

**TOWN OF HEMPSTEAD/CITY OF LONG BEACH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
BOARD YOUTH STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

HEMPSTEADWORKS CAREER CENTER

NOVEMBER 12, 2019

Attendees:

Jenette Adamas, United Way of Long Island/YouthBuild
Elizabeth Ajasin, DOOR
Myesha Arvon, DOOR
Diane Bachor, NYU Winthrop Hospital
Antoinette Edmonston, Career and Employment Options, Inc.
Henry Holly, Town of Hempstead Housing Authority
Edward Kenny, DOOR
Joelle Kronberg, Career and Employment Options, Inc,
Maria Lombardi, DOOR
Eric C. Mallette, Commissioner, DOOR
Rosa Murciano, New York Community Bank
Tania Peterson-Chandler, EAC Network
Kurt Rockensies, DOOR
Veronica Rose-Craig, Chairperson, ACCES-VR

I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 9:36 A.M. by Veronica Rose-Craig, Chairperson. At her request, each of the attendees introduced themselves.

II. Opening Remarks

Commissioner Mallette commended all attendees for their work and services. He said that these efforts are meaningful to members of the community, especially youth. Afterwards, he introduced Ms. Rose-Craig as the new Chairperson of the Youth Standing Committee.

III. Review of Minutes

Ms. Rose-Craig asked the members to review the minutes from the meeting of May 16, 2019. A motion to approve the minutes was offered by Tania Peterson-Chandler, second by Henry Holly, and accepted by the Committee.

IV. In-School Youth Programs Report

Ms. Rose-Craig introduced Myesha Arvon, Youth Services Coordinator, who provided a summary of the 2019 Summer Youth Employment Program and the In-School Youth

program. This year, the program ran from July 8, 2019 through August 16, 2019. Eligible youth are those ages 14-21 low-income and have a barrier to employment. 100 youth participated, and they earned \$12.00 per hour. DOOR contracted with Hempstead Public Schools, Five Towns Community Center, Economic Opportunity Council, Freeport Farmer's Market, Uniondale Public Schools, Roosevelt Public Schools, and Cedarmore; Cedarmore youth have had involvement with the criminal justice system and are transitioning from upstate group homes to families on Long Island. After the summer program, in-school youth are tracked by their school's coordinators, who are responsible for recruiting the youth for the program and completing monthly reports documenting which of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) elements the youth have received. Ms. Rose-Craig asked if serving 100 youth is the goal for the summer program, and Edward Kenny responded that the number of youth to be served depends on the WIOA formula funds.

V. Out-of-School Youth Programs Report

Ms. Arvon also reported on the Out-of-School Youth program. Eligible youth are those between the ages of 18 and 24 who have barriers to employment. DOOR contracts with two service providers, Nassau BOCES and EAC Network, that work with the youth to fulfill the 14 WIOA elements. The youth receive financial literacy classes run by New York Community Bank, are sent for vocational training and internships, receive wrap-around services, and are given \$6.00 a day for transportation. In addition, DOOR can pay a portion of their salaries if they are hired.

VI. Disability Employment Initiative Grant Round 8

Ms. Rose-Craig indicated that the purpose of the Disability Employment Initiative Round 8 project is to improve education and employment options for youth by increasing their participation in career pathways programs. The project has reached its 2-year mark, and she invited Maria Lombardi, Disability Resource Coordinator, to give a summary update of DEI activities. Ms. Lombardi referred to her DEI Interim Report, which summarizes all activities performed under the grant since it began in October 2017. She spoke about the following activities:

- Working with businesses and key stakeholders to expand and support accessible and inclusive career pathways for youth.
- Collaborating with Out-of-School Youth contractors, EAC Network, Nassau BOCES, and DEI consultant, Career and Employment Options, Inc. (CEO), to perform outreach and recruit youth.
- Promoting the use of assistive technology to support youth career exploration, support a range of accommodations in the workplace, and receive training on the technology.
- Beginning preparation for a reverse career fair, which gives youth an opportunity to showcase their education, skills and experience to employers.

