



Meeting Minutes

Youth Investment Council **Karen Kubert, Chair**

November 12, 2009 at NJ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Hackettstown

The meeting was called to order at 1:06 p.m.

Attendees: Dr. Kevin Brennan, Ray Gara, Karen Kubert (Council Chair), Mike Muckle, George Paffendorf, Jack Patten (WIB Director), A. J. Teat.

Review of the 2009 Summer Youth Program

Jack Patten reported that the Summer Youth Employment Program began in early July and ended for most participants at the end of August. The program served 161 area disadvantaged youth aged 16 through 24:

- 84 of the 161 youth were out-of-school (the program goal was to serve about 48 out-of-school youth)
- 103 participants were youth with disabilities
- 89 were older youth, aged 18 through 24
- 97 had less than a high school diploma

The Summer Youth Employment Program was extended through October 31 for 18 program participants. Two of these are in On-the-Job training: one as a weatherization technician at NORWESCAP and one as a maintenance person at the Boonton Housing Authority. The Boonton Housing Authority is so pleased with the participant's performance that they have provided him with an apartment as part of his employment agreement.

Participants were paid \$7.25 per hour and some received travel and support service payments.

Jack mentioned the following lessons learned from this year's program:

- Recruitment might have been facilitated by paying higher program wages to participants, especially older youth.
- The program started too late to engage public schools, which had been instrumental in previous Summer Program administration.
- Changing titles of summer interns hired to assist in administering the program would have allowed them to be paid higher wages and presumably attracted a larger applicant pool.
- Increased lead time for planning would have allowed for more robust work readiness preparation and workplace credential attainment.

Jack reported Summer Program expenditures as follows:

	Allocation	\$ Expended / Obligated	% Expended / Obligated
ARRA Youth	\$387,780	\$332,175	85%

Planning for 2010 Summer Youth Program

Council members suggested a variety of recruiting tactics for subsequent summer programs, including:

- Radio and cable television public service announcements
- Newspaper advertising
- Engaging public schools earlier in the planning process
- Recruiting through community based organizations

Jack stated that the WIB will explore the possibility of paying higher wages to interns and program participants. The WIB will definitely begin Summer Program planning upon determination that there will be a summer program.

The members offered access to their resources and networks in support of subsequent Summer Program recruiting and operation.

The meeting ended at 2:14 p.m.