

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

September 17, 2019

Members Present

Tom Bianco, Co-Chair

Stephen Hart, DWD

Scott Costello, GCIT/Youth

Andrea Guzman-Rivera, DVRS

Sharon Rosado, Abilities Solutions

Gregory Wright, GCIT/Youth

Michelle Shirey, Executive Director WDB

Rudy Aikens, GC Human & Disability Svrs.

Marge Canning, GCIT

Laurie Haldeman, GCIT/Youth

Marie Rafter, GC Probation

Daniel Sulpizio, Business

Michelle Mullen, DWD

Bridget DiGiambattista, WDB Staff

Members Absent

Cleve Bryan, Chair

Jessica Froba, NJJJC

Keisha Jefferies, NJLWD

Gina Pratta, Family Success Center

Denise Taguwa, NJLWD

Kimberley 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

Kristen Tahaney, Center for Family Services

Eileen Gallo, WDB Staff

Visitor

Nichole Stewart, Abilities Solutions

Angela Ramos, GCIT Student

Tom opened the meeting at 2:00 pm

A motion to approve May 21, 2019 minutes was made by S. Hart, seconded by D. Sulpizio.

Youth Report

Angela reported there was a youth meeting held Sept. 17 and 11 students were present. Service-learning project for the month is collecting gently used or new shoes to support the Pet Savers Organization; collecting can tabs to support Ronald McDonald House; the dog chews toy service project. They also discussed job shadowing opportunities at GCIT for next month. There will be a ServeSafe class being held the end of Oct. and a CPR/AED class being held on Nov. 5. They will be completed resumes and learning dress for success to prepare for the MEGA job fair on Oct. 11.

Angela heard of the program from a friend. She likes the help she receives from the teachers and the one on one with the teachers. She hopes to attend college when she completes the program.

Gregory introduced a new English teacher, Mrs. Terri Wilson, she recently retired from GCIT after 33 years.

Status

Recruitment – Gregory reported they made a presentation about YECC at the Juvenile Probation on Sept. 7. Additionally, Gregory made presentation about the program on Aug. 29, at the Hispanic Family Success Center. A letter was sent to all school counselors thanking them for their support during 2018-19 school year. He stated they have been very supportive of the YECC program.

Employment – Gregory contact Wedgewood Pharmacy, he was inquiring about Pharmacy Technician opportunities, but has not heard from them.

Enrollment – Scott reported student enrollment is 12, 3 will start next week and 5 are taking CASAS test, and an additional 10 applications still being processed.

Vocational – Gregory reported these classes will be scheduled in October and hope to have more teachers involved.

Laurie reported the new ISS form has been working very well. She is scheduling guest speakers, community service events, and is hoping to schedule ServSafe for end of Oct. She has several trips and job shadowing opportunities planned. Stephen stated MASCEC can teach ServeSafe and ServeSafe Management class either at YECC or the students can go to their site.

The committee viewed the new video put together about the Youth Education and Career Center. Michelle said we will present the video at the next Full WDB Membership meeting on December 9 and asked if a student could attend.

Greg stated some of the industry certificate programs are expensive. Michelle stated if there are several students expressing interest in some of the expensive certificate programs to please contact her and she will see about covering the costs.

Laurie attended the recent Kuder training and found it to be very interesting.

Gregory reported he applied to be a chief examiner for HSE, TABE, & GED. He stated it was approved by GICT Board but is waiting to hear approval from Department of Education and would like to have YECC (or another site) as a testing site to offer more testing dates and possibly bring in additional revenue.

Rudy mentioned that the Youth Services Committee Chair was at the presentation given on Sept. 7 at the Juvenile Probation and reported the presentation was well received.

A motion for adjournment was made by S. Rosado, seconded by D. Sulpizio.

The next meeting will be held on December 17, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridget A. DiGiambattista, WDB Staff