

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

February 21, 2017

Members Present

Kim Alexander, GCIT
Marge Canning, GCIT
Andrea Rivera, DVRS
Terry Levins, DWD
Marie Rafter, GC Probation
Sharon Rosado, Abilities Solutions
Gregory Wright, GCIT Youth Education
Bridget DiGiambattista, WDB Staff

Stephen Hart, DWD
Laurie Haldeman, GCIT Youth Education
Dr. W. King, FBO
Natalie Perez, DWD
John Rasmus, GC Housing Authority
Sandy Uhr, GCIT Youth Education
Brian Carey, WDB Staff

Members Absent

Cleve Bryan, Chair
Rudy Aikens, GC Human Services
Erin Klein, Robin's Nest
Mien Mombo, Dept. of Children & Family
Kristen Tahaney, Center for Family Services

Tom Bianco, Co-Chair
Jessica Froba, NJJC
Leona Mather, Youth Parent
Michelle Shirey, WDB Director
Robert Taylor, Boys & Girls Club

Visitors

Kathleen Kindya, DVRS
Ricky Catanzaro, Student

Kimberly Reed, Girl Scouts C&S NJ

Stephen opened the meeting at 2:05 pm.

A motion to approve December 20, 2016 was made by K. Alexander, seconded by Dr. King.

Youth Advisory Committee

Ricky reported The Youth Advisory Committee met on January 17 2017 and 5 students were present. They discussed the recent CPR class they attended. They will meet every Wednesday to complete the dog chew toys for their January community service project. There will be a legal job shadow experience on January 23 2017. The Youth Advisory Committee met on February 17 and 6 students were present. Volunteers were picked to go to Bankbridge Development Center to read to younger children. A job shadow will be held at Liscio's Bakery on February 21 2017, 2 students signed up. A trip to ASI Career Institute was discussed. A food drive will be held in March.

Student Report

Ricky said he likes the program and enjoys the small setting. He said he'd like to be a firefighter.

Status

Sandy provided report for December 2016 and January 2017. The students have been attending regularly. Stephen asked what the total number of students enrolled from July 1 2016 to present. Sandy did not have that number; Stephen asked that information be included on the monthly report. There were 2 eligible students certified in December and 4 eligible students certified in January. Sandy stated they continue to receive the dropout list from the schools; however, there are not as many student dropouts as there have been in the past. They had 10 students take the high set test. Vocational classes are held every Tuesday afternoon, they currently have cosmetology and autobody. Job readiness workshops continue to be held. OSHA & CPR classes are scheduled. Entrepreneurial & financial literacy classes are scheduled weekly.

New / Old Business

Brian reported he & Terry attended a Youth meeting in Trenton recently and they emphasized more work experience and job shadowing type activities in order to get the youth engaged in job related activities.

Employer Engagement/Guest Speaker –
Work Experience / Job Shadowing - Job shadowing trips are scheduled through August.
Community Service – Dog chew toys project is ongoing.

Sandy reported because they have been so successful with the TASC test and their curriculum is set up for the TASC and they are keeping the TASC.

A motion for adjournment was made.

The next meeting will be May 16, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridget A. DiGiambattista, WDB Staff