



## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

*Supporting the Development and Retention of a World Class Workforce*

Jeffrey S. Swartz, Executive Director

Carl A. Donato Jr., Chair

### Youth Investment Council Minutes, June 11, 2025 via Zoom

#### Attendance

Name	Organization	Trustee Member	26-Feb	23-Apr	11-Jun
Roth-Gutman, Jill (CHAIR)	Roth-Gutman Law, LLC	X			X
Banks, Evangeline	Juvenile Justice Commission		X		
Boucher, Shaneka	City of Camden				
Boyd, Carl	Community Liaison for the Camden		X		
Cirillo, Frank	Camden County One-Stop	X			
Clark, Justin	Office of Adult Literacy (NJDOE)			X	
Cooper-Vanderlip, Diana	e-Deuce & Associates, LLC		X		
Davis, Rodney	Turner Construction			X	
Floyd, Kwame	Teacher Apprenticeship				
Godorov, Lori	The Work Group	X	X		
Gonzalez, Claudia	NJCourts				
Gorman, Ginger	Winslow Township High School				
Green, Aurella	Camden County College				
Jenkins, Marcell	Winslow Township High School		X		
Jenkins, Timothy	Camden Board of Education				
Jones, Shakirah	CC Justice Systems				
Leary, Ashley	Juvenile Justice Hub				
Lofton, Vance	Respond, Inc.				
Ludizaca, Raul	NJDOL				
Maguire, Laurie	Camden County One-Stop			X	
McGough, Jake	YMCA				
Nobles, Shaniqua	CPAC		X		
O'Neill, Kellianne	Winslow Township High School				
Peterson, Jyi	Camden County One-Stop			X	
Randall, Angela				X	
Rosado, Joeliza	Truist Bank		X	X	X
Selby, Andrew	CPAC		X		
Sinclair, Nidia	Camden County One-Stop				
Velasquez, Gil	Superior Court of New Jersey				X
Wemple, Anita	CPAC				
Williams, Melody	Camden Housing				
Jacqueline Sapiro	First Tee			X	X
Michelle Rohan	WDB		X	X	X
Swartz, Jeffrey S.	WDB		X	X	
Vaughn, Debra	WDB		X	X	X

#### Committee Call to Order and Minutes Approval

Jill Roth Gutman, Youth Committee Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:41am. Jill asked for a motion to approve the minutes from April 23, 2025. Joeliza Rosado made the motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Gil Velasquez. The minutes were approved.

#### Summary

##### Youth Work Experience Program Expansion

Jill announced the expansion of the Summer Youth Work Experience Program, which has doubled in size from 50 to 100 participants this year. The program, which starts in less than two weeks, includes a week of classes followed by a 7-week work placement with stipend, and Michelle



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explained that 22 students were placed on a waitlist with some recent changes due to schedule issues. The program has a high completion rate, with only a few exceptions due to extraordinary circumstances, and letters were sent to unsuccessful applicants explaining the selection process and encouraging them to apply again next year.

### **Youth Program Leadership and Partnerships**

Jill and Michelle discussed the need to attach letters and include worksite information for the committee to review before the end-of-program meeting in late August. They identified the need for more worksite partnerships in Camden County's southern region, particularly with hospitals, for future programs. Jill reported that the youth focus group meeting scheduled for May 7th was canceled due to low youth participation, and the next meeting is set for October 1st at Voorhees Library. Jill expressed the need for a subcommittee chair to lead the Youth Advisory Board, as the current lack of leadership and stretched resources make it challenging for staff to manage the program effectively.

### **Youth Collaboration for Community Service**

Gil suggested that the Youth Service Commission and the Youth Advisory Board consider partnering to better serve youth in the community, as both groups aim for similar outcomes. Jill agreed that collaboration is beneficial but emphasized the need for a tailored focus on work readiness and a dedicated point of contact for communication between the groups. She proposed reaching out to youth participating in their summer program and ensuring that the Youth Advisory Board maintains its own identity while collaborating with others.

### **Co-Chair Partnership Discussion**

Gil expressed willingness to co-chair a subcommittee, provided there is a commitment from another person. He emphasized the importance of partnership and accountability. Jill agreed and suggested sending an email to the group to find a co-chair to work with Gil.

### **Youth Advisory Board Membership Challenges**

Jill discussed the progress and challenges of the Youth Advisory Board, emphasizing the need for a point person to streamline efforts and the importance of collecting contact information from participants for future engagement. She highlighted that the board has established objectives and goals, but attendance and consistent membership remain a concern. Gil Velasquez inquired about the committee's membership structure, and Michelle confirmed that while some members are regular attendees, new faces continue to join, with Jackie being a recent addition.

### **Strengthening Attendance and Planning Events**

The committee discussed challenges with inconsistent membership attendance and agreed to strengthen participation by scheduling fixed meeting dates for next year and encouraging representatives from local high schools and nonprofits to join. Jill announced upcoming events including the Garden State Employment and Training Association conference on October 20-23, the Workforce Development Board quarterly meeting on June 18 at Camden County College, and the youth investment meeting on August 27. She also shared a stress and burnout questionnaire from Rutgers that committee members can use to track their well-being every three months.

### **Cherry Hill School Schedule Changes**

Jill informed the group about proposed changes to the school schedule in Cherry Hill, which includes a split schedule for 6th and 8th graders with a 26-minute lunch period, shorter than the



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recommended 20-minute sit down time. She expressed concerns about the impact on students, particularly those with special needs, and encouraged community feedback during meetings this week. Justin, a former teacher, inquired about the specifics of the proposed schedule and its implications for special education students.

#### **Quarterly Meeting and Leadership Updates**

The conversation ended with Jill reporting successful online participation despite some technical difficulties. The group discussed the upcoming quarterly meeting on the 18th, with Jill confirming her attendance. They also addressed the need for a co-chair, with Gil Velasquez stepping up to the role.

#### **Next steps**

- Michelle to send out an email to the group seeking a co-chair for Gil to lead the Youth Advisory Board subcommittee.
- Gil to reach out to Lori about potentially co-chairing the Youth Advisory Board subcommittee.
- Michelle to attach the letter sent to youth not selected for the Summer Youth Work Experience Program to the next meeting's materials.
- Committee members to seek out potential work sites in southern Camden County, particularly hospitals, for next year's Summer Youth Work Experience Program.
- Michelle to include Dan Stahl (Gil's new assistant) in future committee communications.
- Committee members to consider attending the GSETA conference on October 22-23 in Atlantic City.
- Committee members to attend the Quarterly Workforce Development Board meeting on June 18th at Camden County College, Blackwood campus, if available.

#### **Adjournment**

Jill asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Gil Velasquez and seconded by Joeliza Rosado. By majority vote to the affirmative, the meeting was adjourned at 11:24am.

Respectfully submitted by: Michelle Rohan, Committee Coordinator