

Jeffrey S. Swartz, Executive Director

Matthew Verney, Chair

**YOUTH INVESTMENT COUNCIL**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2022, 9:00AM – ZOOM MEETING**

**ATTENDANCE**

Name	Organization	Trustee Member	COMMITTEE INFORMATION AND ATTENDANCE				
			27-Oct-21	26-Jan-22	23-Feb-22	24-Aug-22	26-Oct-22
Verney, Matthew CHAIR	Truist Bank	X			X		
Arroyo, Rosy	Camden County Youth Services Commission		X	X			
Banks, Evangeline	Juvenile Justice Commission		X	X	X	X	
Barbella, Sarah	Camden Probation Division			X		X	
Boucher, Shaneka	City of Camden		x	X	X	X	X
Cirii, Frank	Camden County One-Stop	X	X	X		X	X
Crowe, Gary	Winslow Township High School						X
Davis, Pastor Keith	Camden Dream Academy			X			
Fetty, Brett	CCTS						
Godorov, Lori	The Work Group	X	X	x		X	X
Gorman, Ginger	Winslow Township High School			X	X		X
Hill, Lauren	Camden County College		X	X	X		X
Lofton, Vance	Respond, Inc.		X	X	X		X
Maguire, Laurie	Camden County One-Stop			X	X	X	X
McGough, Jake	YMCA						X
Pasiglao, Marion	NJ Youth ChalleNGe Academy		X	X			
Peterson, Jyi	Camden County One-Stop		x	X	X	X	X
Selby, Andrew	CPAC		X	X	X	X	X
Sinclair, Nidia	Camden County One-Stop				X	X	
Thompson, Joey	Camden Dream Academy						
Vasquez, Marisol	Camden County One-Stop		X				
Velasquez, Gil	Camden Probation Division		X	X			
Waller, Darchelle	Winslow Township High School						X
Wardlow Hurley, Rhonda	HACC Youth Build		X	X	X	X	X
Williams, Jen	Covenant House						
Swartz, Jeffrey S.	WDB		X	X	X	X	X
Henderson, Bridget	WDB						X
Levitt, Alex	WDB		X	X	X	X	X
Vaughn, Debra	WDB			X	X	X	X
Williams, Leslie	WDB			X	X	X	

**Welcome**

Jeff Swartz led the meeting in the absence of Matt Verney, WDB Chair/Youth Chair. He welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Jeff asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 24, 2022, meeting. Motion was made by Frank Cirii and seconded by Dr. Lauren Hill. By majority vote to the affirmative, the motion carried, and the minutes for August 24, 2022, were approved.

**Committee Goals**

- *Youth Focus Groups:* Lori Godorov informed the committee that the first focus group will be facilitated by Shaneka Boucher on December 1, 2022, at The Work Group. The purpose of the focus group is to give the youth of the county a voice in the Committee process. If the first meeting is successful, a second focus group meeting will be held for youth representatives at the southern end of the county. Rosy Arroyo agreed to provide a stipend between \$125 and \$150 to each youth at the end of the meeting.
- *Committee Vice Chair:* Alex reminded the committee of the need to select a Vice Chair. Jeff also reminded the committee that Committee Chair and Vice Chair positions need to be private sector members.

## **Youth Employment Programs**

- *Summer Youth Employment Program 2022:* 40 youth were accepted to the program and 39 youth successfully completed the program. 23 employers served as worksites. The success of the program was a team effort including the WDB Staff, One-Stop Staff and Community Volunteers. 2 youth participants were offered part-time employment.
- *Atlantic City Electric Initiative:* Atlantic City Electric is sponsoring Summer Youth Internships and Summer Externships for Teachers. The deadline for students to apply is December 15, 2022. A QR code on the flyer provides a link to the program application.

## **Camden County One-Stop**

*Frank Cirii, Camden County One-Stop, Area Director*

- State and local One-Stop partners are attempting to develop hybrid (in-person & remote) work schedules. State partners are primarily continuing to serve customers by virtual platforms. The One-Stop, Board of Social Services and other partners are providing services both in-person and by virtual platforms.
- There has been a slight increase in COVID cases, but it has not disrupted services.
- Using the NJLWD website, customers can now schedule in-person appointments.
- The Fall Outreach Campaign will include bus wraps, One-Stop QR codes and printed materials. The QR codes will redirect users to informative videos about One-Stop services. Advertisements will also be on radio and TV.
- HiSET Testing is currently being scheduled 2 weeks out. There have been some challenges as a result of corporate ownership changes resulting in difficulties contacting the customer services department for installation. However, the county IT department is working to solve these issues.

*Jyi Peterson, Youth Counselor*

- Jyi personally expressed sincere gratitude to the One-Stop staff and the WDB staff for their collaborative effort to get the Youth Work Experience Program (YWEP) up and running. YWEP provides students with an opportunity to learn and develop life skills, obtain labor market information pertaining to their future career goals and receive assistance with resumes writing. Jeff suggested that Jyi reach out to Jake McGough, Director of the Camden City YMCA as they are serving similar youth populations.

