

Delaware County Workforce Development Board
Youth Committee
Thursday, May 28, 2026 8:00 am
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Youth Committee Minutes February 26, 2026

2025-26 Q3 Program Performance and Coaching Update

Business and Education Partnership

PY26 Funding

2026 Youth Committee Meeting Dates:

August 27, 2026 @ 9am

November 19, 2026@ 9am

Delaware County Workforce Development Board
Youth Committee Meeting Minutes
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Thursday, February 26, 2026, 9:00 am via Teams

Committee Attendance: Cathy Cardillo, Steve Butz, Joe Lockley, Jason Rode (non-board member), Allison Barksdale (staff), Jenn Kacimi (staff), Kate McGeever (staff)

Youth Committee Minutes November 20, 2025

Jason Rode motioned to approve the minutes, Joe Lockley seconded the motion, and all approved.

Youth Contractor Spotlight: EDSI's Carpentry Pre-Apprentice Program

Paige Niezelski, EDSI's WIOA Team Lead, presented an overview of the program. She shared a video interview with staff, current participants, and alumni of the program. She highlight the success participants have had in using Individual Training Accounts to further their skill development. Cathy Cardillo recommending sharing the presentation with the full board.

PY25 Q1 Program Performance

Jenn Kacimi shared successes from a recent PA L&I monitoring of TANF youth programs. The monitor was impressed by the variety of programs and work experience opportunities.

Business and Education Partnership

Allison Barksdale reported that DCWDB will partner with DCCC on a large STEM-oriented career awareness event for high school students on April 30. All BEP goals are on track.

Young Adult Job Fair

Allison shared that DCWDB will host the 5th annual Young Adult Job Fair in May 2026. When available, the flyer will be shared with committee members.

General Committee Comments

Jason Rode shared that he is part of a group that is exploring establishing a tech program connected to O'Hara and possibly Bonner Prendi and Carroll schools.

Steve Butz announced that February is CTE month. DCTS will host an event February 27 that includes tours and presentations that will be open to the public.

Cathy Cardillo reminded members that the annual Conflict of Interest and Financial Disclosure forms are due soon.

Meeting adjourned

Joe Lockley motioned to adjourn, Jason Rode seconded the motion, and all approved.

EDSI Out-of-School Youth Success Story

From the beginning of his journey in the Out-of-School Youth (OSY) program, Samuel Kamara demonstrated motivation, curiosity, and a commitment to building a sustainable career. He actively participated in job readiness and career pathway orientation facilitated by Deb Holloway. He showed excellent engagement in discussions, labor market exploration, and hands-on activities. His eagerness to learn and grow was evident throughout the entire process.

Following orientation, Samuel consistently met with the WIOA Team Lead Paige Niezelski to further explore his career goals and gain clarity on available pathways. Together, they explored labor market trends, training options, and employment opportunities that aligned with his skills and interests. Samuel attended job fairs, researched training programs, and demonstrated persistence in pursuing meaningful employment.

In August 2025, Samuel achieved a major milestone—securing employment with Delta-T Group, Inc. in partnership with Southeast Delco School District. He is now working as a paraprofessional, making \$22 an hour, where he supports students in an educational setting. Samuel expressed great pride and fulfillment in his role, sharing:

“I love the job. It’s teaching me many life skills like having an immense amount of patience, and it’s an amazing blessing to be able to help redirect the kids I work with.”

Samuel continues to elevate his career goals and is currently pursuing his Registered Behavioral Technician (RBT) certification to further advance in the behavioral health field. He has consistently expressed gratitude for the support of the OSY team and remains highly responsive during retention check-ins. Samuel’s success reflects his determination, willingness to learn, and commitment to personal and professional growth.

