

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

September 19, 2017

Members Present

Cleve Bryan, Chair

Marge Canning, GCIT

Dr. W. King, FBO

Marie Rafter, GC Probation

Tania Darbouze, DVRS

Brian Carey, WDB Staff

Tom Bianco, Co-Chair

Laurie Haldeman, GCIT

Terry Levins, DWD

Sandy Uhr, GCIT

Gregory Wright, GCIT

Bridget DiGiambattista, WDB Staff

Members Absent

Rudy Aikens, GC Human & Disability Svcs.

Jessica Froba, NJJC

Erin Klein, Robin's Nest

Mien Mombo, Dept. of Children & Family

Gina Pratta, Family Success Center

Sharon Rosado, Abilities Solutions

Daniel Sulpizio, Business

Kimberly Webster, NJ Corps.

Kim Alexander, GCIT

Kim Gober, GC Housing Authority

Leona Mather, Youth Parent

Susan Perron, Abilities Solutions

John Ramus, GC Housing Authority

Michelle Shirey, WDB Director

Kristen Tahaney, Center for Family Services

Visitor

Alyssa LaGamba, GCIT Student

Cleve opened the meeting at 2:00 pm.

A motion to approve May 16, 2017 minutes was made by T. Bianco, seconded by S. Haldeman.

Youth Advisory Report

Alyssa reported the committee met on September 12, 2017. The dog chew toy project is ongoing, the toys are sent to Petsavers. They will be starting an aluminum can collection to benefit Gloucester County Habitat for Humanity. Starting in October, they students will be volunteering once per month at Restore in Pitman. They discussed upcoming job shadowing which will begin in October and run all year. The students will job shadow in IT Department, Administrative Assistant, and Custodial at GCIT. They will job shadow at Liscio's Bakery in January. They will be working on resume writing, application skills, and dress for success to prepare for the Oct. 13th job fair.

Student Report

Alyssa likes the program, especially the one on one. Her future interest is in becoming a veterinarian.

Status

Sandy reported they did see a decline over the summer. Already for month of September they have enrolled 3 new students. Currently there are 6 students enrolled and participating. To date, the last 4 TABE testers scored too low to qualify for the program. They were referred to RCGC for basic skills component. Two students received their high school diploma after taking HiSet exam this summer, two students are in process of testing for the diploma.

On July 26, 2017, Gregory Wright, Laurie Haldeman, & Sandy Uhr presented information on the program at the Probation Department, families in attendance appreciated the information. Many activities are planned for the school such as community service projects, job shadowing, vocational classes, CPR & AED certifications.

Gregory reported he met with J. Dundee & M. Dicken to discuss allowing Youth Education & Career Center students to participate in job shadowing/internships at GCIT. He also mentioned to them there are a lot of requirements this programs needs to meet and they could be facilitated by GCIT as well as

Special Services, the alternative program, and other programs at GCIT, he would like the Youth Education & Career Center students to be offered same opportunities.

New Business

Cleve stated with the new fiscal year there has been reduction in funding. Gregory reported he has met with J. Dundee, M. Dicken, & M. Canning to discuss budget, and he will be meeting with Marge again to finalize budget.

Gregory reported they mailed out over 300 letters to various businesses and organizations about the program and had a log of places where information was left over the summer. Cleve reported he shared with the Executive Committee, one of the reasons why enrollment is low is because districts are running twilight programs and keeping kids that would have otherwise dropped out and sought out a program such as ours.

Summer Program – Brian reported 18 students participated in the summer program. The students liked the program and the experience they gained. They participated in community service opportunities; they worked in culinary, electrical, clerical, and outside work. Laurie will follow up with the students over the next 12 months.

A motion for adjournment was made by T. Bianco, seconded by L. Haldeman.

The next meeting will be held December 19, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridget A. DiGiambattista, WDB Staff