

YOUTH INVESTMENT COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 13, 2010 - 9:00 a.m.
506 Jersey Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Attendance

PRESENT: David Blevins, Scott Bollwage, Charles Hager, Alan Haveson, Michael Pede (for Bruce Negri), Dr. Patrick Piegari, Evelyn Rosa, Joe Scott, Earl Wiggley, and Naomi Vliet

STAFF: Jane Z. Brady, Martin Chun, and Elizabeth Holt

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

The minutes of June 15, 2010 will be filed. There is no formal agenda for this meeting. This meeting is being held to primarily discuss the Youth Plan.

Conference discussion

A Visioning Conference offering focus sessions is being held by the HSAC (Human Service Advisory Council) within the next 2 months regarding the youth. We are looking forward to receiving information from them. We will also be providing them with information gathered by staff from our youth programs. It was suggested to hold an annual youth conference (to focus on out of school youth) in March 2011 (for scheduling purposes, the guidance counselors need 3 months notice in order for them to be able to attend). All appropriate agencies, guidance counselors, and service providers will be invited as well as the youth that are enrolled in our programs. We should also coordinate the conference with DYFS, Family Court, MDT, and Correction Facilities. We need to start planning this now in order to ensure success. A suggestion was raised to hold it at MCC (Middlesex County College), however transportation and parking might be a problem. Another suggestion was to have it held in New Brunswick or Perth Amboy at one of the schools in which our youth are familiar with. The Fire Academy was also mentioned as a possible location.

Calendar

A suggestion was made to distribute the youth calendar in January 2011 since so much material is already distributed in September with the orientation packet. It was also suggested to have the calendar go from January – December and to include coupons in the calendar from various stores such as Subway, Dunkin Donuts, etc.

Flyers & Recruitment

Suggestions were made to place advertisements about these programs in free weekly newspapers in English and Spanish, as well as possibly placing them on billboards in the mall or in supermarkets. We are not allowed to have a Facebook page due to lack of control, nor a virtual one-stop due to the cost. We will keep the web page that is currently up now with links to other websites. The idea is to try to get the information out to the youth. The Youth Yellow pages were just updated and were re-printed approximately 1 year ago. There are still plenty of copies left to be distributed.

Career Information

Both Alan Haveson and Earl Wiggley offered to host tours of their facilities for our youth to explore career options. Earl Wiggley offered to check with some other companies to see if they would be willing as well. Joe Scott will check to see if Rutgers would be willing do the same regarding the athletic facilities and other possible careers. Jane Brady will follow up with each to schedule tours. It was suggested that Central Jersey Job Developers may also have companies that would cooperate and host a tour. Jane will contact Beth Fitzgerald of NJBIZ in regards to tours and promotions. We are also taking suggestions for an activity for next spring and fall.

Alan Haveson noted that concentration should be emphasized on open opportunities and not growth industries as all work should be viewed as valuable.

Dave Blevins remarked that the child care industry is usually seeking workers and that if asked they may be interested in providing job shadowing opportunities for people interested in working with children. Abner Garcia is to follow up with entities in Perth Amboy and then later New Brunswick.

Meetings will be held with guidance counselors and pamphlets including the drop-out packet, youth yellow pages, and calendars will be distributed. The schools were previously given all this information.

Update on WIA Youth Programs

The Perth Amboy program has 13 participants, all of whom do not have a High School Diploma and need to obtain their GED. The Perth Amboy Adult School for GED prep is no longer in use. After the participants receive their GED they will move into a training program or employment. This program is successful.

The college has 15 participants, all of whom have a diploma. This is the 4th year this program is running on the campus. The number of youth served is successful. Tracey Montani is the person in charge of this program.

Abner Garcia and Shamar Spencer, staff of The Department of Workforce Development will be doing more outreach than in the past. Their major recruitment strategy is to refer the youth to Tracey Montani who is in charge of both programs as well as to inform the youth of other possible programs. They are also to continue working with other agencies for referrals such as P.R.A.B., Jewish Renaissance, and the local Adult Schools, etc. It was asked if these are gender specific programs and if there is a bilingual capacity. Abner Garcia will provide the gender info break down from last year's programs to all YIC members. Both genders are participating. Perth Amboy has the bilingual capacity in the way of staff, MCC also has bilingual capacity. Jane Brady will send a summary of the youth programs to all YIC members.

Survey

We put together the survey and distributed it out to the youth. It was handed out at the adult schools and various other facilities. We only received about 40 surveys back which wasn't much help but we will keep trying.

3rd Item

Staff will continue to attend a minimum of 10 community meetings a year.

Juvenile Justice Agencies & Institutions

We have now signed contracts with both facilities; Bordentown and Jamesburg to work with the individuals before they exit. In the past few years we have worked with 3 individuals from Jamesburg and none of the youth coming out of Borden Town. These facilities are supposed to notify us 90 days before the individual is released so we can meet with them. It is up to the facility to contact us. Middlesex and Camden County are the only counties to have these agreements in place.

Objective 2

Anti-drop out play – NCADD took over the project and it has been completed. They have 3 teams that perform for the schools. The cost is \$250. The high schools won't pay. United Way is working on providing a grant to NCADD to provide this play to at least 10 schools this year. Jane Brady will approach the schools again to allow the NCADD to perform the play at no cost to them.

3 Sectors

Speakers will be provided to high schools to talk to the students about certain job markets that are growing and that may not be popular or familiar to the students. The speakers will be in a small setting such as in classrooms for those students that are interested. There have not been too many requests for speakers. We are trying to encourage respect for not so glorious employment opportunities.

Abner Garcia has been working on job shadowing and intern opportunities

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am. The next meeting is scheduled for January 10th, 2011. A notice will be sent to the committee for confirmation. A notice to begin planning for the conference will be sent out prior to the next meeting.