

YOUTH INVESTMENT COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 15, 2010 - 9:10 a.m.
506 Jersey Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Attendance

PRESENT: David Blevins, Stuart Grant, Charles Hager, Alan Haveson, Bruce Negri, Senovia Robles, Evelyn Rosa, Joe Scott, Earl Wiggley and Sharon McGreevy

STAFF: Jane Z. Brady and Elizabeth Holt

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

The minutes of April 22, 2010 will be filed. Jane Brady announced that Scott Bollwage will not be able to make the meeting as he is home ill.

Update on WIA Youth Programs

Stats for Current Year Programs

MC4YOU – They have worked with 65 – 70 people that are not WIA eligible, in addition to those that are eligible. Fifteen (15) are on a waiting list for next year, which is already more than last year. Out of the 29 out-of-school youth, four (4) went into training programs, 10 were employed and the rest are still in the program.

MCC – Jane Brady noted that MCC had their youth program graduation yesterday, and the students had to plan it and develop the budget. The eight (8) students stayed within the budget, and it turned out wonderfully. All of them at MCC are in ITA's.

From the RFPs that were received earlier in the year, MCC was chosen to run a youth program for out of school youth who need their GED as well as to run a second program on the college campus for out of school youth with their high school diploma but in need of skill training through an ITA after the work readiness training. The GED program will operate out of the Perth Amboy YMCA. Both will be cycle programs of 6 months per cycle, with 15 students per cycle.

YMCA – For this program year which ends on June 30, the Y program served 29 youth who needed their GED. While a difficult group to work with, the staff was able to help at least 50% of the 29 youth receive their GED. The Y was not selected to continue this program but MCC will operate the program for this coming program year.

The Middlesex County Department of Workforce Development served 82 youth through the 2 vendor programs and our Youth One-Stop, which is a very high and fantastic number. Next year, staff hopes to serve at least 120 WIA eligible youth as well as 100 non WIA eligible youth.

Programs for 2010 – 2011

Funding – We received \$423,000 more than last year for youth. As noted previously, MCC will operate two (2) programs, one (1) at the college and the other at the YMCA.

Regarding the two agreements we have with the state Juvenile Justice Commission, Jane Brady mentioned that Jamesburg has provided five names of their residents this year that we were able to help. We also now have a signed contract with Bordentown which has men and women. Middlesex is the only county to have an agreement with Bordentown to assist their youth upon release to the community. Abner is the contact person for this program.

Youth One-Stop in New Brunswick – With the Perth Amboy youth One-Stop running efficiently, we continue to seek a location for a youth one stop in New Brunswick. The New Brunswick Campus of MCC has a classroom available during the day, plus separate office space and some computer lab usage. This is a good location with good synergy between the college offerings and the needs of the out of school youth. New Brunswick Adult High School is in walking distance for those youth who will need their GED. The hours of operation for the Youth one-Stop will be 9 am to 5 pm.

Discussion on Developing a Strategy Plan for Youth

Youth Surveys – While we have only received a few surveys, they will be reviewed when we have a sufficient number.

Goal and Objectives – A draft copy of the goals and objectives were distributed to the members. Members were asked to review the document and forward any suggestions to Jane Brady. Some suggestions made were: include financial education, esteem building and a mentoring part, parental engagement, internships/volunteering, a promise to expose participants to options they might not otherwise see, and expanding the youth yellow pages.

YIC Goals

Review Current Goals and Update (if necessary) - YIC goals need to be updated. It was indicated that most of the items listed are still appropriate.

Objective 1 – OK.

Objective 2 – Since staff is unable to gain access to schools, we provide Career Calendars for the 9th grade student orientation. It is our way of getting the information to the students, and hopefully, their parents. We will continue to try to work with high school guidance counselors. One suggestion is to deal with the Educational Foundations instead of the PTA and PTO's. Another is to have exit interview packets, which we already provide to all schools. Labor market information must be provided to the schools. We are trying to obtain federal data on New Jersey and forward on to the high schools. We need to identify and survey industries that directly impact Middlesex County. The employer's side must be taken into consideration with regards to complaints and needs. We need to organize a network of employers to increase new speakers from demand occupations.

Objective 3 – Is a work in progress.

Corrections will be made and distributed to the committee, and if approved, will be forwarded to the full WIB.

Other

Alan Haveson distributed a packet of information about Industrial Careers Pathways, which links young adults to careers in Industrial Distribution. This is an on line training program. Jane will contact Phyllis Russell, contact given by Alan, to get more information to see if it would be possible to incorporate this as an option into our youth programs.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am. A notice for the next meeting will be forwarded to the committee.