

YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

North Georgia Technical College – Clarkesville Campus
1500 GA-197, Clarkesville, GA 30523
February 8, 2018

Attendees:

Members

Brenda Thomas
Brenda Dalin
Lynn Warren
Rita Holmes
Scott Crain

Staff

Jessica Williams
Sonia Zavala
Shameka Harrison
Angela Pugh
Ebony Tucker
John Phillips

Guest

Joyesha Blake
Debbie Morris
Michael Fisher
Christy Gaswell

The Youth Committee Members met at North Georgia Technical College (NGTC) – Clarkesville Campus for the Youth Committee Meeting. Christy Gaswell, Assistant to Dean of Adult Education, led a tour of the Child Development Program at NGTC to the Committee Members.

Meeting Called to Order:

Youth Program Supervisor, Jessica Williams, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Program Updates:

Workforce Innovated Opportunity Act (WIOA) Update:

Jessica Williams gave an update on WIOA changes, they are as follows:

- Incentives are no longer given for attending workshops. Incentives are now given for training goals that are directly related to the participant's career path such as, receiving certification, obtaining high school diploma, and passing all four sections of the General Equivalency Diploma.
- Starting July 1st, WIOA funding is shifting from Georgia Department of Economic Development to the Technical College System of Georgia.
- Jessica Williams distributed the *WorkSource Georgia Mountains Workforce Development Board Standing Youth Committee Guide* to the members. Topics covered are Mission Statement, Workforce Development Board Members' responsibilities and requirements, a breakdown of youth services under WIOA, and program scope of Georgia Mountains Youth Services. Last page in the guide is the Conflict of Interest Provision form which should be signed by all Committee Members. The form must to be on file.

- Jessica Williams mentioned having the capability of having a youth center in the future. Jessica met with the Grant Department and there are grants available to apply for funding. The Youth Program will be looking to the Committee Members for ideas on matching funds and sustainability for the center. One goal of the center is to make an environment more comfortable for the youth versus having to walk into a formal building. The participants are youth at risk. They are youth with criminal backgrounds, living in poverty, parents in jail, behavioral issues, and more. The center will offer peer group counseling, peer tutoring, entrepreneurship skills, and chores so they can take ownership. A program name idea is SHIFT 360, trying to stay away from the word, “youth”. The Youth Committee was invited to offer ideas as well.

Open Meeting Act:

Jessica asked if the Committee Members were familiar with Sunshine Laws. WIOA falls under the Sunshine Laws as a government agency and under the Regional Commission. Therefore, all meetings must be posted publicly. Agenda and previous meeting minutes should be available a week before the upcoming meeting. Minutes are opened to the public. Voting does not pertain; board has to vote on approvals. The Youth Committee Meeting is considered a public committee; if there are public visitors present they can comment. Public visitors should sign in and can be granted a certain amount of time to speak.

Regional Quarterly Workshop:

Program Assistant, Shameka Harrison and Intake Assistant Sonia Zavala updated the Youth Committee Members on quarterly workshops. The first quarterly regional workshop, The Pursuit of Entrepreneurship focused on becoming a business owner, and the ability to market oneself when searching for a job. The workshop was presented using the movie, *The Pursuit of Happiness*. Participants were allotted time to create their own business plan. There was great feedback on the workshop. This same workshop was planned to be presented in the Habersham County Area in January but due to the inclement weather it was postponed. Shameka and Sonia are doing a series of workshops through the month of February at the Hall County Boys and Girls Club; these include Mapping Your Future, Dress for Success, Financial Literacy, and Resume Building. Starting in March, Shameka and Sonia will be giving the same series of workshops to Avita, a youth after school program for drug and substance abuse. They also attended *Banks County High School Apply to College Day*.

GED Program Update:

Youth Case Manager, Danielle Avelar, referenced the GED Youth handout page. She stated that she has 32 participants on her case load. Since the GED Success programs have started, there has been tremendous increase in participants. North Georgia Technical College, Lanier Technical College, and Athens Technical College are the providers and they are serving participants in all of the 13 counties and have added about 150 new GED participants. The GED Youth handout page has a breakdown of how many participants are being served in each county and how many have obtained a GED and/or a credential. The handout also breaks down the amount of participants for each provider. Jessica Williams reminded the Committee Members that high school graduates who are at least 18 and have a barrier can also qualify for services.

SHIFT:

Independent Living Mentor, Angela Pugh, updated the Youth Committee Members on the SHIFT Program. The Youth Program partners with Goodwill of North Georgia, Hall County Youth Court, and Department of Juvenile Justice for this program. The program is designed to provide work experience and teach soft skills through Goodwill. There are currently two participants that will be starting the program on February 26. There are three participants “in house”. One of the participants bought a car and is working; the other is interning at the WorkSource office and is doing well. The key is recognizing success in “unusual” ways.

Youth Conference:

Senior Case Manager, Ebony Tucker, spoke about the Annual Youth Conference. The conference is set for June 8, 2018 at Unicoi State Park from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The goal is to have 100 young adults in attendance. For recruitment purposes, non-partner agencies are being extended an invitation to bring a maximum of ten participants. These agencies include Boys and Girls Club, Mountain Education Charter High Schools, Gainesville Housing Authority, and Avita. The conference will consist of an introductory session, four breakout sessions, career fair, door prizes, a success story panel and motivational speaker. The sessions are Tech Talk/Internet Safety, Finance by BB&T, Networking by Department of Labor, Boundaries by Great Response, and a WIOA State Representative, Menelik Aiylene will do the closing remarks. The Youth Program is looking to the Youth Committee Board Members to donate door prizes. Last year a chrome laptop was given, Walmart gift cards, Home Depot donated a drill kit, North Georgia Technical College and Lanier Technical College gave lanyards and drawstring bags, and Jackson EMC donated gift items.

Old Business:

Review and Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from October 19, 2017 meeting were approved. Scott Crain motioned to approve minutes, Brenda Thomas seconded, and motion carried.

Future Meetings:

May 17, 2018 – Georgia Mountains WorkSource – Hall County

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned by Jessica Williams, seconded by several