

## Niagara WDB Youth Committee Meeting

Meeting Held: 9/19/18 at Niagara County Center for Economic Development/IDA

Attendees: Kathleen Granchelli of YWCA, Brian of Niagara Falls School District, Marilee Clark of Community Missions, Bonnie Rice of Niagara County Employment & Training Department, and John Accardo of Niagara Workforce Development Board.

Other agencies were invited to attend but were not present. Kathleen said there is the possibility of offering conference calls for future meetings and there may be other ways to engage the membership.

Members provided introductions to one another, including their role within their agency.

Bonnie provided a brief overview of the previous Youth Council under federal WIA law, and explained the parameters for the current Youth Committee under the current federal WIOA regulations.

Discussion ensued regarding ways in which the Youth Committee could have a positive impact on Niagara County youth. Kathleen mentioned a future idea for development of an employment app for cell phones.

The Committee unanimously decided to focus initially on getting youth employed. This will be accomplished by holding targeted job fairs for career-oriented youth who are about to graduate from high school and will not be going on to college or vocational training. The Committee plans to host three targeted job fairs, on site at North Tonawanda, Niagara Falls, and Lockport Schools. Brian suggested calling it the Next Generation Workforce Career Fair. Events will focus on businesses that hire youth and have job openings. Bonnie offered to invite businesses using E&T's business database. Brian offered to contact North Tonawanda CSD for a Youth Committee member and to gain support for the Job Fair. Kathleen said that there is a person from Lockport CSD who will be attending future Committee meetings. Brian said his district may be willing to have a shorter school day and develop a job after school for appropriate youth. Marilee said she believes there is a hotel consortium that meets, and they may be appropriate businesses to pursue. Bonnie said E&T could offer 50-75% wage reimbursement through On-the-Job Training if youth are hired full time; program requires meeting with the business and the youth prior to hire. Bonnie said some youth may also qualify to work as part of the TANF Summer Youth Employment Program, or as part of the Young Adult Program which operates year-round.

Brian said there are empty spaces in the Niagara Falls School buildings and that the district could host meetings on site.

Marilee said the committee should focus on out-of-school youth because the school districts can address most of the needs for in-school youth. Marilee said the "Raise the

Age" law will create a need for additional services for out-of-school youth. As of 10/1/18, 16-year-olds will fall under the Raise the Age law, and this law will impact 17-year-olds on 10/1/19. There is also the need to assist the homeless youth in our area.

Action Items

<b>Youth Committee Member</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Due By</b>	<b>Completed</b>
Bonnie	Gather youth unemployment statistics from NYATEP	10/22/18	yes
Bonnie	Request youth labor statistics from NYS Labor Market Representative	10/22/18	
Bonnie	Meeting minutes	10/22/18	yes
Brian	Engage North Tonawanda School District in Youth Committee and in Job Fair	ASAP	
Kathleen	Check on Youth Committee prospective members not in attendance	ASAP	
Marilee	Include Bonnie on Niagara Falls "Raise the Age" task force meeting	ASAP	
Marilee	Investigate other ways Youth Committee can connect to members and agencies	ASAP	

Next Youth Committee Meeting

**October 25, 2018 at 8:30 am** at the **Niagara County Industrial Development Agency**, 6311 Inducon Corporate Drive, Niagara Falls, NY.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bonnie Rice