



2 South Main Street 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Pleasantville, NJ 08232  
Telephone: 609.485.0153 Fax: 609.485.0067

## Atlantic County Workforce Development Youth Investment Council

August 9,2022

### Attendance:

Fran Kuhn Sherrise A. Moten Greg Freelon Cynthia Torres Leesa Seymour Kelly De Curtis  
Rev. Odinga Maddox Gina DeMaio Candace Titanski Ren Parikh Heather Oldis Geoffrey Dorsey  
Nina Stolzenberg Dr. A. Holmes Connie Lane (Youthworks) Jackie Alderman

### Absent:

Cindy Herdman-Ivins Claire Millar Sgt. Sarkos Officer Williams Michael Margraf  
Dr. P Guenther Stephanie Koch

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The Meeting was called to order by the Chair Greg Freelon at 9:35 am.

Curtis Still will be assuming the role for Leesa Seymour who will be retiring at the end of the month.

Mr. Freelon provided a brief overview of the previous meeting May 10<sup>th</sup>. He called for any questions and comments. Mr. Kuhn asked for a motion to approve May's minutes. Motion made by Geoffrey D, second by Greg F. Heather O. abstained. No discussion followed and minutes were unanimously approved.

Connie Lane from Youthworks provided a report about the 98-youth applicants in SYEP this summer. This year there were 70 active youth , (1) one direct hire from the first cohort to the city of Pleasantville and 53 are in the second cohort.

Mr. Kuhn confirmed WFNJ had 25 employers that expressed an interest in the program, all total we had 132 positions available with 70 being filled with a (LOS) level of 60. WFNJ had a summer program that hired 17 more students. The program is hopeful that all grant funds would be spent.

Mr. Kuhn confirmed that we were able to place 17 persons that were between the ages of 16 to 24 who are members of the TANF household. They will be able to work 30 hours a week earning \$15 per hour, with no support services. He notes that WFNJ can provide childcare and transportation in addition to a stipend that does not affect their benefits. He hopes to continue the program next year.

Mr. Kuhn reported the renewal contract with IDEAL Technology INC. for PY21 in the amount of \$834,000. IDEAL's LOS for the last contract was 139 students, qualifying for out of school eligibility. IDEAL currently had 18 students currently enrolled, projecting 200 students for PY22.

Boys and Girls Club. Dr. Holmes reported the club is ending the summer camp program which ends August 19. They will begin a teen center and a kid club in the fall. The overall focus will be on academic enrichment.

Mr. Kuhn reported the ACB&GC was awarded one of two contracts in the amount of \$174,000 with a LOS of 29 youth. The second award went to Atlantic County Special Services in the same amount



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\$174,000. He mentioned with the retirement of Anne Dillion we currently do not have a replacement at the school .

Family Success Centers report was provided by L. Seymore. She confirmed that all MOU's have been signed and the initiative went live July 1<sup>st</sup>,2022. More activity has been in Oceanside's Center. The goal is to get out the word in community, that you do not have to go to the one stop to get assistance with the entitlement programs. It also frees up Family Success Center and allows for workforce development staff to help with resume writing, interview prep and job searching. Mr. Kuhn added that the plan was to be represented in the family success centers rotating between adult, dislocated workers and youth services.

IDEAL's report was provided by Ren P. He began with the graduation celebration at the Sheraton which included over 100 youth. Currently having 18 students enrolled. IDEAL will add an apprenticeship program for maintenance and operation. They will be partnering with a grant program, NJBUILD, that will provide woodworking and carpentry for the youth. He shared a few contractors in South Jersey that agreed to provide an apprenticeship and internship/paid opportunity for their students. The information sessions will be August 16 and 17 in Hamilton Mall, Mays Landing and classes will begin August 29<sup>th</sup>, which will include evening classes. His expectation is to enroll 30 youth based on sign-ups. IDEAL is working on a pilot program with Greater Egg Harbor Regional School District to work with 80 plus student that have dropped out of school over the past five years. The plan is to appoint resources to do outreach to the families. Ren continues with a partnership with Spencer Gifts, confirming they have a grant for this and will fulfill a need of 30 plus helpdesk support specialist positions. He concluded with a food truck program and having a final approval for operation tomorrow (8/10/22). The location will be at the Tangier Outlets in Atlantic City.

Jewish Family Services report was provided by N. Stolzenberg. She discussed the Bridges Grant JFS was providing services . They were re-awarded the grant for services to youth with disabilities. The program was funded 3-4 months ago and received an extension to serve 30 youth. She reported the career placements are competitive employment and are not subsidized employment positions. Nina added the Central Jersey Inmate program has 14 enrolled and are looking for more participation.

Atlantic City Electric Program update was provided by Kelly Ann D. The programming is looking to increase participation for high school internships for SYEP. They are working with referrals into their programs to include 21-year-old individuals due to the CDL requirement. She discussed the Smart Energy Network, which is the meter replacement that is ongoing in South Jersey. The program has 45 positions available for contractors. She state there were 16 eighteen-year-olds that have been hired for the meter replacement program. The second wave of hiring in January. She concluded with an offer to the committee to have a leader from AC Electric come out to speak with the youth.

New Jersey Youth Corp update provided by Rev. Maddox. Their first cohort began PY23 funding year , July1st. The program completed last year meeting the LOS of 30, projected 35 for PY23. The program had a second virtual graduation but will return to in person next time. They currently have 10 enrolled and are doing well. The service projects include partnering with Pleasantville Public Works to complete the urban gateway projects and maintenance. Future projects include working with the food banks and



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obtaining a driver's license for several students. Kelly Ann DeCurtis indicated that the level of interest in obtaining a driver's license is not the same as it was in the past. Mr. Kuhn also stressed the importance of having a driver's license to extend and enhance career potential.

Mr. Kuhn added the need to have discussions with the State regarding the WFNJ having a transitional plan for those kids that are in foster care that are 16 and older. He wants to be able to educate the folks within DCPD to make them aware of the opportunity. Getting them connected to our resources so that we can help those kids that are turning 18, deciding they no longer want to be part of the system. He would like to have that conversation in the next few months.

DVR- Candice Titanski reported that they have a summer youth employment program; 17 individuals participating in a 9-week program for youth ages 14-21 which includes a stipend (\$100 gift card) after the completion of the program. This program includes work readiness and job exploration for the youth. Each student is paid by the vendor \$13.00 per hour.

### **New Business**

Mr. Kuhn spoke of the importance of having Youth representation that can provide a youthful observation from someone that is or has received services. He is requesting recommendations from the committee. NJ Youth Corp, AC Boys and Girls Club and IDEAL, all stated they will submit a youth for consideration.

The Chair Mr. Freelon shared information regarding a new proposal to repair urban gardens that are in disrepair. Mr. Freelon continued with stating they are operating through Cookie Tills Organization. He will forward a flyer to the committee to share information.

Mr. Kuhn requested a motion to adjourn Motion by Geoffrey D. second by Canadice T.

Meeting adjourns at 10:20am. **Next meeting November 15<sup>th</sup>.**

Respectfully,

Submitted by  
Sherrise A. Moten  
Board Liaison