

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

May 20, 2025

Teams Participants

Cleve Bryan, Chair	Tom Bianco, Co-Chair
Rudy Aikens, GC Human & Special Services	Christin Arpino, GC Probation
Jean Capizzi, RCSJ/Youth	Greg Davis, Consultant
Andrea Guzman-Rivera, DVRS	Michelle Mullen, DWD
Theresa Rohlwing, Ctr. for Independent Living	Brigette Satchell, RCSJ
Michelle Shirey, WDB Director	Stacey Smith, DVRS
Nichole Stewart, Abilities Solutions	Alicia Battaglia, Commissioner Office
Shannon O'Brien, WDB Staff	Alice Smith, WDB Staff
Allison Spinelli, WDB Staff	Bridget DiGiambattista, WDB Staff

Cleve opened the meeting at 2:05 pm.

A motion to approve February 18, 2025 minutes was made by T. Rohlwing, seconded by S. O'Brien.

Youth & Adult Literacy Programs

Joe Spencer was not able to attend the meeting but provided information to share. Allison reported the program fiscal year served 28 youth; 16 still active; 11 youth exited and 3 youth have obtained GED. There are 16 youth being actively followed and 4 are pending approval for enrollment. They currently have 5 students actively participating in Career Exploration component currently working on interview skills, resume writing and public speaking. The Employment Advisor-Dylan has created a course summary and timeline preparing for upcoming semester. This will allow the new students to begin career exploration component prior to their GED class start date to ensure we are engaging with them in a timely manner. Also, they are planning to create a first week career exploration experience that expose student to various career experiences as they begin the journey of obtaining their high school diploma.

Allison reported for budget/expenditures they are up to date through April 30th and on track to fully expend their program funds and working to create work experience opportunities so they can spend that allocation portion.

Old Business / New Business

WIOA In-School & Out-of-School Youth Procurement-Michelle reported the WDB is in active procurement through shared service agreement with GC Improvement Authority which is the procurement agent for any competitive contracting. WIOA requires youth services to be competitively procured and following state law and federal guidelines, GCIA has the opportunity posted on their website and it is also posted on WDB website and been distributed through our committees and agencies. There is a technical assistance session scheduled for 5/28 and responses are due June 10th. All questions must go through GCIA.

Announcements

Stacey S. stated if any of the students have any type of disability to please make them aware of DVRS as there are many opportunities for them as they work on obtaining GED.

Brigette S. reported RCSJ is offering a certified production technician training program to start in June, this is at no cost to participants and currently have 8 openings available. They also have basic technical training program which is approved through wind organization and is foundational skills and the skills

are transferrable. They would learn basic hydraulics, various mechanical skills, and get credential. They have funding available through Rowan's Green Jobs Academy and there are 2-3 seats available for the June program being held at the CTE building.

Theresa R. reported their agency offers social skills groups to assist individuals along with work readiness training. They offer a driver simulator course to assist individuals with obtaining driver's license, it is a basic driving simulator with steering wheel and pedals and have already assisted 3 individuals with getting their license.

A motion for adjournment was made by S. O'Brien, seconded by T. Rohlfing.

The next meeting will be held September 16, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridget A. DiGiambattista, WDB Staff