

Youth Council
MS Teams Meeting
July 26, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.

MINUTES

A meeting of the Youth Council was held Tuesday, July 26, 2022 via MS Teams. Those in attendance were:

Attendance: Joanne Sbrana, Christine Colon, Katie Czajkowski, Elizabeth Reed, Minnett Santiago, Norma Cordero, Anne Garrison, Angela Bostic, Jody Classen, Pam Comerford, Darryl Thomas, Jenna Harvey, John Fuqua, Lisa Berry, Raul Ludizaca, Jocelyn McNear

Staff: Jaime Gomez, Cindy Angelo, Tim Andrews, Michelle Slaney-Mills

I. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Jaime opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees. The meeting began at 10:04 a.m. Jaime read the Open Public Meeting Act. She requested a motion to approve the minutes from January 2022. Motion made by Minnett Santiago. Seconded by Lisa Berry. All in favor, motion approved.

II. Youth Provider Reports

❖ **Salem** – no current contracts

❖ **Cumberland**

○ PathStone

- **Out of School Youth (PY 21-22) (Contract Dates: 7/1/21-6/30/22)** - Christine provided a report of the outcomes achieved by the enrolled youth. 27 of 40 enrolled; had 29 but two were DNR's. 9 completed Workplace Readiness, 25 completed academic tutoring, 18 had skills gains, 5 got their HSE, 13 received their customer service certificate, 15 entered employment/military or secondary education.

○ Rowan College of South Jersey

- **Out of School Youth Industry Focused (PY 21-22) (Contract Dates: 7/1/21-6/30/22)** – Not present

○ PRAC of Southern NJ

- **Out of School (PY 21-22) (Contract Dates: 7/1/21-6/30/22)** – not present

○ Life Worth Living

- **Out of School Recruitment (PY 21-22) (Contract Dates: 7/1/21-3/31/22)** – for the new year, they have partnerships with Daniel's Den, the Alm's Center and Soul of the Sea. Their new street team is getting trained. Talked about creating a flyer.

❖ **Cape May**

- **Jersey Cape Diagnostics** - Anne provided the following updates:
 - **In School Youth (PY 21-22) (Contract Dates: 7/1/21-6/30/22)**; 7 enrolled and graduated (7 of 24; 29%). 6 youth entered employment/training or education.
 - **Out of School Youth (PY 21-22) (Contract Dates: 7/1/21-6/30/22)** – 14 of 61 enrolled (22%); 6 received HSE, 6 skill gains, 10 workplace readiness and career planning completions, 2 entered employment/training or education.
 - **Out of School Youth Industry Focused (PY 21-22) (Contract Dates: 7/1/21-6/30/22)** – no youth enrolled; LOS is 20.

III. **Other Provider Reports**

- **Wawa SYEP Program** – Jaime provided the following update: 137 youth training in local stores; 8 have left or been terminated.
- **New Jersey Youth Corps** – no report
- **U.S. Job Corps** – no report

IV. **Old/New Business**

Tim gave a report on the Summer Youth Employment Program. Cumberland County received funds for 30 youth to have summer jobs in worksites throughout the county.

Jaime: Cumberland modified their out of school program to include an occupational skills component if youth complete all other components. We had to shift with the time – youth can find jobs right now so that is not bringing youth into our programs. We are looking for new ideas for youth programs in our local area-keeping in mind our performance measures (skill gain, enter employment/training or education and credential). Are there any ideas from the council on youth programming?

Minnett suggested Interplay – it is a virtual reality training for HVAC, Electrical and residential wiring. All on-line. PathStone had a few youth demo the courses and they really liked it because it was like a video game. It could be done with an employer willing to give hands on experience.

John F. mentioned mentoring as it pertains to coaching and recreation activities in the county. We need to get kids off the streets and they are either participating or attending the recreational activities (youth football, basketball, baseball, etc.). We need to connect the youth with sports leagues. Coaches have long track record with the community and could mentor youth. Then youth who were mentored can become mentors to the next group of youth. Jaime suggested that a sports league could be a worksite for existing youth programs if the youth is interested in that as a career. That could be done this year. John mentioned that there are other opportunities- not just coaching. There are trophies that are made, uniforms, construction on fields, stadiums, etc.

Great conversation to think about for future programs.

V. **Adjournment**

Jaime requested a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Minnett Santiago, Second by Christine. All in favor, meeting adjourned. The meeting ended at 10:50 a.m.