



COUNTY OF MERCER
Workforce Investment Board
One-Stop Career Center
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Brian M. Hughes
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County Administrator

Beverly Mills
Director, Economic Opportunity

YOUTH INVESTMENT COUNCIL MEETING
Administration Building – 640 South Broad Street

May 27, 2009 ♦ Minutes

Attendance: Sam Frisby (Chair), Mary E. Burks, Winnie Fatton, Nikita Ganatra, Jim Purcell, Melinda Skarupsky, Latricia Bailey

Staff: Beverly Mills, Maribel Duarte

- Meeting was opened by Sam Frisby, Chair. Minutes from 4/22/09 were approved; Mary E. Burks made a motion to accept the minutes and was seconded by Winnie Fatton.
- In reference to 2008 Youth RFP contracts, Sam requested a “refresher” on WIA guidelines be presented at the next meeting. He further suggested that a YIC ad hoc committee convene (in place of full YIC) at the next YIC meeting to go over WIA guidelines. Purpose is to be better informed prior to next youth RFP cycle.
- Volunteers for the ad hoc committee include: Bev Mills, Jim Purcell, Sam Frisby, Mary E. Burks, Melinda Skarupsky, and Latricia Baily.
- Bev Mills was asked to get a copy of the Youth RFP and e-mail to the ad hoc committee at least two weeks prior to the June 24, 2009 meeting.

Update on Stimulus Funding for Youth Services

- Deadline for ACES applications was May 15, 2009; there were 450 applications received overall.
- One Stop had a lottery for older applicants (18-24 year old) and will hold one for younger youth. Certification letters were sent out outlining what they needed to bring in to verify income.
- Lottery for younger youth (14-17 year old) will be held today, 5/27/09.
- Slots are targeted for **200** youth (14-17) paying \$7.25 per hour and for **250** older youth to be paid \$7.50 per hour.
- Sam voiced concern whether this hourly wage is enough to pay the older group; what if a higher paying job should come along? Sam cautioned that part of this challenge is to take another look at this age group

keeping in mind our goal to attract and retain a more focused youth. If we retain the youth, especially by offering a higher hourly wage, the more likely they are to complete training.

- Bev mentioned that the State has heavily encouraged WIBs/One Stops to put as many youth into training as possible. The One Stop should market to youth the added value of this package and to explain the extras they will receive which includes the cost of their training and transportation.
- Committee agreed with Sam the YIC needs more information from One Stop regarding level of service and cost breakdown. Bev Mills was requested to get information so the YIC can make a more informed recommendation: what is the market value of the bundled package? If we offer \$7.50, \$8.00 or \$9.00 per hour, how many youth will be served based on a 35 hour work week?
- Sam reiterated he feels the lowest hourly wage to be offered the older youth should be \$8.50 per hour and that \$9.00 would be even better to retain youth and ensure a more successful program.

Update from Jim Purcell re: DOT Training:

- Meeting held at DOT with Asst. Commissioner Jen Godoski and representatives along with Jim Purcell, Maribel Duarte & Bev Mills to discuss potential training of adult workers;
- Training would not work on construction side; they are too many currently apprenticing however construction inspectors would benefit and could help identify basic skills needed for entry level workers;
- Purpose is to have consultant mentor and eventually hire trainee along with a career ladder;
- One Stop should start screening for candidates; should partner with DOT and determine who would do instruction and provide space;
- On-line courses are free but also need classroom instruction; who would do instructing and where?
- All must be paid through ACES

Next meeting for Ad Hoc Committee only: Wednesday, June 24, 2009, 9:00-10:00, County Administration Building, 2nd floor room 211, 640 South Broad Street, Trenton, NJ