

**Union County Workforce Development Board
Minutes of the Youth Investment Council
Union County Administration Building
Large Conference Room, 4th Floor
February 17, 2017 at 11am**

Committee Members:

Pete Capodice, Co-Chair, Union County Vocational
Technical Schools
Stephen Nacco, Co-Chair, Union County College
Ella Teal, Urban League of Union County
Stacy Green, Plainfield Board of Education
Gloria Durham, Genesis Solutions
James Horne, United Way of Greater Union County
Jeffrey Jackson, Youth Coordinator, Union County
Department of Workforce Operations
Elizabeth Paskewich, Workforce Development Board
Antonio Rivera, Director, Workforce Development Board
Jean Koszulinski, Director, Workforce Operations
Ella Teal, Urban League of Union County

Summary

Chairman Pete Capodice welcomed members of the Youth Committee, opened the floor for brief introductions, and handed the floor to Elizabeth Paskewich to discuss the proposed model of the youth consortium under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, and as approved by the Union County Workforce Development Board on November 4, 2016.

WIOA's PRIORITY ON OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH

- With an estimated 6 million 16-24 year old youth in our country not employed or in school, WIOA youth programs provide a continuum of services to help

these young people navigate between the educational and workforce systems.

- The shift in policy is to focus on those youth most in need is based on the current state of youth employment.
- To do this WIOA calls for increasing funds to be spent on OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH from 30% to 75%.
 - extending the out-of-school age limit from 21 to 24 years
 - streamlining the eligibility process.
- WIOA'S FOCUS ON CAREER PATHWAYS
- WIOA recognizes that simply providing training is not enough to enter a specific occupation.
- Career pathway programs offer a clear sequence, or pathway, of education coursework and/or training credentials aligned with employer-validated work readiness standards and competencies.
- Career pathways systems offer a more efficient and customer-centered approach to workforce development because they structure intentional connections among employers, adult basic education, support service providers, occupational training, and postsecondary education programs and design the systems to meet the needs of learners and employers.
- **14 Required WIOA Youth Program Elements**

- **Tutoring, study skills training, and instruction leading to secondary school completion, including dropout prevention strategies;**
- **Alternative secondary school offerings;**
- **Education Concurrent with Workforce Preparation;**
- **Labor Market and Employment Information for Local Area;**
- **Paid and unpaid work experiences, including internships and job shadowing;**
- **Occupational skill training;**
- **Financial Literacy;**
- **Leadership development opportunities, which may include community service and peer-centered activities encouraging responsibility and other positive social behaviors during non-school hours;**
- **Entrepreneurial Skills;**
- **Adult mentoring for the period of participation and a subsequent period, for a total of not less than 12 months;**
- **Comprehensive guidance and counseling, which may include drug and alcohol counseling and referral;**
- **Supportive services; and**
- **Follow-up services for not less than 12 months after completing participation**
- **Activities that prepare Youth to Transition to post-secondary education and training**

- Goals of 14 Required Program Elements:
 - Clear and Complete Career Pathways
 - Individual Services based on client needs
 - Positive outcomes providing a successful transition to adulthood.

James Horne expressed his gratitude to the committee members, the consortium partners, and to the Elizabeth Paskewich for representing well the model. Mr. James Horne added that the United Way of Greater Union County has been working for 45 years with a mission to improve lives and build strong communities by uniting individuals and organizations with the will, passion, expertise, and resources needed to solve problems and the United Way of Greater Union County envisions a community where all children and families achieve their potential through education, income stability, and healthy lives.

Elizabeth Paskewich also indicated to the committee members that the United Way of Greater Union County consortium included the following organizations:

- Urban League of Union County (Elizabeth),
- PROCEED (Elizabeth),
- Community Access Unlimited (Elizabeth),
- Plainfield Action Services (Plainfield), and

- HomeFirst Interfaith Housing & Family Services
(Plainfield)
- Plainfield Library
- Partnership for Mother and Child Health
- Union County Apprenticeship Program
- Rising Tide

Chairman Pete Capodice thanked Elizabeth Paskewich for briefing the Youth Committee on the latest efforts resulting from the recent procurement process.

Dr. Stephen Nacco offered Mr. James Horne and the United Way of Greater Union County Youth Consortium the full backing and support of Union County Community College.

Gloria Durham stated that she was looking forward to having the youth consortium member organization providing quality services to the at-risk youth in Union County, particularly in the urban neighborhoods.

Director Jean Koszulinski emphasized the need to having the consortium do a great job so as to ensure the American Job Center meet or exceed its performance goals.

The Youth Committee was adjourned at 12pm.