

**YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**  
**December 17, 2019**

**Members Present**

Tom Bianco, Co-Chair  
Marge Canning, GCIT  
Laurie Haldeman, GCIT/Youth  
Marie Rafter, GC Probation  
Gregory Wright, GCIT/Youth  
Eileen Gallo, WDB Staff

Rudy Aikens, GC Human & Disability Svrs.  
Scott Costello, GCIT/Youth  
Andrea Rivera, DVRS  
Sharon Rosado, Abilities Solutions  
Michelle Mullen, DWD  
Bridget DiGiambattista, WDB Staff

**Members Absent**

Cleve Bryan, Chair  
Jessica Froba, NJJJC  
Keisha Jefferies, NJLWD  
Gina Pratta, Family Success Ctr.  
Michelle Shirey, WDB Director  
Denise Taguwa, NJLWD  
Kimberly Webster, Job Corps

Lisa Butler, GC Housing Authority  
Kim Gober, GC Housing Authority  
Erin Klein, Acenda Integrated Health  
Michelle Safrin, NJ Dept. of Children & Family  
Daniel Sulpizio, Business  
Kristen Tahaney, Center for Family Services

**Visitor**

Shawna Chew, Student

Tom opened the meeting at 2:00 pm.

A motion to approve the September 17, 2019 meeting minutes was made by S. Costello, seconded by L. Haldeman.

**Youth Report**

Shawna reported the Youth Development Committee met on Oct. 23 and Dec. 11. There were 8 students present in October and 9 students present in December. The October meeting reminded students the shoe drive for Pet Savers was ended and a food drive for the Migrant Worker Program would begin and run through November 21. A CPR class was held Nov. 5. A total of 5 students attended the GC Mega Job Fair. The December meeting discussion was about delivering rustic snowmen ornaments to the Shady Lane Nursing Home. Representatives from RSCJ will be presenting to the students on January 6, 2020. A CPR class will be scheduled for February. There will be job shadowing opportunities at GCIT in January.

Shawna liked the program and appreciated the environment along with the one on one. She stated the teachers care a lot about all the students in attendance. Shawna is a graduate of the program effective today (12/17/19).

**Status**

Recruitment – Gregory reported they continue to receive the dropout list from area high schools. He stated the students (current and past) have played a big part in the ‘recruitment’ for the program.

Enrollment – Scott reported they have 16 students enrolled.

Employment – Gregory reported most of the students are currently employed. Laurie reported a recent graduate attended ASI and graduated as CNA. Gregory stated beginning in 2020, he plans on reaching out to local employers to see if they may offer an opportunity to the students.

Vocational – Gregory stated the vocational experience continues at GCIT every Wednesday. Gregory stated he would like to see scholarships made available for the students once they graduate for the evening program at GCIT. Eileen stated she will speak with Michelle & Tom to see if we could possibly fund. The issue is the younger youth and programing at GCIT's evening program may require the student to be 18.

Graduates – they currently have 15 graduates and may have 2 more tonight after taking the test.

Eileen asked what status of Wedgewood Pharmacy regarding pharmacy technicians, Gregory responded he has not heard from them. Eileen will speak to Tom regarding him contacting them.

#### **New/Old Business**

Industry Credentials – Gregory stated they continue to offer ServSafe and CPR credentials and are waiting on certified front desk representatives. Eileen introduced Michelle M. and stated we are not meeting credentials outside HSE. She asked Michelle if she had any ideas to offer regarding credentials, Michelle stated that would be more of a question to ask the State as they are particular. Gregory stated they have a printed list of the credentials from the State and most are costly. Eileen stated also some of them require a high school diploma and require a student to be 18 years of age. Laurie stated they have a student who is interested in attending Rowan University but has to take the SAT. Eileen stated we may be able to pay for the SAT prep test, she will look into it.

Kuder Assessment – Laurie stated she make some of the changes Eileen recommended to align ISS/Kuder intake.

Announcements – Sharon reported Abilities Solutions applied for a grant under WIOA which was due by December 2, 2019. Sharon stated they will apply for the youth summer program grant they participated in this past summer if it becomes available again. Andrea stated she thought the deadline for vendors who want to apply for the summer youth grant will be due December 30, 2019.

Eileen suggested moving the December 2020 meeting to the beginning of the month.

A motion for adjournment was made by G. Wright, seconded by S. Costello.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridget A. DiGiambattista, WDB Staff

