

Union County Workforce Development Board  
Youth Committee

Monday, November 23, 2020

Scott Kuchinsky, Chair	Plainfield Public Library
Elizabeth Paskewich	Workforce Development Board
Lisa Bonanno	Workforce Development Board
Meredith Barracato	American Job Center Administrator
Susana Mateo	UCC-NJ Youth Cop
Jaqueline Santiago	UCC-Youth Forward
Marcela Nunes	UCC-Youth Forward
Hawa Bonds	UCC-Youth Forward

- Chairman Kuchinsky calls meeting to order and introduces himself as the new Chairman and Director of the Adult Literacy Committee at Plainfield High School
- The Youth Committee introduces themselves to the meeting.
- Strategic Strategies and Sub-Strategies presented for review to the Committee for relevance
- Youth Activities are reviewed
- Elizabeth Paskewich speaks on program adjustments do to COVID restrictions and Chairman Kuchinsky comments that COVIS restrictions may be overwhelming to programs
  
- Youth Forward and UCC addresses the challenges of not being able to be in-person wit the youth participants because of the restrictions set forth by CDC guidelines.
- Grants need to be examined and modifies because of COVID restrictions, keeping youth free of COVID exposure
- Concerns with probation and child support in obtaining the physical signatures and paperwork without physical meetings, nut rather virtual meetings.
- Jaqueline Santiago addressed the youth participants lacking the technology to participate virtually and having the youth re-enter the physical sites because of COVIS and parental concerns of exposure.
- Susan Mateo explains that the months of September and October were operated on tight finances because of concerns over funding.
- Staff returned in June but on modified schedules, making this a big challenge to run virtual sessions for youth. The lack of internet access was also a challenge to students.
- Ideally students are expected to complete three (3) to four (4) classes before student id moved to Youth Forward
  
- Chairman Kuchinsky sees problems obtaining physical paperwork and keeping retention of youth participants and sees issues with minors in the Plainfield GED remote testing.
- Need for Primary training secondary to MVCA
- Sees a challenge establishing a clear pathway for youth and believes more guidance is needed for youth.
- Testing centers in need of more sections for testing, but UCC is closed and not conducting remote testing for both adults and minors.

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- Elizabeth Public Library is closed due to COVID, but are guiding participants to other testing sites.

#### Youth & Disability

- Elizabeth Paskewich explains the Youth & Disability committee has been eliminated and has merged with individual facilities.
- Chairman Kutchinsky explains that the Plainfield Library has accommodations for the disabled participants having difficulty with proper test sights.
- Meredith Barracato explains that DVRS has extensive access to testing for peoples with disabilities to complete advanced testing.
- Elizabeth Paskewich suggests that a member of DVRS be added to Youth Committee

#### Youth Forward

- Twenty (20) active youth getting all elements of training from Simon Youth Academy.
- These participants received orientation in the months of September and October.
- Jaqueline Santiago explains nine (9) of the youth participants are eligible for CASHES testing virtually.
- Chairman Kurchinsky addresses the adjustments to youth testing remotely, seeing the challenges of the lack of technology and internet access.

#### Open Comments

- Chairman Kurchinsky opens meeting for comment.
- Lisa Bananno suggests extending invites to DVR and Community Access Unlimited, because of the access these groups have to the disabled community.

Chairman Kurchinsky dismisses meeting following Open Comments. The next meeting is scheduled for December 14, 2020.