



## **Shared Youth Vision Council**

**New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development**

**1 John Fitch Way**

**Trenton, NJ 08625**

**Thursday, June 4, 2015**

**10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

### **I. Welcome new members and special guests**

The meeting was brought to order by Kirk Lew at 10:10 am. The agenda was reviewed prior to the start of the meeting. The council was informed that the meeting adheres to the open meetings act and the discussions would be digitally recorded. The group was asked to review the agenda and then we went around the room to introduce ourselves and formally start the meeting. The special guests in attendance for the meeting was Patricia Moran, Executive Director of Workforce Development and Economic Opportunity and Joanna Hala, Associate Director, United Way Family Sustaining Employment. Patricia and Joanne will be making presentation to the council.

### **SETC Director's Remarks**

Michele Boronkas, Executive Director of the SETC was unable to attend the meeting at the scheduled time for the presentation of the SETC Director's remarks. Kirk presented the council with an update on the director's report and the development of the WIOA Blueprint planning document. Currently, the Blueprint document is in a rough draft form and will be presented to the SETC for consideration. The next SETC meeting is scheduled for 6/16/15. The Shared Youth Vision Council's policy recommendations are included in the Partnerships and Pathways Blueprint document.

The SYVC was asked to review the meeting minutes from the previous SYVC meeting on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015. There was a motion put forth by Kirk to accept the meeting minutes. The first motion was passed by Robert Mercado and was seconded by Roger McCloughan. All were in favor of accepting the meeting minutes with no abstentions.

### **II. A.L.I.C.E. Report**

The A.L.I.C.E report Joanne Hala and Robyn Ulmer presented to the SYVC on an often overlooked portion of our population that continues to struggle in regards to gainful and sustainable employment.

A.L.I.C.E which stands for **A**sset Limited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mloyed, represents the growing number of individuals and families who are working, but are unable to afford the basic necessities of housing, food, child care, health care, and transportation.



The following information was taken for the United Way of Northern New Jersey's website;  
[http://www.unitedwaynnj.org/ourwork/alice\\_nj.php](http://www.unitedwaynnj.org/ourwork/alice_nj.php)

### Core Statistics

The ALICE study provides county-by-county and town-level data; cost of living calculations for six family size variations; analysis of how many households are living paycheck to paycheck; and the implications for New Jersey's future economic stability. Here are some of the study's findings:

- Nearly 40 percent of New Jersey households (ALICE and poverty) cannot afford the basics of housing, food, transportation, child care, and health care, despite working.
- There are nearly 890,000 ALICE households in New Jersey, nearly three times the official poverty rate. Together with those in poverty, 1.2 million NJ households are unable to make ends meet.
- ALICE is men and women, young and old, of all race and ethnicities, closely mirroring the state's basic demographic make-up.
- A total of 53 percent of all jobs in NJ pay less than \$20 per hour and most pay between \$10 and \$15 per hour. The jobs forecast shows low-paying jobs dominating the economy into the foreseeable future.
- Despite working and receiving financial supports, ALICE still faces a 34 percent gap in the income needed to be able to survive and afford the basics in NJ. ([Click here](#) to see what it cost to afford the basics in each of New Jersey's 21 counties.)
- More than two-thirds (85 percent) of NJ's 560 towns have 20 percent or more households unable to afford life's basic necessities.

Joanne and Robyn made it very clear that the youth we are serving could easily fall into the A.L.I.C.E report classification, if they do not receive the appropriate program and services. Those programs and services should include activities that promote career exploration and directs young job seekers to career pathways that lead to sustainable and livable wages. The information can be found at the website above and information can be made accessible to members by accessing Robyn Ulmer at;

### **Robyn Ulmer**

*Youth Empowerment Alliance Coordinator*

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### III. WIOA Blueprint and Implementation

Patricia Moran is the Executive Director of the NJLWD Workforce Development and Economic Opportunity. Patricia presented to the Shared Youth Vision Council, LWD's plan to address the various changes to youth program and services under WIOA. The recommendations for consideration into the state plan are foundational and operational concepts that will work towards the clear and concise implementation of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Patricia reviewed LWD priorities which are; Reemployment, Opportunity, Alignment and Accountability. Patricia discussed the seven workgroups created by LWD which are; Youth, Disabilities, Career Pathways, Governance/Planning, Performance, and One Stop Operations.