For the first YWEP cohort:

- 10 Students were enrolled.
- 9 of 10 students successfully completed the program.
- 8 of 9 students began training.
- 3 students completed occupational training.
- 1 student gained employment.
- 2 students are in their second interview stage and expected to start working.
- Frank commended Jyi on doing an excellent job recruiting youth into the WIOA-mandated youth work experience program and keeping them engaged.

*Laurie Maguire, MIS Manager*

- All youth measures were met or exceeded and validated by Federal representatives. Ways were discovered to make the eligibility process less burdensome after having a brief discussion with the Federal representative.
- Several youth do not meet the eligibility requirements under WIOA when they already have a High School diploma or equivalency. Laurie stated there is a 5% exception allowance, under WIOA, to waive eligibility for youth for reasons such as poor work history. She suggested the youth committee consider using the exception allowance for data reporting purposes.

**COMMITTEE UPDATES**

*Camden County One-Stop - Frank Cirii, Local Area Director*

- Vaccinations are available at town halls and multiple locations within the county. A full vaccination schedule is posted on the Camden County website ([www.camdencounty.com](http://www.camdencounty.com)) and the events tab of the WDB website ([www.ccwib.com](http://www.ccwib.com)).

*Camden City YMCA - Jake McGough, Director*

- The Camden YMCA is one of the New Jersey branches of the Greater Philadelphia YMCA Association. Some of the youth that utilize the facilities at the Camden YMCA may be able to benefit from the services available at the Camden County Youth One-Stop.
- Programs available at the YMCA have traditionally been for 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade youth. Among the programs available are soccer, girls' volleyball, watershed education by bike. Unfortunately, the bikes for this program have been subject to theft. The program will resume once the bikes have been replaced by private and corporate donations.
- The YMCA is hoping to successfully implement a civic engagement and government sector for teens. The YMCA also partners with schools and other community-based organizations, such as Campbell Soup and the William Penn Foundation. There are several potential partnership opportunities between the YMCA and the WDB.

*Camden County College - Dr. Lauren Hill*

- The ownership transition of ETS to PSI for HiSET testing has presented several challenges and made seamless testing of prepared students an arduous task. There are providers considering switching from HiSET to GED, which would create difficulties for students who have begun the HiSET process. The NJLWD Director for Adult Connect has been asked to connect with the NJ Department of Education for assistance.

*RESPOND, Inc. - Vance Lofton*

- The culinary program currently has 8 students and is going well. "Camden Cookies" and other treats will be available for the holidays. All of the graduates from last year's program have received job offers and this year's program is currently at 100% capacity.
- The child development centers around the city have received "facelifts" with fresh paint, new logos, and new signage.
- Sources for additional funding are being pursued to support current programs and for program expansions.

*The Dream Center - Joey Thompson*

- The Dream Center recently received a Grant from Feeding America.
- Three students received their certifications, and they are being assisted with interview preparation for employment.
- Preparation is underway for a cohort starting next year.

*Winslow Township High School - Gary Crowe and Ginger Gorman*

- The school will hold a Career and Trade Expo on Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. The WDB is planning to participate.
- Ginger expressed enthusiasm for the opportunity presented by Atlantic City Electric for students not interested in pursuing a college education. Jeff offered to make a presentation whenever Ginger had a group of students available.

*Housing Authority of the City of Camden (HACC) - Rhonda Wardlow Hurley*

- Melody Johnson Williams has been named HACC Executive Director. She has been with the Housing Authority for over 20 years and previously served as Director of the Housing Choice Voucher Program
- HACC, along with the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P) received a grant from HUD for 25 vouchers for youth ages 18-24 who are homeless or aging out of the foster care system. There are 19 vouchers committed, with 6 remaining vouchers available. The vouchers will cover the cost of housing for 3 years. Case management services will be provided.
- HACC will be applying for the NJLWD Youth Build grant as soon as it is announced.
- Rhonda was asked to provide Melody Johnson-Williams' resume and contact information so the process could be started to have her appointed to the WDB as a Trustee in lieu of Victor Figueroa as a result of his retirement.

*Camden County Workforce Development Board - Jeffrey Swartz, Executive Director*

- The next quarterly Board of Trustee meeting is on Wednesday, December 14, 2022, at 8:30 am. The meeting will be in-person at Camden County College-Blackwood. A full breakfast will be provided. Jeff asked that attendees RSVP for the purposes of ensuring a quorum will be present and that there will be adequate catering.
- The next committee meeting scheduled for December 28<sup>th</sup> is subject to discussion with Matt because of the quarterly board meeting and the holidays.

**Adjournment**

Jeff asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Lauren Hill made the motion, Lori Godorov seconded it. By a majority vote to the affirmative, the meeting adjourned 10:00 am.

**Next Meeting**

The Wednesday, December 28, 2022, Youth Committee meeting was rescheduled for Wednesday, January 25, 2023, at 9:00 am via Zoom.

**Submitted by:**

Debra Vaughn  
Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director