

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

February 16, 2016

Members Present

Tom Bianco, Co-Chair
Stephen Hart, DWD
Andrea Guzman, DVRS
Terry Levins, DWD
Michelle Shirey, WDB Director
Gregory Wright, GCIT Edu.

Cari Burke, Family Success Ctr.
Laurie Haldeman, GCIT Youth Edu.
Erin Klein, Robin's Nest
Marie Rafter, GC Probation
Sandy Uhr, GCIT Edu.
Bridget DiGiambattista, WDB Staff

Members Absent

Cleve Bryan, Chair
Jessica Froba, NJJC
Dr. W. King, FBO
Susan Perron, Abilities Solutions
Kristen Tahaney, Center for Family Svcs.
Kimberly Webster, NJ Corps

Marge Canning, GCIT
Kim Gober, GC Housing Authority
Leona Mather, Youth Parent
Sharon Rosado, Abilities Solutions
Robert Taylor, Boys & Girls Club

Visitor

Molly McStravock, Student

Michelle opened the meeting at 2:10 pm.

A motion to approve February 16, 2016 minutes was made by L. Haldeman, seconded by S. Hart.

Youth Education & Career Center Student Report

Molly reported she likes the program, most specifically the one on one with teachers. She stated she finds math to be hardest subject for her, however, she stated the students are offered plenty of instruction time. Molly stated she plans on attending RCGC and is interested in being a parole officer. Marie R. will check into job shadowing a GC Probation.

Youth Advisory Committee

Molly reported 12 students attended the Youth Advisory Committee meeting. She reported G. Wright spoke to the students about graduation and wanted to make sure the students are on track to graduate. He also asked if there were questions or complaints about the program. The students at the meeting indicated they like that they were asked to voice any concerns.

Status

Sandy provided reports from November 2015 through January 2016. She reported the number of students attending continues to rise. Currently has 17 actively enrolled, since July 1, 2015 14 have passed the TASC; 4 students will be taking the TASC end of February; and 2 student will take in March. They are receiving a lot of calls from prospective clients. They continue to hold workplace readiness and financial literacy workshops.

Michelle asked if there has been an increase or decrease in offering extensions. Sandy stated it has remained the same.

Sandy stated if a student is there for 6 months, during the 5th month they have found the TASC practice test is aligned with the actual test which allows them to identify specific areas of concern.

Gregory reported there is classroom instruction that takes place along with individual instruction. Gregory reported there is a concern with space and asked if a 'cap' can be put on enrollment. Michelle said the WDB would not approve putting a cap on enrollment since we only have 1 vendor providing services where other WDB's have up to 4 vendors so they can serve more people. Michelle stated capping ourselves would reflect poorly upon us with funding, therefore the Board will not support

capping enrollment. Sandy stated teaching space has become an issue; Gregory stated he has spoken with J. Dundee about possibly expanding. Michelle asked Gregory to report any feedback to her.

New / Old Business

Update/Status 14 WIOA Program Requirement – Michelle reported there are 14 mandatory program elements. Prior to July 1, 2015 there were 10 program elements the vendor was required to follow; now there are 14 requirements. Elements in need of action (3, 4, & 6);

Vocational education is not occurring due to transportation and teacher schedule (at GCIT). Michelle stated this is a requirement and since we currently have no students participating in vocational classes we will find out how to meet this requirement. Michelle stated she will work with Gregory to determine if it may be budgetary issue or if it may mean partnering with another organization. Terry asked when was the last time the students actually participated in vocational classes where they went to GCIT, Gregory replied last year.

Paid and unpaid work experience, job shadowing, internship need to be added to the program by May 1, 2016. Michelle would like to see job shadowing on & off campus, she recently spoke with Shady Lane, Chamber of Commerce offered to have the students attend marketing events. Lowes will be hiring temp/seasonal jobs; Michelle will speak to HR person if any student(s) apply. Michelle stated she will forward the link and once the student applies on line, staff (Laurie) is to contact Michelle and she will contact the HR person. For students interested in job shadowing at Shady Lane, Michelle will have Michelle Baylor, Shady Lane Administrator contact G. Wright. Michelle will ask Les Vail, President GC Chamber to reach out to G. Wright.

Terry reported under new WIOA requirements, certification must be industry recognized. ServeSafe is a program certification that is offered at RCGC Continuing Education. Employment opportunities with this certificate are abundant.

Community service projects need to be added to the program by May 1, 2016. Laurie indicated they have done 2 community service event so far-Animal Shelter & Food Bank. Michelle suggested a community service monthly. Cari reported Family Success Center has opportunities and will be more than happy to work with the students/staff. A suggestion was also made to reach out to local library.

Financial Literacy - Gregory reported they have 5 students ready to obtain certification.

Work Readiness – they have 2 students preparing to take test to be certified.

Manpower Staffing will visit to speak to the students.

Plumbers & Pipefitters training coordinate will visit to speak to the students.

Michelle reported the WDB Marketing & Business Outreach committee is working on project of rebranding the Workforce Development Board. The Thorofare One Stop will now be called The American Job Center at Gloucester County. Michelle asked if GCIT/vendor would like to work with us on the rebranding and look to rename the Youth One Stop. One suggestion offered was Youth Education & Career Center at GCIT. Stephen suggested having the students participate in the rebranding by developing a logo. Michelle stated this could be used as a leadership project. Gregory stated he will speak with J. Dundee about the name change.

Terry reported the NJ Training Systems (NJTOPS) page needs to be updated as it still reads GED Program and still reads ages 16-21.

Stephen reported the program monitor requested the graduation program list the graduates' names for proof. Terry requested to put the exit information they send her on their letterhead.

Announcements

Graduation ceremony will be held June 9, 2016 at GCIT Theater.

Tom reported Amazon would like to speak with the students about career opportunities. He also reported there will be many logistics & health care opportunities coming to the area in the near future.

A motion for adjournment was made by S.Hart, seconded by T.Bianco.

The next meeting will be held May 17, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridget A. DiGiambattista, WDB Staff