

## YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

February 18, 2025

### Zoom Participants

Tom Bianco, Co-Chair	Rudy Aikens, GC Human & Special Svrs.
Christine Arpino, GC Probation	Greg Davis, Consultant
Andrea Guzman-Rivera, DVRS	Tania Darbouze, DVRS
Stephen Hart, DWD	Michelle Mullen, DWD
Kimberly Quigley, St. John of God Community Svrs.	Jaime Ramanauskas, RCSJ/Ctr for People in Transition
Theresa Rohlfing, Ctr. for Independent Living	Stacey Smith, DVRS
Joe Spencer, RCSJ / Youth	Daniel Sulpizio, Business
Alicia Battaglia, Commissioner Aide	Alisha Thompson, DWD
Allison Spinelli, WDB Staff	Shannon O'Brien, WDB Staff
Bridget DiGiambattista, WDB Staff	

Tom opened the meeting at 2:00 pm.

A motion to approve minutes from December 10, 2024 meeting was made by K. Quigley, seconded by J. Spencer.

### **Status of Youth & Adult Literacy Programs**

Joe reported that 205 students have enrolled in the Title II programs for the adult population, nearing the fiscal year goal of 213. An additional 77 students started in late January and early February, bringing the total to 282 and many are ESL students. Joe announced a new partnership with Rastelli Food Group to provide ESL program classes on-site at their Swedesboro location, this will begin in March. This initiative will include integrated education and training opportunities for food handling certification in ServSafe. There are 22 enrolled in this program which brings the total number of students for the fiscal year to be around 300.

Joseph reported that there are 23 students enrolled in the youth program for this fiscal year, with two individuals have been exited and one more to be exited due to poor attendance over last 90 days. They are also reaching out to two pending youth who did not show for their orientation, they will continue to reach out to them. Joseph highlighted that 12 students are in follow-up, they continue to reach out to engage them in their academic activities and career exploration.

Joe reported Dylan Coates has been hired as the new employment advisor, who will work with the youth population. Dylan will meet with students individually to determine the best career paths and align work experiences with their career assessments.

### **Old / New Business**

WIOA Youth Technical Assistance Session – Allison and others participated in a WIOA Youth Technical Assistance session that included a PowerPoint presentation and other reference materials. The session received positive feedback, and the presentation will be offered statewide. A copy of the power point presentation is attached for review.

A motion for adjournment was made by D. Sulpizio, seconded by T. Rohlfing.

The next meeting will be May 20, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bridget A. DiGiambattista, WDB Staff