

## Workforce Development Board

### Youth Council Minutes

Friday, February 24, 2023

**Attendance:** via ZOOM

**Attendees:**

Caren Freyer – PSEG, Chair

Curtis Myers – Aspire Youth Development

Shana Jarvis – Aspire Youth Development

Jennifer Veneziani – Div. Voc. Rehab Svcs.

Jodie Glenn – Bordentown Adult Education

Jared Toscano – Palmyra High School

Randy Hamilton – Smith & Solomon

Pete Taylor – Burlington Co Economic Dev.

Rob Wells – Burlington Co Economic Dev.

Shana Jarvis – Aspire Youth Development

Barbara Weir – WDB

**Call to Order: 10:03AM – Caren Freyer, Chair**

**I. Job Fair Discussion** – Jay, Chairman Job Fair Subcommittee

Jay reported the subcommittee met on 2/3/2023.

The **Youth Job Fair** will be held on **Thursday, May 25 from 4:30 to 7:30 PM** at the **Human Services Facility, 795 Woodlane Road, Westampton NJ 08060**. The fair is open to all youth 16 and up.

Barbara noted the need to **change end time to 7 PM**. Still waiting for “official approval”. Since the event is after building hours; approval it needed to bring in coverage, therefore time needed to be amended.

Barbara reported she is waiting for a flyer to market (and share with the group); including WDB Members, WDB Committees, other County Divisions, all high schools, and on the WDB LinkedIn page.

Curtis created a google doc for employer registration to be used for recruitment. Once the event location has been formally approved, Curtis will make the changes so Jen and her team can use the link to begin recruiting. The google link will be shared when revised.

Jen reported she will be reaching out to her employer contacts, as well as with Craig Jez, DOL Business Services. Rob and his team will also be of assistance, i.e., contact with Fun Plex, etc.

Caren mentioned having a *School to Careers* type theme – prepare youth in career pathways. Caren would also like to have a motivational speaker, a County Commissioner, a former youth to kick things off; can we bring in a celebrity?

Curtis/Shana offered to reach out to Quandell of SJ Millennials, which is a nonprofit organization created to introduce young professionals to new business networks. It provides tools to young entrepreneurs to help establish their brand in a swiftly changing social market. They provide workshops, networking mixers, and business education resources for young business professionals while bridging the generation gap.

Having someone kick off the Fair is a good idea, having speakers during the event may pose difficulty.

## II. **Youth Engagement** – Impromptu Item – All participants

Having a Youth Job Fair offers the Council the opportunity to help prepare youth who have not necessarily had experience with job search, crafting a resume, interviewing etc.

This would be a great opportunity to offer lessons on soft skills, what employers need/look for etc. Curtis and Shana currently offer such workshops for those involved with the Youth Opportunity Program. Rob jokingly suggested they take their show on the road. It may be beneficial to record those workshops so they can “go on the road” and viewable to all youth. Discussed having an in-person session in addition to the recording may be helpful. Also discussed having multiple recorded sessions or live virtual workshops youth would register for, but this seemed to give youth too many steps and may not be a viable option.

Have a BINGO card, youth can go around tables and get the employer(s) to sign-off (if the employer feels the youth was engaged); have a small prize (donation).

Selfie-type booth for LinkedIn headshots. Using phone with minors can pose an issue. Photos of the event, without signed permission, including both youth, employers, and volunteers, is not permitted – County rule.

Youth really need exposure right now. Youth need to take the initiative. We should have a resource packet for youth to review at home and stay connected so it’s not a one-off.

## III. **Outreach Committee** – Item Tabled due to time

**Meeting Adjourned:** 10:47 AM

**Next Meeting:** March 17, 2023