entice job seekers so youth will walk away with goodies. There could be a “What’s Next’ information guide we can distribute to youth upon exit, with resources, etc.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:40 AM

Next Meeting: April 21, 2023