

## YOUTH INVESTMENT COUNCIL

February 18, 2014

### Members Present

Tom Bianco, WIB Director  
Marge Fizur-Canning, GCIT  
Joan Killian, GCIT Youth One Stop  
Terry Levins, DWD  
Sharon Rosado, Abilities Solutions  
Madeline Vasquez, GC Housing Authority  
Karen Dickel, WIB Staff

Kim Alexander, GCIT Youth One Stop  
Laurie Haldeman, GCIT Youth One Stop  
Dr. W. King, FBO  
Leona Mather, Youth Parent  
Sandy Uhr, GCIT Youth One Stop  
Edward Green, DVRS  
Bridget DiGiambattista, WIB Staff

### Members Absent

Cleve Bryan, Co-Chair  
Muncie Buckalew, St. John of God  
Jessica Froba, NJJC  
Kelly Leyman, Devereux  
Kimberly Webster, NJ Corps.

Shyeeda Banks, GC NAACP Youth Council  
Nancy Chard, GC Human Services  
Eileen Henderson, Center for Family Services  
Robert Taylor, Boys & Girls Clubs

### Visitor

Robyn Megara, GCIT Youth One Stop Teacher

Dr. King opened the meeting at 2:00.

A motion to approve January 29 2014 minutes with corrections was made by T. Bianco, seconded by K. Alexander. Correction to the January 29 2014 minutes: The State of NJ has approved 3 choices of high school equivalency testing; test takers will have 3 chances per test to pass the test.

No students were present.

### Status

Sandy reported during January, several students took the TABE test and did not pass (but want to continue with program) within 6<sup>th</sup> grade level; therefore they were referred to basic skills at GCC Continuing Education. Dr. King expressed concern with talk about how hard the new GED test is. Kim stated they'd like to explore asking for a longer than 6 month period of time that a student can be enrolled or ask to start students at a higher TABE level.

Sandy reported from July 1, 2013 through January 31, 2014, 18 students received their high school equivalency. They currently have no high school equivalency testing available, but have ordered practice materials.

They currently have 13 students enrolled in the One Stop program.

Kim stated they are concerned with those students with a learning disability who test low on the TABE test; they encourage them to return to their sending district. This is because when a student is in a regular school program until age 21 they have exemptions to passing the assessment and can still obtain a high school diploma with the exemptions. But when the student drops out of school and come into the Youth One Stop program, the exemptions do not apply. Ed G. stated he felt they may make accommodations, but not exemptions. He stated he wants to make sure DVRS is capturing these kids because they can help in getting the psychologist signature; they have done accommodation forms in the past and would like to help.

Sandy reported they recently held employment, technology, & counseling workshops.

One Stop News – one student obtained employment and 2 students have enrolled in college.

A One Stop Student Advisory meeting was held 2/13/14. The discussion focused on ideas to encourage early morning attendance for math & science. The students came up with several suggestions and based on budget, voted on looking into adding a math & science teacher during the afternoon. She is waiting on response from Superintendent.

Kim did not receive response for request for volunteers for math through Experience Works, Rowan University, or Senior Core. However, a student just called today (2/18) from Rowan stating he could volunteer on Thursdays. Kim will follow up on this.

Tom reported after many years of dedication to the Youth Investment Council committee, Dr. Ivory has announced his resignation from the Youth Investment Council. Kim stated he will be missed and always had the best interest in mind for this program.

A motion for adjournment was made.

The next meeting will be held March 18, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridget A. DiGiambattista, WIB Staff