Patricia discussed the importance of career pathways, which is the other WIOA blueprint workgroup she is currently leading for NJLWD. Patricia sees synergy between the topics being discussed in both workgroups. Patricia Moran went into greater depth around the five priorities developed by the LWD youth workgroup.

1. Recruitment and retention of WIOA eligible youth.
2. Career readiness, a focus on meaningful career related training
3. Increased Accountability across training programs to improve outcomes.
4. Change in funding and service procurement
5. Internal and External capacity building

All of these concepts will be infused into the Partnerships and Pathways Blueprint plan and the plan will look to coordinate the various services and programs to ensure the best return on investment.

Michele was able to join the meeting at this time and reinforced some of the higher level strategic initiatives that will be found in the Blueprint document. Those high level policy frameworks are;

1. **Regional Framework** – New Jersey's education and training resources for talent development are aligned through regional planning, service strategy coordination and resource sharing.
2. **High-Quality, Employer Driven Partnerships** – New Jersey defines "high quality partnerships" as those workforce and education partnerships which are employer-



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driven and have developed a clearly defined mission and vision statement, with defined roles, responsibilities and impact measures for all partners.

3. **Career Pathways statewide definition** – Career Pathways are a series of education and training experiences resulting in industry-valued credentials leading to employment, promotion and/or advanced education. Career Pathways are industry-focused, have diverse entry and exit points and include integration of adult basic skills, digital literacy, employability skills and work-based learning.
4. **Industry-valued credentials** – New Jersey will focus investments on training programs that result in industry-valued credential and degree.
5. **Locally-Driven One-Stop Career Center** – New Jersey is committed to locally-driven and managed One-Stop Career Centers that assist individuals to obtain new skills and employment
6. **Network for Career Guidance** – New Jersey will build a strong network of One-Stop Career Centers, community colleges, libraries, community and faith-based organizations, labor unions and educational institutions to ensure that job seekers and students, at all levels, have access to high-quality career guidance and job search information and assistance.
7. **Informed Decision-Making through performance Data** – New Jersey will make performance data on workforce development programs available to a variety of decision-makers, including the SETC, program staff and the public. The Eligible Training Provider List and Consumer Report Card for Training programs are critical tools for assisting jobseekers and students to make informed decisions about short-term occupational training programs.

All of these policy framework concerns should be analyzed through a youth lens, which will ensure the needs of youth job seekers are considered in a thoughtful manner.

#### IV. Next Steps for the SYVC

Youth Transition Plans – The SYVC discussed the requirement that local areas complete WIA to WIOA transition plans. The transition plans would require the local areas to consider how youth and the major changes being presented in WIOA will impact the development of the policy framework. These are the major planning concerns;

1. 75% Out of School
  - a. Recruitment



- b. Retention
- 2. 20% Work Experience
  - a. On-the-Job Training
  - b. Internships/Paid and Unpaid
  - c. Externships/Job Shadowing
  - d. Pre-Apprenticeships
  - e. Volunteerism
  - f. Year round Employment Opportunities
- 3. Youth Investment Councils
- 4. Partnership Development
- 5. Procurement Process
- 6. Local Policy Implications
- 7. Local Area Promising Practices
- 8. Unique local area needs, issues and concerns

Michele explained how the key elements found in the youth transition plans will be embedded into the local and regional plans. The state will consider doing its own WIA to WIOA youth transition plan, since the changes in the law for youth are some of the most drastic. It would also give the local areas an idea of what the state is think and he path that he state should be following in regards to providing youth services in NJ. The council asked Michele would it be helpful, if the council supported the process of local area strategically planning around the delivery of WIOA youth services and programs. The first motion was made by Lori G and the second motion was made by Darrell P. All were in favor. Elements of the planning guidance and ongoing T&A process will be discussed at the next SYVC council meeting in September.

#### V. Adjournment

The motion to adjourn the meeting was given by Lori G from Camden Work Group at 11:50 am.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, November 19th, 2015, 10:00 am to 12:00 noon, NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development Building 13<sup>th</sup> Floor Auditorium Trenton, NJ