



**NORTHWEST REGIONAL  
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD**  
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**YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 8:00 AM**  
**In Person at the Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board**  
**249 Thomaston Avenue,**  
**Waterbury, CT**

**In Attendance:** Chief Fernando Spagnolo, Diane G. Teixeira, Luis Leon, Tracy Mahar, Stephen Barbieri, Heather Pelletier, Charlene St Charles, Kim Gioia, Susan Domanico, Terrance Cunningham, Stephen Romano, Klaus Babiarz, Michelle Caffé, Quesha Rogers, Jason McKoy, Jessie Deponte, Maggie Sullivan, Delia Demaio, Olivia Dudley, Reshaun Bennett, Julia Frohlich.

**Also in Attendance:** C. Awwad, B. Coatta, J. Shabazz, Nina Lombardi.

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**1- Welcome and introductions**

Chief Spagnolo opened the meeting at 08:00 am and welcomed everyone present as well as the presenters on Zoom.

**2- Approval of Youth Committee Meeting Minutes from August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

Motion to approve was made by Klaus Babiarz and Seconded by S. Romano.

Motion carried.

**3- 8:10 AM: National Youth Employment Coalition presentation about youth employment programs' capacity to address mental needs.**

Ms. Awwad introduced the two presenters Rashaun Bennett who is the Director of Operations and Julia Frohlich who is a Communications and Membership Coordinator,



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both from the National Youth Employment Coalition, whose mission is to improve the lives of millions of young people who are out of school and out of work.

During the presentation, significant points were touched upon, identifying gaps in youth employment programs' capacity to address mental health needs.

The duo emphasized the mental health stigma that still handicaps the advancement of the youth, they spoke about the stress factors and different barriers. They also proposed that employers could create a culture of support and work directly with workforce programs to understand the youth's realities.

Steps were listed on how workforce partners could forge relationships with mental health providers.

The presenters answered some questions about the importance of community resources, peer counseling, and family mediation to name a few.

Some of the recommendations were appointing mental health leaders/providers to the local workforce boards and youth committees to bring new perspectives and foster better access, connection, and troubleshooting.

Luis Leon and Delia Dimaio both young students were present to share their personal stories about their struggles and how they could contribute towards solutions, they spoke about peer advice's importance, as well as the effects of the mental health stigma on the LGBTQ young community.

Doctor Jalil Shabazz added that we must take into consideration multiculturalism because if we can create the right environment, it will help avoid withdrawal.

#### **4- Other Business**

No other business was conducted.

#### **5- Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by K. Babiarz and seconded by S. Romano at 9:09 Am.

Motion carried.