



Meeting Minutes of Shared Youth Vision Council
New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development
1 John Fitch Way, Trenton, NJ 08625
Thursday, June 15, 2017
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Shared Youth Vision Council (SYVC) meeting was called to order at 10:05 am. Acting Executive Director Gary Altman welcomed attendees and roundtable introductions took place.

Acting Executive Director Gary Altman opened the meeting with a briefing of the last meeting, which featured guest speaker Ms. Sacha Stadhard from Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, Department of Career Services. She leads youth workgroups who implement various program activities and then report back to the large group, as a whole, to get an understanding of what works and what does not. He stated that the Council had not met in about a year and that Ms. Stadhard's presentation was an effort to move forward. He recommended that today's meeting be a discussion of ideas to restructure the SYVC.

2. and 3. Restructuring/Moving Forward

Mr. Altman explained that with WIOA now in place and transition moving forward, it is a good time to restart and restructure the SYVC with new mission, purpose and goals. Having gone through the transitional plans of the local workforce areas, a list was developed of potential topics to be discussed, to find common themes and create five small workgroups to begin meeting between now and the next Council meeting. In September, the SYVC will review the suggestions and ideas of the groups and decide how often they should meet.

4. Large Group – Frequency of Meetings: Discussion deferred.

5. Small Work Groups: Potential Topics

Mr. Altman presented the list (a-k) of potential topics for the purpose of getting attendees input and consensus on what topics are the most important and what topics can be integrated with others.

- a. Outreach & Engagement** - A discussion began concerning the use of social media as a tool for outreach, engagement, and retainment. Some social media outreach ideas mentioned by attendees were Guide by Cell, Facebook, YouTube, LinkedIn and Instagram. The importance of a valuable content (quality programs) and of keeping a constant presence so that the content does not grow old, were discussed related to the use of social media.

Other ideas included having a Youth Advisory Council, where youth who have benefited from the program reach out to other youth. This is often the best advertisement for youth programs. Members indicated that reaching out to mayors also can help, as they are very influential for local outreach.

- b. Partnerships & Connections** - The importance of building partnerships by connecting with community groups was discussed. Partnerships work well because different groups have various elements/pieces to offer each other in development and training. A question was raised regarding how to find partnerships in your area that support your needs. One response was that if Best Practices (f) could be a sub-category for each small group, they would share their findings with the SYVC members, so that all would benefit.
- c. Sector Strategies/Employer Engagement** - Discussion began with the idea that Partnerships & Connections is similar to the Talent Networks initiative; it could be combined with Sector Strategies. WIOA youth are the hardest to serve because of multiple barriers, therefore, recruitment strategies with the employment sector are needed internally. This would be an effort to change how employers view these youth, interact with them, and see that the youth have caliber and intelligence and that employers can feel confident in hiring youth.
- d. Program Supports** – This topic began with a conversation about case management. Youth come from many different stages and therefore we need good understanding in program support in order to place them in the proper programs. It can be a long process to get them ready for career pathways and apprenticeship, but each needs to have an avenue.
- e. Program Modeling** – This discussion began the rounding up of the remaining agenda items. Consensus was reached and five (5) inclusive workgroups were recommended:
 - 1. Sector Strategies & Employer Engagement**
 - 2. Outreach & Engagement**
 - 3. Program Modeling**
 - 4. Partnerships & Connections**
 - 5. Program Supports**
- f. Best Practices** – As discussed above, this could be a sub-category for each of the 5 groups.

Acting Executive Director Altman told attendees that a summary of the recommendations and draft definitions for a formal workgroup structure for the Youth Council will be sent out soon.

A discussion took place of the “Go for the Gold” Certification program offered through the Youth Commission in Asbury Park, operated under the NJ Attorney General’s office. This is a job training program led by several Asbury Park interfaith and non-profit partners involved in workforce training. The program consists of a four (4) session curriculum designed by employers for recent graduates of local training programs and provides the soft skills necessary for employment.

Upon graduation from Go for the Gold, each candidate receives a certification card with the endorsement of the Asbury Park Community Development Initiative, which they can put on their resume or application for employment search.

Members noted that a Certificate of Rehabilitation is provided by the Juvenile Justice Commission for young people with a criminal record at the time of their release. Subsequently, in a partnership with the Division of Motor Vehicles, a letter from the Partnership is given to the parole office to help the youth obtain a State ID, which is necessary when testing for their high school diploma.

It was mentioned that these ideas could be better disseminated through the small groups, as best practices, and then shared with the large group.

6. SYVC Next Steps & Adjournment

Mr. Altman presented a sign-up sheet listing the five selected topics so that attendees could choose which of the small workgroups they would be interested in helping with. A notice will be sent out to members with a schedule of the workgroup call dates and times.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 pm.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, September 26

10:00 am to 12:00 noon

NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development Building,

13th Floor Auditorium

1 John Fitch Way, Trenton, NJ