



Meeting Minutes

Youth Investment Council **Karen Kubert, Chair**

May 17, 2010 at NJ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Hackettstown

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m.

Attendees: Ray Gara, Kim Johnson (for Claudia Sandanato), Karen Kubert (Council Chair), David Lacouture, Melissa Lentz (Youth Corps), Robert Parker, Jack Patten (WIB Director), April Poretta (for William Horn), A. J. Teat (Youth Corps).

Summer Youth Program Status

Jack Patten reported that there is a 99% probability there will be no Workforce Investment Act funded youth program this year. There is a small chance that Congress will authorize funds, but it would be increasingly difficult to plan, develop and operate a summer program at this late date.

Jack also reported that the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (NJ LWD) and New Jersey Division of Family Development are discussing use of federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds to operate a summer youth employment program for TANF recipients. No details on program funding, eligibility, work requirements or contracting are available, but Jack will notify service providers and the YIC as information is received from NJ LWD.

Program Year 2010 Year Round Youth Programs

Jack noted that the YIC meeting was scheduled for May 17 in anticipation of having Program Year (PY) 2010 Workforce Investment Act funding levels for discussion. However, the WIB has not yet received this information. Jack anticipates that funding will be equal to, or slightly more than, the current program year.

The group reviewed a list of PY 2009 youth service providers, including contract amounts, levels of service and cost per participant. Jack stated that the WIB intends to renew last year's youth service provider contracts, rather than issuing an RFP, for PY 2010. Bob Parker asked if it was possible for NewBridge Services to enter a cost-reimbursement contract for PY 2010, and noted that Sussex County Technical School has such a contract for PY 2009. Jack replied that the Technical School operates an in-school program for participant costs only, and that the cost-reimbursement contracts are not well suited to year round programs with diverse activities and expenses.

The Council reviewed “performance dashboards” displaying PY 2009 performance to date. The WIB is substantially exceeding all youth measures. Jack profusely thanked and praised the youth service providers for their excellent performance both historically and in PY 2009. He noted that the success achieved by the WIB is directly attributable to the partnership cooperation and performance of the youth service providers.

Tools for America’s Jobseekers Challenge

Jack reported that the U.S. Department of Labor led the Challenge in which workforce investment workers and customers rated over 600 websites and online services for their value to jobseekers. Jack distributed a list of the sites rated best in the MSW WIB area. Jack cautioned that some of the sites were recommended by only one reviewer and that they should be previewed before distribution to jobseekers.

Jack stated that in response to the Challenge, Microsoft is offering free online training in Office 2007. The WIB will receive approximately 290 licenses for the training, which will be distributed to One-Stop customers. Jack asked that if anyone knows where there are public access computers loaded with Microsoft 2007, could they please forward that information to Olga Burns or to Jack.