WIOA Title I Out-of-School Youth Services

Contractor	Employment	Work Experience	Credentials	Measurable Skill Gains	Enrollments	
					Current	Planned
Community Action Agency of Delaware County	2	2	15	17	20	20
Chester Education Foundation	8	18	3	16	22	25
EDSI, Inc.	8	7	2	8	32	50
Delaware County Intermediate Unit	1	0	0	0	10	25

TANF Youth Development Program

Contractor	Employment	Work Experience	Credentials	Enrollments	
				Current	Planned
Be Proud Foundation (LIP)	0	19	0	19	25
Chester Education Foundation	5	60	0	60	40
Upper Darby Police Department	0	32	0	32	30
Delaware County Intermediate Unit	1	3	0	14	15
EDSI, Inc	3	4	0	20	20

Business Education Partnership Grant

- STEAM Career Day 2026 - To build on our success with Beyond the Classroom in 2025, we partnered with Delaware County Community College to increase our reach. STEAM Career Day at DCCC was planned to provide high school students (11th & 12th graders) with an opportunity to explore high-demand careers in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics, and discover how to launch their future. The event was scheduled for April 30th, additional information will be provided in the Q4 report.
- Additional information regarding the Young Adult Carer Fair, scheduled for May 12th will be provided in Q4.
- To date, we have engaged 482 youth, well beyond our goal of 100. We are continuing with employer presentations and worksite tours.
- We have had some challenges with the job shadowing program, especially with transportation. Our initial plan to reimburse for busing did not work given the small number of students matched. Additional options are being considered for the next school year.

Activities Recap	Q3 Progress	Cumulative Progress toward Goal
Total Youth Engaged (Workshops, worksite tours, job shadowing, PACL and career exposure events)	9 students from CUSD for Goal Setting Workshop 9 young adults visited PACL Chester for individual services	482/100 (2 yr. Goal = 100, surpassed)
Educators/Community Leaders Engaged (Workshops and meetings)	N/A – Educator Workshops completed	149/50 (2 yr. Goal = 50, surpassed)
School Outreach	Students from all Delco public schools were invited to attend career exploration events	No goal established
Employer Engaged - Career exposure events - Presentations, worksite tours, job shadowing	Employer participation in career events will be updated in Q4.	Career Events - 45/50 (2 yr. goal)

	11 employers assisted with job shadowing	Presentations, worksite tours, job shadowing - 17/20 (2yr. goal)
Employer Outreach	1,000+ employers	No goal established.
Camp Scholarships	Participation in middle school occupational camps will be updated after camp season, Q1 PY 26-27	52/60 (2 yr. goal)

PY26 Youth Funding

	PY25	PY26	Change
TANF In-School	\$1,057,379	\$845,958	(\$211,421)/(20%)
WIOA Out-of-School	\$1,464,455	\$1,246,550	(\$217,905)/(15%)

NOTE: TANF In-School has \$769,601 in PY25 carryover funds, WIOA Out-of-School has XXXX in PY25 carryover funds.

Contracts

TANF In-School	PY25	PY26	Change
Be Proud Foundation	\$231,816	\$231,743	(\$73)
Chester Education Foundation	\$510,801	\$610,000	\$99,199
DCIU	\$168,818	\$168,818	0
EDSI	\$135,894	\$135,894	0
Upper Darby Police Dept	\$214,756	\$271,438	\$56,682
Total	\$1,262,085	\$1,417,893	
WIOA Out-of-School			
Chester Education Foundation	\$500,000	\$320,000	(\$180,000)/(36%)
Community Action Agency	\$381,277	\$244,017	(\$137,260)/(36%)
DCIU	\$472,119	\$302,156	(\$169,963)/(36%)
EDSI	\$574,490	\$367,673	(\$206,817)/(36%)
Total	\$1,927,886	\$1,233,846	

WIOA OSY	PY 23 Budget	PY23 Actual	Under spend	PY24 Budget	PY24 Actual	Under spend	PY25 Budget	PY25 Actual 5/1/26	PY26 Budget (recommended)
CEF	\$440,958	\$440,199	(\$759)	\$500,000	500,000	0	\$500,000	437,010	\$320,000
CAADC	\$170,368	\$163,134	(\$7,233)	\$381,277	297,365	(\$83,882)	\$381,277	303,465	\$244,017
DCIU	\$75,000	\$58,148	(\$16,851)	\$472,119	230,119	(\$242,000)	\$472,119	266,529	\$302,156
EDSI	\$574,489	\$394,924	(\$179,565)	\$574,490	449,068	(\$125,421)	\$574,490	539,489	\$367,673