

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

February 18, 2020

Members Present

Tom Bianco, Co-Chair
Marge Canning, GCIT
Laurie Haldeman, GCIT/Youth
Michelle Shirey, WDB Executive Director
Eileen Gallo, WDB Staff

Rudy Aikens, GC Human & Disability Svcs.
Scott Costello, GCIT/Youth
Michelle Mullen, DWD
Gregory Wright, GCIT/Youth
Bridget DiGiambattista, WDB Staff

Members Absent

Cleve Bryan, Chair
Lisa Butler, GC Housing Authority
Kim Gober, GC Housing Authority
Keisha Jefferies, NJLWD
Susan Perron, Abilities Solutions
Marie Rafter, GC Probation
Michelle Safrin, NJ Dept. of Children & Family
Daniel Sulpizio, Business
Kristen Tahaney, Center for Family Services

Kim Alexander, GCIT
Jessica Froba, NJJC
Andrea Guzman-Rivera, DVRS
Erin Klein, Acenda Integrated Health
Gina Pratta, Family Success Center
Sharon Rosado, Abilities Solutions
Stacey Smith, DVRS
Denise Taguwa, NJLWD

Visitor

Juan Martinez, YECC Student

Tom opened the meeting at 2:00 pm.

A motion to approve minutes from December 17, 2019 meeting was made by R. Aikens, seconded by L. Haldeman.

Youth Report

Juan reported the Youth Development Committee meeting was held on January 30, 2020, there were 12 students present. Snowman door ornaments were delivered to residents at Shady Lane in December and were a big hit. The students will continue making dog chew toys. Students will be attending ASI Institute on March 2 for any student with interest in the medical field. A CPR class will be held on March 16. ServSafe and Certified Front Desk Receptionist training will begin soon.

Juan stated he likes the program and appreciates the one on one help from the teachers. He wants to attend college but is not certain of a career. Greg introduced Juan's sister, Selena who is also attending the program. She likes the teachers, stating they make everyone feel welcome. In the future, she is interested in a career in architecture.

Status

Recruitment –They have been brainstorming on other ways to reach individuals that do not know about our program. He stated they continue to receive the dropout lists from the high schools and send application letters to students from that list and follow up with phone calls. Gregory reported GCIT will add a 30-second clip to their Facebook page and keep track of the amount of 'hits'. Michelle asked if they have their own Facebook or Instagram, Gregory replied no. She started having their own Facebook & Instagram would allow them to target the population. Michelle suggested even paid advertising on nj.com with pop up ads. Gregory reported he recently emailed the video clip to Directors of Guidance and Child Study Teams. Gregory reported he spoke with J. Hunter from Wedgewood Pharmacy and anyone from the program that would like to apply, Gregory will contact her with the students' contact information.

Enrollment – Scott reported they have 11 enrolled; anticipate 2 students passing this evening test which will bring total to date of 23 graduates; they have had several walk-ins.

Gregory reported minimum school requirement, they had 2 students affected by this. They will have 2 students that will now have passing grades and it will save money on test re-takes.

Employment – Laurie reported they had a student attend and graduate from ASI, he recently was hired by Cooper Hospital. The students will be visiting ASI on March 2.

New / Old Business

Revised Qualifying Scores for State-Issued High School Diplomas - Gregory visited website on GC NJ Education and Data and Statistics, he stated the data was old but stated without assuming, we are not touching students that do not have a high school diploma.

Industry Credentials – CPR & ServSafe credentials and certified front desk are scheduled. GCIT will accept 17-year-olds for night school classes as long as they have a high school diploma.

Kuder Assessment – Laurie stated all students on the first day of orientation take the Kuder Assessment. Eileen stated the students can retake the assessment because certain skills will increase as they progress and can include on the ISS.

Announcement

Gregory stated June 4 will be a graduation at the Performing Arts at Rowan College in South Jersey. Michelle asked him to email with details of the graduation and ask for Freeholder to offer welcoming remarks so she can forward it to the new County Public Information Officer.

Marge stated an amendment will have to be done to the contract due to an increase in enrollment, they had to purchase more Hi-Set tests than was budgeted.

Eileen stated our 5-year contract is up June 30, 2020, with GCIT and will have to go out for RFP. Michelle stated it is a competitive contract so it will be a full RFP process with responses and budget and it should be out in March 2020 for 60 days.

Gregory stated he has been approved to be a chief examiner for HSE, TABE, & GED but there would be too much involved for the YECC to be a testing site.

A motion for adjournment was made by L. Haldeman, seconded by R. Aikens.

The next meeting will be held on May 19, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridget A. DiGiambattista, WDB Staff