

**Youth Investment Council  
Minutes  
October 19, 2004**

**Attendees:** Kenila Xavier - Burlington County Community Action Program  
Pauline Glenn - Burlington County Board of Social Services  
Liliam Thompson - Burlington County Board of Social Services  
Darlene C. White - Burlington County Board of Social Services  
Bill Stewart - Burlington County Freeholder's Office  
AC McIntosh - Division of Youth and Family Services  
Lauren K. Williams - DRENK- School Based Youth Services (Pemberton)  
Kristy Hutchinson - Goodwill Industries of Southern New Jersey  
Jane Guillard - Juvenile Justice Commission  
Arthur Davenport - New Jersey Youth Corps  
Barbara Weir - Workforce Investment Board

Meeting called to order at 10:08 AM.

**\*Due to the fact that the September's minutes were never sent and there was no quorum, approval of these minutes will take place at November's meeting.**

**I. Youth Request for Proposal (RFP)**

- Barbara Weir reported that she had given an overview/presentation of the Youth Opportunity Program given to the Freeholder's last Wednesday. Barbara provided handouts to each of the Freeholder's, who were impressed with the impact that the Youth Opportunity Program has made. Barbara also reported that she received positive feedback from other Department Personnel who were in attendance last week. Bill Stewart reported that the RFP was "approved" and signed into Contract by the Freeholder's. Copies have been forwarded to the appropriate parties, who should be receiving them shortly.

**II. Youth Investment Council/Youth Job Fair/Career Fair (?)**

- Barbara reported that the schedule book for 2005 has not come out yet, but should be by November's meeting.
- The tentative date for the Youth Job Fair is May 19, 2005 from 2pm to 6pm.
- Barbara stated that she spoke with Fred Aiken of BCIT regarding the Career Fair project. It was decided that the best way to approach this would be to send letters to schools and follow up with phone calls.
- It was thought by some Council members that the Career Fair would be duplicating services that schools provide, such as Burlington County College and Shawnee High School, and that the focus for the Career Fair should be, youth who do not attend school functions due to such problems as at-risk youth/offenders, pregnant/parenting teens and so forth.
- The Council felt that letters should be designed and sent to Community Based Organizations/Agencies, DYFS, Probation, Family Service, DRENK, Crossroads, etc...
- Still many Council members felt that it would be too big of a project to have both, especially so close to the Youth Job Fair.
- Barbara will contact Fred Aiken, Monica Lallo and AC McIntosh to discuss these efforts and will report back to the Youth Council in November.

### III. Youth Opportunities Program Update

- Liliam Thompson reported that current enrollment is 289, not including youth who need follow-up services. 35 of which are currently receiving classroom instruction or college education.
- Ms. Thompson reported that the first Life Skills and Job Readiness session wrapped up and the second session will be beginning shortly. As part of the Life Skills/Job Readiness activity, the youth participate in Job Shadowing. Over the past weekend, many youth Job Shadowed a Bakery, Mr. Macgregor's Bakery off of Route 537. Kristy Hutchinson reported that the Job Shadowing went very well, despite the last minute Bakery change.
- Ms. Thompson reported that the Youth Development Specialists attended the Boys and Girls Club event called Lights on After School. The event was geared toward keeping youth active after school to prevent violence and/or mischief. Ms. Thompson reported that fifteen (15) parents expressed interest in the program.
- Approximately ten (10) youth took the PSAT this past Saturday. These youth were provided with PSAT tutoring prior to taking the test. Tutoring for the PSAT, SAT, HSPT...etc continues and is provided by partnering agency, Goodwill Industries.
- Ms. Thompson reported that the Youth Summit was a true **success!** Over 150 youth came to the event prepared by the Youth Opportunity Program, the County Health Department and Prevention Plus. Several of the youth were walk-ins. The youth attended a series of three (3) workshops, HIV/AIDS, Birth Control and Anti-Tobacco.
- Pauline reported that collaborative partners were asked to submit proposals (no later than October 15<sup>th</sup>) to provide life skills training to in-house youth offenders. So far two (2) partners have expressed interest.
- Pauline reported that the Summer Work Experience Program went well. Several bobbles along the way, but nothing major. Goodwill submitted a written report on employer feedback. Overall response from employers was positive. A few snags that still need to be worked out though. Employers reported that they liked the fact that there was a point person available to assist them (or the youth) when needed.
- Both Lil and Darlene are still re-vamping the power point presentation so they may present to committees that focus on youth issues.

### VI. New Business

- Barbara reported that there still is no response from the State regarding the Youth Action Plan that was submitted last July. Barbara reported that she would be attending a retreat and would bring up this issue.
- Members can still send comments on the Youth Action Plan to [bweir@co.burlington.nj.us](mailto:bweir@co.burlington.nj.us), no later than December 1, 2004.
- Due to a scheduling conflict, the **next Youth Investment Council** meeting will be held on **November 30, 2004 at 10:00 AM** in the Human Services Facility, **NOT** on Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> as previously scheduled.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 AM.