

ECGC WIA YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, OCTOBER 23rd, 2012

To Ginger: Lagaile Jones of Augusta Tech College will conduct Youth Council in place of Ginger as Ginger had another conflict.

Call to Order:

Lagaile Jones

NOTE: after the minutes can you give an update on anything with the Technical College – short informal information to the Youth Council. Do you know of any changes taking place? Just informal information you can share.

Youth Council Report- Ginger provided the following update from GDOL at the last Youth Council meeting in July regarding the new Star Bucks Company coming to Augusta and will employ @ 140 employees.

Starbucks today begins construction of its first U.S. soluble products plant, a factory in Augusta, Ga., that it said will be up and running by 2014. The facility will produce powder-coffee bases for Starbucks' Via instant coffee, blended Frappuccinos and bottled energy and coffee drinks. The plant will be Starbucks' fifth in the U.S. While most American manufacturers are now located overseas, Starbucks and a handful of companies are bucking the trend and rediscovering old industrial towns like Augusta, where they say skilled, high-tech labor is easier to find than it is in foreign countries.

But the 140 new jobs at the Starbucks plant will help only a few of Augusta's 22,800 total unemployed. The unemployment rate in the city is 9 percent, compared with the national average of 8.2 percent. The 140 jobs -- 75 percent of which will be maintenance and engineering technicians -- will pay well and require advanced skills, according to Gibbons. Prior experience in manufacturing is the most important quality for hiring, though typically employees will have at least an associate degree, he said. The company declined to disclose the pay scale, but said Starbucks offers health benefits to both full-time and part-time employees.

Starbucks is also benefiting from a state-funded program called Quick Start that creates manuals for industrial machinery that Starbucks will use to train employees.

Next **Ginger** told the Youth Council about: Pyra Max coming to Jefferson County, Ga. and to employ @ 60 employees.

The Pyra Max Jefferson County manufacturing plant will produce ceramic proppant beads for use in the oil and natural gas drilling industry. The new 200,000-square-foot facility will include two process lines each consisting of a raw material preparation system, pelletization and kiln systems, loading operations and best-in-class proprietary environmental controls. process will.

PyraMax purchased 190 acres at the Kings Mill Commerce Park in Jefferson County. This community is known for its skilled workforce, strong business climate and abundance of natural resources that PyraMax will leverage in the production of its ceramic proppant.

“Jefferson County is proud of the many organizations and agencies that worked tirelessly to bring this industry to the state,” said Bill Easterlin, chairman of the Development Authority of Jefferson County. “The Development Authority, the Board of Commissioners and all of the cities demonstrated their commitment by working together, as well as with the state. In looking forward to the new job opportunities, Jefferson County is committed to collaborating with the Jefferson County Center of Oconee Fall Line Technical College to utilize the readily available workforce.

Sue presented to the Youth Council the following:

- A Youth Service Providers meeting took place on July 24, 2012 and the providers received excellent in-house Technical training which they had requested with Katina Raines and Lynn Sanders of GDOL. ECGC is always looking for new and creative ideas for the Youth and Adult Programs. This was the 1st meeting for Columbia County Family Connection WIA Youth Service Provider that was awarded a Youth Contract since 2009.
- We did begin the Nuclear Workforce Initiative Academy, which started May 07, 2012 and ended on June 7, 2012. Those that did participate attended a five week intensive workshop at Augusta Technical College. We started with 4 Out of School Youth and all 4 completed the process and all 4 are enrolled in Post Secondary Education.
- The Youth Council was updated on the new Youth Contracts that Twelve proposals were submitted, but only eleven passed the criteria. Funding has now been received, and dollar amounts for each contract have been negotiated and the necessary forms have been submitted to the Youth Providers to implement the contract effective July 1, 2012. The eleven proposals passed and accepted for the next program year.
- Ginger, Youth Council Chair and Mary Stein, Contract Rep next presented to the Youth Council that the Jefferson County BOE Proposal was deemed unresponsive due to the withdrawal of their Fiscal Agent in compliance with Federal Procurement Procedures and Policies.
- Mary Stein, Contract Rep. reported that Goodwill Industries of CSRA declined to except the terms of the negotiation of the reduction of their budget.
- For PY12 ECGC has 9 active Youth Service Provider Contracts which are: Columbia County Family Connection; Georgia Committee on People with Disabilities, Glascock Co. Action Partner; Jenkins Co. Family Enrichment; McDuffie Co. BOE; Taliaferro Co. Family Connection; Warren Co. BOE; and Wilkes Co. Family Connection.

Mary and Sue will be following the 9 Youth Contracts and offering technical assistance to all, plus possible doing in house visits to see how they all are progressing in the new PY year.

Sue- this is once again an update to the Youth Council to remind them that new Youth Common Measures went into place July 1, 2011. This did reduce the number of performance measures but will align Georgia with the rest of the Southeast region. All 14-21 are considered YOUTH- no longer In-School Youth/ Out of School Youth with separate goals to be obtained.

They must be placed in education or employment, attainment of a degree or certificate and if older Youth out of school must increase the Literacy/ Numeracy level. This will take some adjusting of the new changes but eventually will be better and easier for all.

Congratulations to ECGC 4th Quarter Performance were an overall MET for the year in Youth. Sue and Mary have stressed to the Youth Providers and also to the Youth Council how important that it has been to get our performance up and this has been accomplished due to the hard work of Providers and ECGC Staff. Also with the exiting of old cases in 2011 were going to impact our performance.

*The GED testing fee is going up to \$160 from \$95.00 effective July 1, 2012

*Janie Craven, Owner of 7 McDonalds is always hiring work ready employees.

*Lincoln Co. Family Connection did not get the renewal 21st Century Grant for the after school program

* Columbia Co. Family Connection will be relocating to a new area in the next few months.

*Hancock Co. has a new Economic Developer, Allen Haywood however, the Oconee Fall Line Satellite Campus in Hancock Co. will now only be offering CDL classes and the other classes have been moved back to the main campus in Sandersville, Ga.

*ECGC, Richmond/Burke and 2 SC WIA's continue to meet quarterly and share resources.

*Georgia Comm. POW- had their High School-Hi/Tech Kick Off at Augusta State University with over 200 Youth in attendance. Also someone from GOWD, Cory Ruth was able to attend.

For the month of August the entire ECGC Staff has been in the process of completing the new GOWD monitoring guide that was requested by GOWD for our upcoming Monitoring/Audit that will be taking place September 24-29th. It will be an intensive Monitoring/Audit with all new staff, policies and procedures from GOWD as we are no longer under GDOL.

Thanks and that should do it for now.

Sue