

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
February 19, 2019

Members Present

Rudy Aikens, GC Human & Disability Services
Scott Costello, GCIT Youth
Heather Faulkner, GC Housing Authority
Natalie Perez, DWD
Sharon Rosado, Abilities Solutions
Eileen Gallo, WDB Staff

Marge Canning, GCIT
Laurie Haldeman, GCIT Youth
Andrea Guzman-Rivera, DVRS
Marie Rafter, GC Probation
Gregory Wright, GCIT Youth
Bridget DiGiambattista, WDB Staff

Members Absent

Cleve Bryan, Chair
Jessica Froba, NJJC
Erin Klein, Robin's Nest
Gina Pratta, Family Success Center
Daniel Sulpizio, Business
Kristen Tahaney, Center for Family Services

Tom Bianco, Co-Chair
Dr. W. King, FBO
Mien Mombo, Dept. of Children & Family
Michelle Shirey, WDB Director
Denise Taguwa, NJLWD
Kimberly Webster, Job Corps

Visitor

Krista Lope, DVRS

Emily Ridgeway, GCIT Student

Eileen opened the meeting at 2:00 pm.

A motion to approve December 18, 2018 minutes was made by R. Aikens, seconded by L. Haldeman.

M. Shirey & T. Bianco were not able to attend, both were attending off site meeting.

Youth Development Committee Report

Emily reported a meeting was held Feb. 13, 2019, 10 students were in attendance. The Dog Chew Toys will be ongoing through end of school year every Friday. The students will continue collecting can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. A food drive is planned for March for the food bank. A job shadow opportunity in March will be at the Learn with Me Day and on March 19 there are 2 job shadow opportunities, one with IT department and the other with maintenance/warehouse department. A CPR/AED class was held Feb. 6, 2019, 5 students earned certification. Another CPR class will be held in May. A ServeSafe class will be held on March 12, 4 students have expressed interest. The students plan on attending the MEGA job fair and will work on completing their resumes and working on dressing for success to prepare for the job fair.

Laurie reported Emily has been homeschooled and is interested in attending cosmetology school but needed HSE. She completed program in 2 weeks.

Status

Recruitment – Gregory reported things are working well since they are working directly with the schools. They are receiving calls directly from guidance counselors.

Enrollment – they currently have 20 students enrolled and have recently mailed 8 applications, they anticipate 3 starting next month.

Employment – he recently spoke with employee of Wegman’s, a trip will be planned to Wegman’s for a tour and scholarship opportunities they offer.

Graduates – they have had 7 students graduate since December, 2018.

New Business

Industry Credential Update – ServeSafe – as reported at last month’s meeting, Eileen stated the students can still take the test but only second part of the test is recognized as a credential. The next ServeSafe class is scheduled for March 12, 2019.

CASAS Assessment – Eileen reported the YECC must use TABE test until July 1, 2019. The Dept. of Labor or Dept. of Education is not recognizing the math portion on CASAS.

Announcements

GC Human & Disability Svcs. - Rudy announced the Gloucester County SURE (Students United for Respect & Equality) Summit will be held on March 21, 2019 at Rowan University.

Abilities Solutions – Sharon, Manager of Youth Transition stated Abilities Solutions has many programs. They have community employment and transitional employment program where they place adults in jobs. The transitional employment program offers 20 different work sites for students at minimum wage. There is a full day option or a part time option. They do partner with Bankbridge, however enrollment is decreasing since they are starting their own 18-21 transition programs and also have career center program. She asked if they know now of any student that has meet academic requirements and require work readiness if any family in financial need, they will get paid to work on high school diploma with Abilities Solutions.

DVRS – Krista reported a Transition from School to Adult Life workshop covering the IEP process will be held March 14, 2019 at Center for Independent Living conducted by SPAN.

A motion for adjournment was made by G. Wright, seconded by R. Aikens.

The next meeting will be held May 21, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridget A. DiGiambattista, WDB Staff