



**Shared Youth Vision Council
Meeting Minutes**

**New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development
1 John Fitch Way, Trenton, NJ 08625
Wednesday, November 28, 2018
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Catherine Milone opened the meeting at 10:05 am and a roundtable of introductions took place.

She thanked the members for their work and dedication in the development of the new Mission and Vision Statements which were recently approved by the SETC Commission. The SETC website and marketing documents will be updated. She stated that now the Council can be focused on a unified vision and mission going forward.

Chair Milone asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 26, 2018 meeting. Lori Godorov made a motion to approve them which was seconded by Sharon Rawlins. The minutes were unanimously approved by voice vote.

2. Introduction of Yolanda Allen

Acting Executive Director Gary Altman introduced Yolanda Allen, Assistant Director of LWD Workforce Services in the Office of Youth Services.

Ms. Allen told members that she is excited to live out the mission and vision to meet the needs of the young people that are served by finding ways to co-create solutions with the workforce boards and providers to ensure that they receive quality services. She stated that they have created a summer youth work program and have developed a partnership with Six Flags to hire 500 youth from the central area of the State and will be coordinating transportation for these young people to their employment. Her team is also working to implement quality services in the high crime/lower income areas of Camden, Atlantic City and Northern New Jersey.

3. New Mission Alignment with Target Subjects

SETC staff member Kyree Robinson referenced a list of Youth Programming Metrics for discussion which was included in the meeting packets. Listed are four topics with categories to be considered for potential inclusion in youth programming and will be used to continue the ongoing discussions of the Council for youth programming metrics to better align and implement policies that support New Jersey youth and the developmental areas that youth need to strengthen.

4. Metrics Discussion

Acting Executive Director Altman began by stating that the purpose of discussion is to come up with recommendations for those who are operating the youth programs to design programs to serve youth according to their individual needs.

Topic 1: Environment- *Family support/communication/parental involvement, caring school climate, community that values and serves their youth, safety and bonding to school.*

Discussion was started around the need to find new ways of bringing youth into the One Stops. Members shared ideas for creating an environment for youth to feel comfortable and to encourage interaction and engagement. Suggestions were made of outreach for donations of recreational equipment and food. Because the size of grants differs by area, some guidance would be necessary in determining what can be made available to each area. There was recommendation that this engaging structure become a model as a best practice for the WDB's.

Topic 2: Market Survey-*Program and school boundaries, high expectations, planning and decision making and cultural competence.*

Members addressed the importance of surveys when implementing programs. Although there are no pre-imposed requirements to have them, they are useful for program planning. Members exchanged some survey providing agencies that offer assessment tools in starting quality youth workforce programs. Some mentioned were the National Youth Employment Coalition (NYEC), who uses the Promise Effective Performance Network, and the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB), offering workforce best practices. Also mentioned was the need to address social-emotional learning needs of youth in programing. It was mentioned that Rutgers offers a whole lab on the subject and that public libraries are beginning to offer it in their programs. Discussion moved to having a youth voice as a best practice standard for the WDB's to implement such as a youth focus group, or a youth advisory board to serve as consultants for program planning. Mr. Altman told the group that he will contact Bob Guarasci of the New Jersey Community Development Corporation in Paterson to find out how they went about forming their group and will bring that information back to the next meeting. Another member recommended contacting Matt Rosen, Executive Director of Foster Youth in Action (FYA). They are an advocacy group focusing on youth organizing and leadership development.

Topic 3: Relationship/Partners-*Neighborhood boundaries, adult role models, positive peer influence and peaceful conflict resolution.*

The subject of this discussion was to make it personal. The better the environment for youth the more likely they are to share their experience with their peers. The concern is how to make sure each area can give their youth what they need while having different allocations. Not all 14 elements of WIOA are needed by all youth. Members agreed that the need for youth counseling, health/drug addiction services are important but monitoring is needed to have referral systems in place without upsetting confidentiality.

Topic 4: Youth Participation/Engagement-*Creative activities, religious community engagement, constructive time at home, reading for pleasure, homework, understanding morality, equality, social justice, honesty, restraint and responsibility, self-esteem.*

Members discussed ways to enhance sensitivity to each clients' circumstances by designing programs with activities that promote community engagement and self-esteem. There was interest in ways to share best practices by developing a learning community between youth programs at large to see how they do things and to have topical conversations with academic instructors, financial literacy instructors, worksite supervisors and career development/job placement professionals to share best practices and establish continued relationships with those partners.

5. Youth Listening Tour

Acting Executive Director Altman explained that the SETC Listening Tours to be conducted by Kyree Robinson are not meant for monitoring performance, but for SETC to see how we can help them. With these visits he will be able to see in person the needs for coordinating/managing silos, view youth programming, and see best practices and to be clear on every one's roles. A suggested outcome was to create a best practice guide for consistency and a central directory for services providers of youth services.

6. Next Meeting – TBA

Mr. Altman told members that a 2019 schedule of meetings will be arranged and emailed to members at that time.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50.

ATTENDANCE:

Catherine Milone
Nancy Fisher
Lori Godorov
Kim Johnson
David McNair
Sharon Rawlins
Michele Safrin
Donna Scalia

LWD/SETC:

Gary Altman
Yolanda Allen
JoAnn Brooks
Patricia Jordon
Samantha Polanco
Kyree Robinson