

Union County Workforce Investment Board
Youth Investment Council
Union County College (Cranford Campus)
Admiral Stanley Conference Room, 2nd Floor
1033 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, NJ
APRIL 2, 2015, 11:00AM

Committee Members Present

Dr. Margaret McMenamin, Union County College (Co-Chair)
Mr. Peter Capodice, Union County Vocational Technical Schools (Co-Chair)
Jeffery Jackson, Youth Coordinator, Union County Dept. of Workforce
Development Operations
Jean Koszulinski, Union County One Stop Career Center
Gene Tavera, Community Access Unlimited
Tanya Johnson, Community Access Unlimited

Guests

Patricia Adamowitz, Clark Public Schools
Aneesha Ghaly, Rahway Community Action Organization
Ella Teal, Urban League of Union County
Jessie Redman, Urban League of Union County
Joanne Bennett, CASA of Union County
Gleshia Givens, Borough of Roselle
Donald Johnson, City of Elizabeth
Julie Muldrow, City of Elizabeth
Terry Foppert, Union County Educational Services Commission
Ada Velasco, Child Protection and Permanency
Stephen King, Barack Obama Green Charter School
Carol Russell, Family Support Organization of Union County
Deborah Dadds, Family Support Organization of Union County

Staff

Antonio Rivera, Director, Workforce Investment Board
Elizabeth Paskewich, Workforce Investment Board
Eric Graham, Workforce Investment Board

Meeting Summary

1. The meeting was called to order by Dr. Margaret McMenamin. Dr. McMenamin welcomed everyone to campus, and briefly discussed the construction of a first class facility for students currently going on the

campus. She thanks the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders for their support.

2. Mr. Capodice thanked everyone for attending and introductions followed.
3. Youth Program Summaries

Clark Board of Education was represented by Patricia Adamowitz.

Program information: Our program is geared towards classified students ages, 16-21. Work experience was in the following three areas: Building and Grounds, Childcare and Development, and Office Practices. One hour a week is focused on providing job readiness skills. Follow up component is addressed throughout the school year in the form of additional workshops, as well as ongoing tutoring.

The Borough of Roselle was represented by Gleshia Givens.

Program Information: Roselle First provided service to at risk students, 15 in school, 5 out of school, most came from non-traditional home settings. Workshops were provided on money management, independent living skills, and time management. Financial mentors also came in to speak with students. Students had the opportunity to partake in the College Readiness Now program and numerous students have been accepted into college, some receiving scholarships. Students participated in an 8 week paid internship program, 4 students were offered permanent positions.

Rahway Community Action Organization was represented by Aneesha Ghaly

Program Information: Program consisted on an Entrepreneurship academy for ages 16-21. Students had to be enrolled in school or college to be eligible to participate. All students participated in volunteer, classroom training, and a work component. Students worked in our Rahway Community Action Organization's Childcare facility where they were exposed to various work experiences. The center provided the students opportunities to work in culinary, childcare, and administration. Community entrepreneurs were brought in to speak with students. Student's classroom training provided students the opportunity to write business plans; many were able to connect with work or educational opportunities in their field of interest. Incentives were offered to increase retention. Summer opportunities are also available.

The City of Elizabeth's youth program was represented by Julie Muldrow and Donald Johnson.

Program Information: Program provides a Business Collaboration Program for youth ages 16-21. Outreach was done to local businesses to participate in program and provide students with work experiences. 14 in school students participated; all 14 students are still employed. Participants participate in various employment workshops to increase employment skills. Program also collaborated with the Retail Skills Center in Elizabeth, where additional occupational skills workshops such as resume writing and mock interviews were provided.

Urban League of Union County was represented by Ella Teal and Jessie Redman

Program Information: Urban League provides work experience programs for both In-School and Out-of-School Youth ages 16-21. In-School youth program was 1700 hours, while the out-of-school program was 1600 hours. All slots were filled and all students completed the program. Integrated work experiences were provided for students at Family and Children Services, Housing Authority, Superior Court, One Stop and Urban League. Students attended workshops in time and money management, as well as various employment skills. Students were exposed to various community aspects such as volunteering at a food bank, and were provided opportunities to attend College Fairs and conference such as the New Jersey Media Symposium. Urban League's Youth Program reinforced the importance of learning and education, accountability, and self-discipline. From the program, one student was hired full time, three others are attending school. Handout with additional information was provided.

The Plainfield Board of Education was not represented, Elissa Santoro, Employment Counselor provided the following written narrative:

14 Plainfield High School Students began their work/training experience on February 17th. Students received a week of orientation where they completed required paperwork, learned about work ethic skills by participating in related activities and learned about financial responsibility from Wells Fargo Bank Representatives. Starting on February 23rd, students reported to their work sites. Work Sites are consisted of 10 Plainfield Public School Departments where students are either working as a Clerical Assistant or as a Custodian Assistant. Student employees primarily work every day after school from 3-5pm. The student employee's last day at their site will be April 14. April 15 and 16 they will have classroom training to complete end of program paperwork, write thank you notes to their supervisors and wrap up the program with feedback. April 17th we will have a Celebration inviting students, supervisors and student's families for a dinner. Students will be honored and awarded with a WIA Certificate of

Employment Competence, Supervisors will speak about their student's positive work skills and performance and we will also praise the Supervisors for their dedication and support.

Once a week starting the week of April 27 until May 25, students will participate in Job Readiness Workshops where they will receive employment skills, food and incentives.

4. Antonio Rivera reviewed the new Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and how the new law will impact Youth programming and funding.

Key points include:

- Minimum of 75% of local area youth funds be allocated to out-of-school youth.
- Expands out-of-school youth eligibility requirements, increases age limit to 24 and removes the low-income requirement.
- Requires minimum of 20% of local area youth funds be allocated for work experiences.

Mr. Rivera discussed the Workforce Innovation Business Center at Jersey Gardens Mall and the development of the Soft Skills program by Union County College.

5. Dr. McMenamin also brought two programs to the Committee's attention:

- a. The American Honors Program is an Honors program at Union County College. This program is based off a national network and Union County College is one of only two schools in New Jersey to be offering this program (Mercer County Community College is the other). This is an exceptional opportunity for honors students as it is a gateway program, providing limitless opportunities. All accepted students from Elizabeth are funded at 100% through the Kellogg foundation, but is an excellent opportunity for all County honors students.
- b. College Readiness Now- This program goes into local high schools and provides "Boot camps" to prepare high school students for college level classes. "Boot camps" are generally in English and Math. The goal is to prepare students to test into college classes, so less time is spent in developmental classes.

The next Youth Investment Council Meeting date is TBA

The meeting was adjourned.