Ms. Lombardi also announced that HempsteadWorks was selected for a Federal Site review visit to be conducted by the United States Department of Labor (USDOL). She explained

that DOOR was selected as the location for an on-site review because the NYSDOL DEI State Team determined that we have made the most progress, as far as achieving grant outcomes, of the three local area areas currently participating in the DEI project.

VII. Career and Employment Options, Inc. Presentation

Ms. Rose Craig explained that under DEI, some funding had been allocated to procure a DEI consultant. Through a competitive process, HempsteadWorks selected Career and Employment Options, Inc. (CEO), to provide services under the grant. She introduced Joelle Kronberg and Antoinette Edmonston from CEO to describe services the firm will provide. Ms. Kronberg distributed a form that gathers information about each youth, and she stressed the important of learning about them. Youth can also complete mock interview rating forms for career networking and have access to an assistive technology expert

Ms. Rose-Craig asked about the positions for youth available in Suffolk County. Ms. Kronberg responded that they have youth working as a teacher's assistant in a school and another as a home health aide. In addition, a youth on the autism spectrum is working at Riverhead Building Supply, while another youth is interviewing for a chemical enginee position at National Grid.

Mr. Kenny explained that under the DEI grant, we have flexible funds that can be used to facilitate services to youth and referred to the list of tasks that CEO will accomplish during the period of performance. The essence of the grant is to create systems change in the delivery of career pathways services to youth. Ms. Kronberg added that Cognitopia, a system designed to serve as a virtual integrate resource team unique to each participant, is used as a way include the various organizations and professionals needed to support each youth.

VIII. YouthBuild – United Way

Ms. Rose-Craig indicated that Youth Build is a federally-funded program whose purpose is to enable disadvantaged youth to obtain the education and employment skills necessary to achieve economic self-sufficiency in in-demand occupations and postsecondary education and training opportunities. HempsteadWorks has been collaborating with YouthBuild this year by renting out space to run the program. Ms. Rose-Craig introduced Jennette Adams, Program Director, to discuss the program.

Ms. Adams explained that YouthBuild is a program operated by United Way and is open to low-income youth, ages 18-24, who have not achieved a high school diploma or its equivalent. Commissioner Mallette said that he is impressed with the program and the youth's response to discipline. Ms. Adams added that youth can choose from a variety of vocational training paths while working towards their diploma and OSHA certifications. Ms. Rose-Craig asked how referrals work, and Ms. Adams said youth learn about the program by word of mouth, meeting United Way staff at Hempstead High School and by linking youth with limited English to Spanish speakers. Ms. Rose-Craig asked if the youth must earn their diploma in order to complete the program. Ms. Adams responded

that while this is not a requirement, it is the goal. Mr. Holly asked how many Spanish teachers are involve with the project and Ms. Adams answered that Spanish speakers are always available to peers and to help provide services.

IX. Town of Hempstead Department of General Services

Ms. Rose-Craig explained that the Department of General Services expressed an interest in partnering with us on our Opioid National Dislocated Worker Grant and DEI project. Mr. Kenny explained that funding under the Opioid Grant is used to provide occupational skills training to dislocated workers. If customers identify that they or a family member have been affected by the opioid crisis, they can train for any occupation. However, if they have not been impacted, they can only train in the fields of addiction treatment, mental health treatment and pain management. He explained that General Services would like to offer staff training, but it has been difficult to recruit individuals to participate because many certifications within this field require degrees or experience in working with this client base. Yvonne Morrissey added that the only course within these fields we have been able to fill is the Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC). Ms. Rose-Craig asked if there is a flyer for the grant, and Mr. Kenny responded that there is. Diane Bachor asked where customers are taking the CASAC course, and Ms. Morrissey responded that they take the classes at Molloy.

X. Old/New Business

Ms. Rose-Craig announced that ACCES-VR has a pre-employment program in which youth receive exploration counseling, work-based learning experiences, counseling on postsecondary options, workplace readiness training and instruction in self-advocacy (e.g. peer mentoring).

XI. Adjournment

After a motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Peterson-Chandler, seconded by Mr. Holly, and carried by the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 A.M.