



COUNTY OF MERCER
Workforce Investment Board
One-Stop Career Center
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 Director, Workforce Investment Board

YOUTH INVESTMENT COUNCIL MEETING
Administration Building – 640 S. Broad St.

Meeting Minutes ♦ June 23, 2011

Chair: Melinda Skarupsky
Attendance: Mary E. Burks, Janine Calogero (Parent/Lawrence), Nancie Dent, Anita Galiano, Jim Purcell, Aaron Samuels, Robert Sheppard (Parent/Trenton), Latricia Cooley Turner, Laura Wilson (Parent/Trenton), Barrett Young
Staff: Maribel Duarte

Meeting opened at 9:18 am

Welcome

- Melinda opened meeting
- Roundtable introductions
- Special welcome to 3 parents present from Lawrence and Trenton School districts

Review of Minutes

- Motion to approve by Nancie Dent; 2nd motion by Mary Burks

Melinda's Update

- Developing company LinqSource (email: LinqSource@yahoo.com) with support from Cooper University Hospital and pending funding from the Bill Gates Foundation
- Goal is to fill gap for youth who still lack employability skills and can benefit from entrepreneurial skills

Update: Subsidized Summer Employment

- Conditions (attainment of *common measures*) still apply so Mercer County has declined funding
- One-Stop (OS) will continue to assist youth with job search efforts, utilizing the Business Resource Center (BRC)

OS Initiatives

- Aaron is on an Employment subcommittee of the Trenton Policy Board, whose mission is to develop policy ideas to address unemployment issues in the County
 - Youth focus groups will be held to learn 1st hand about their needs; this will be filmed utilizing the production studio at the Daylight/Twilight High School

- In collaboration with UIH Family Partners, a documentary will be filmed of their youth who utilize OS services to track them over 6 months to monitor their progress and assess the impact of OS services; this will be filmed by an independent filmmaker; this is in its preliminary stages
- Older youth (18-21) enrolled in occupational training will have the opportunity to receive paid work experience after successful completion of set criteria; this will give them hands-on experience that employers look for

One-Stop Data Report (See Handout for full report)

- Recruitment of out-of-school youth is a state-wide issue; Aaron will attend meeting with other OS to discuss and explore options
- Refer all youth not enrolled in any academic program to Aaron for assessment/eligibility for services
- Additional transportation is needed for Six Flags job opportunities

Private Outreach

- Melinda asked for continued referrals of private companies to join the YIC and the WIB

Open Discussion

- ◆ AARP funding ends 6/30/11; some youth were hired by the private sector
- ◆ Nancie is recruiting AmeriCorp members (18+ yrs) for after-school programs (3-6:30pm) in September; on-line application
- ◆ Parent of youth attending the Health Care Academy asked whether summer internships can be developed for the students? Principal Lucille Jones will be asked to address topic at future meeting
- ◆
- ◆ Libraries are being utilized by community-based organizations
- ◆ Anita mentioned the “Health Community, Health Youth” Board that brings school districts, police, health/well-being entities to support youth; participating townships include West Windsor, Princeton, Pennington, and Ewing
 - Also, thought that the “The Search Institute’s” annual national conference might be a good event to explore to expose our youth to

WIB: Jim gave a brief overview of the Board’s responsibility

- Setting tone and policy for workforce development to meet the needs of businesses
- The Board is in the midst of updating its strategic plan; it was awarded funding from State government to develop marketing and labor market analyses

Meeting Adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: TBA