

Upstate Youth Alliance Meeting

Date of Meeting: October 24, 2014
Time of Meeting: 8:00 a.m.
Place of Meeting: The YouthStop

Members Present

Ms. Dana Becker
Ms. Johnnie-Lynn Crosby
Ms. Melissa Green
Ms. Carolyn Rutherford Harris
Ms. Pam Kennedy
Ms. Cherie Pressley
Ms. Susan Rogers

Staff Present

Ms. Ann Angermeier
Ms. Natalia Swanson
Ms. Shannon Wilkins
Ms. Dana Wood

Guests

Ms. Kathy Bell
Ms. Michelle Hawkins
Ms. Amanda Lucas
Ms. Helen Merriweather

Members Absent

Mr. Doug Bryson
Ms. Ashley Campbell
Ms. Tammy Cooley
Mr. Chuck Ewart
Ms. Kimberly Gist
Mr. Wayne Gregory
Mr. Christopher Hendrix
Ms. Patrena Mims
Ms. Theresa Perry
Ms. Ulrike Schmidt
Ms. Mary Lou Stackhouse

Welcome:

The meeting was called to order at 8:37 a.m. by Ms. Johnnie-Lynn Crosby. Ms. Crosby welcomed all in attendance.

Gangs Presentation:

Ms. Crosby introduced Officer Chris Roberts, with the City of Spartanburg. Officer Roberts spoke about gang activity in the Upstate, employee training opportunities concerning gang awareness, and ways he could help youth that may be involved in gang related activities.

Program Updates:

Ms. Shannon Wilkins distributed several handouts prior to the start of the meeting, which included the September dashboard and contractor report from each youth provider. Ms. Crosby asked the Upstate Youth Alliance (UYA) to review each handout. Ms. Crosby asked Ms. Helen Merriweather to give an update about the ACHIEVE Program. Ms. Merriweather stated that ACHIEVE strived to stay on track with the SC WorkReady Communities initiative's goal of providing the highly skilled workforce. To prepare their participants, ACHIEVE remediated all students that score below silver on the WorkKeys Assessment. Ms. Merriweather also announced that there was now a GED Testing site in Spartanburg County. This new site was convenient for ACHIEVE because it was closer to their location, and staff were

better able to accommodate participants that need transportation to testing site. After more discussion concerning the GED, Ms. Merriweather expressed ACHIEVE's need for more marketing materials, after she explained her plans to increase ACHIEVE's marketing in the Upstate. Ms. Michelle Hawkins was asked to give an update about the YouthStop. During her update, Ms. Hawkins mentioned that The YouthStop had approximately 10 participants taking classes at the center during the day, which are their hardest-to-serve. Majority of these students were no longer allowed on their high school campuses and attend The YouthStop to continue their education. Ms. Hawkins also stated that The YouthStop incorporated a series of local industry tours into their annual plans, which was broken-down into four sectors. Manufacturing was one of those sectors, and Ms. Hawkins expressed that The YouthStop has continued to try to expose their participants to manufacturing opportunities.

Youth Coordinator's Update:

Ms. Dana Wood gave an update regarding the healthy food policy, Youth Leadership and Youth Mentoring. She explained that the healthy food policy was originally intended for the youth participants but will eventually be implemented for the entire board. Ms. Wood also described the Youth Leadership session, and spoke about the cohesiveness of the students. Lastly, Ms. Wood explained why the Mentoring Committee has decided on a group mentoring approach this year, and shared that the mentors will be mentoring 3 or 4 participants from each program.

Other Discussion:

After general announcements, the meeting was adjourned at 9:51 a.m. The next Upstate Youth Alliance Meeting will be December 1, 2014.