

YOUTH INVESTMENT COUNCIL

April 21, 2015

Members Present

K. Alexander, Youth One Stop
Michelle Giuliani-Shirey, WIB Director
Dr. W. King, FBO
Sandy Uhr, Youth One Stop
Bridget DiGiambattista, WIB Staff

Sherry DiTizio, GC Housing Authority
Laurie Haldeman, Youth One Stop
Terry Levins, DWD
Andrea Guzman, DVRS

Members Absent

Cleve Bryan, Chair
Muncie Buckalew, St. John of God
Nancy Chard, GC Human Services
Kelly Leyman, Devereux
Susan Perron, Abilities Solutions
Kristen Tahaney, Center for Family Services
Kimberly Webster, NJ Corps

Shyeeda Banks, GC NAACP Youth Council
Marge Canning, GCIT
Jessica Froba, NJJC
Leona Mather, Youth Parent
Sharon Rosado, Abilities Solutions
Robert Taylor, Boys & Girls Club

Visitor

Brandon Luna, Student

Michelle opened the meeting at 2:00 pm.

A motion to correct and clarify section of March 7, 2015 minutes was made by K. Alexander. The following is the correction:

The TABE test is required for entry into the program at a minimum 6th grade level composite score. Individual content area scores may be lower. The TABE has not been updated since 2002 and it is not aligned to the One Stop curriculum and assessments, nor is it aligned to the TASC. Students frequently need extensions to their six month program due to the low entrance levels and the discrepancy between the TABE grade level equivalents and the current assessments. Students entering the program take a computerized TABE test that adjusts to the students' ability levels. The grant providers require that students who score at a 8.9 grade level or below must re-test in that area. We do those TABE tests weekly on Mondays for the identified students who are in attendance. The test levels that the Youth One Stop uses weekly for low scoring students are the medium (4.0-5.9) and the difficult (6.0-8.9).

A motion to approve with corrections to March 7, 2015 minutes was made by Dr. King, seconded by L. Haldeman.

Student Report

Brandon reported he enjoys the program especially the flexible hours.

Brandon reported the Student Advisory meeting was held April 14, 9 students attended. Topics discussed included, the College Readiness program which begins April 17 and the upcoming events - students will go to the Library on April 28; students will attend the job fair on May 8 at GCIT; new date for end of year trip to Sahara Sam's is June 5; graduation will be held June 11, 6:30 pm at GCIT Theater. School rules were also discussed.

Status Report

Sandy reported for March they had 4 new students; 2 completed & passed the TASC test; 8 students took TABE test and 7 increased by 1 grade level or more. They are averaging 10 students attending each week.

Old Business

Kim reported there were TASC test blackout dates from March 15-March 29, and there was a delay in getting test results during this blackout time for students who tested prior to the blackout.

New Business

Summer Employment Program will run July 6 – August 20, Monday-Thursday, 7:30 am-3:30 pm. They anticipate 30 high school seniors, the type of work will include building maintenance, landscaping, & culinary and possibly office type work where the students will be mentored by support staff at GCIT. The students will gain work experience, earn money and learn about resume writing, completing job applications. They have advertised for positions for an instructor, certifier, recruiter and bus driver identifying counselor and employment specialist. Staff mailed employment program flyers to area churches and Boys & Girls Clubs. Sent email to all sending school district guidance directors and child study team directors about the program. Information was sent to SJ Times and GCIT website, a counselor presented info to the GC Professional Counselors Association meeting. They currently have 2 completed applications and 1 partial application.

April 27 – Gloucester County Apprenticeship Coordinator will visit;

May 11 –Deptford Mall Career Exploration Trip;

They were recently monitored by the grant provider.

Kim reported the computers they currently use were purchased in 2010 and are hoping to purchase lap tops. They are using more software than in the past, specifically adding math software to the computers.

They participate with RCGC for a Literacy Grant. They do not take funding but participate in various programs where RCGC shares computer based training for the One Stop teachers. They are exploring the various software programs from the Literacy Grant since the students would benefit from having updated computers.

Congratulations - five students recently were employed by local businesses.

Announcements

Veterans Job Fair will be held May 1, 2015 at RCGC, workshops will be held April 27 & 28.

Social Media Makeover Workshops will be held May 7 & 8 at the Thorofare One Stop.

Kim stated they have permission to run the vans to certain bus stops within the area and to shuttle students within GC educational campus, anything outside of that requires Board approval and will need a few months for that process. Kim & Michelle discussed possibly holding Social Media workshops for GCIT Youth One Stop students in 2016 school year.

A motion for adjournment was made by Dr. King, seconded by K. Alexander.

The next meeting will be held May 19, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,
Bridget A. DiGiambattista, WIB Staff