

# MINUTES

## Youth & Education Committee

January 30, 2017

Attendees: Sue Ronga Interim Chair, Dr. Chris Irving WDB Executive Director, Dorothy Singletary, Fedaa Nomeir; Kathleen Mauer, Quayshaela Davis, Todd Jackson, Andrea Newton, Sonia Rosado, Erica Crenshaw

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### Introductions

Susan Ronga, of PACE/Paterson Adult Continuing Education, Interim Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

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### Minutes

Minutes were reviewed and accepted.

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### WDB Executive Director Dr. Christopher Irving Update

Dr. Chris Irving apprised the committee of important changes with the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act included the following:

- 75% of the funding allocated must be utilized for out-of-school youth. The state has new performance indicators for all of our youth programs for both the in-school youth and the out-of-school youth but the benchmarks are very clear which are for youth obtaining one of two things, a high school diploma or entering into a job and/or training program.
- Dr. Irving noted the students receiving a diploma was the only area that we did not perform well in because the WIOA regulations say all youth in our programs must complete HiSet, get a GED or high school equivalency, be working or be transferred and placed in a training program. From the Board and WDB stand point we must make sure that we monitor the performance. At the next meeting there has to be a conversation for the language concerning the performance of the programs and Chris will talk to Lauren and may have to review some of the performance data from last year.
- The goal is how do we turn the corners ensure the staff here make the youth in Passaic County aware of the services that we offer and not to exit the programs with just a good experience but exit and move on to something else with a bright future. Dr. Irving noted there was not a drastic change in the language from WIA to WIOA but the emphasis is a little different and allowed the WDBs to identify performance and what success looks like and the FEDS is taking over and we have to make sure that we monitor the success.

### Q&A

**Is DVR included in the summer youth programs? Because many students fall through the crack.** Fedaa noted there is an orientation every year once they are hired and the youth that are followed up with throughout the year are the youth hired for the summer. Youth Build have some youth that are from DVR. The One-Stop will give a number of applications to the school and the guidance counselors determine who participate.

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Dr. Irving noted that DVR could have a conversation with Lauren about resources and the problem seems to be just the coordination of it all.

**Dr. Irving asked if the youth program have a projection of how many youth will they intake for next year.** Fedaa noted that 260 youth were hired last summer and the One-Stop have followed up with over 100 youth and will continue to follow-up on the others.

Dr. Irving recommended for the next quarterly meeting to have all of the youth training providers in the county meet to make sure they understand the performance indicators and have the conversation on the resources that we have to bridge the gap and take a hard look at what we expect for the success rate and also think about the different barriers. Chris will ask Cynthia to set it up and coordinate the meeting with Lauren.

### **Out Of School Youth Updates**

Sue Ronga reported the following:

- The out-of-school youth is doing well and working out the summer framework due to WIOA there is 75% out of school and 25% in school. There is a 20% work experience.
- The Workforce Learning Link have less clients right now in the pipeline and if anyone know of someone interested in the learning link please refer them to the program.

### **Q&A**

#### **What is the level of service required?**

Sue noted that the level of service is 60 clients

- Paterson Public Schools New Jersey Youth Program will be having another intake for the summer and they have 3 days of academics and 2 days of work experience for six weeks starting on July 1, 2017 through the second week of August and then they return in September. Clients must complete 140 hours of work experience which gives a good amount of experience to learn the soft skills.

#### **In a given year do you have two cycles of classes every calendar**

**year?** Sue noted that there are three cycles and 4 cohorts all together with three sites and some of the cycles can go into the next so it can last up to a year or more.

- Literacy Consortium Partners we have Passaic Board of Education where they offer Adult ESL, GED, ABE, Citizenship, Civics, Education located in Passaic, Wayne, Paterson, PCTI, PCCC, Ellison Street, MLK and School#9 on Saturdays that just started.

Dr. Irving asked Sue what is the number of enrollment and to get the level of service and how many available slots in the program.

- Sue noted in reference to the Referral Process for the adults they will work that out further along and get all the youth groups together and have a better contact and get the TABE scanned.
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Dr. Irving noted that he would like to see in the future a smoother process between the schools and the One-Stop and to push the guidance counselors to take part in the process of encouraging the youth that are at risk of dropping out to go to the One-Stop which will afford them a better opportunity.

Dr. Chris Irving mentioned that the youth exist but the challenge is how do we find them, capture them and put them in a program to receive the services and the only way for that to happen is if all of the training providers are sitting around the table to discuss the barriers that we need to identify and work diligently to knock the barriers down.

The meeting concluded at 10:40 a.m.

The schedule for the next meeting: **TBD**

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