

YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

WorkSource Georgia Mountains

1856 Thompson Bridge Road, Gainesville, GA 30501

August 24, 2017

Attendees:

Members

Billy Boyd
Maria Calkins
Scott Crain
Michael Fisher
Rita Holmes
Shelby Ward
Lynn Warren

Staff

Ebony Tucker
Angela Pugh
Shameka Harrison
Sonia Zavala
Danielle Avelar
Heather Feldman
Jessica Williams

Guest

Brenda Thomas
Rhonda McLean

Meeting called to order:

Youth Program Supervisor Jessica Williams called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance. Each attendee introduced themselves.

New Business:

High Demand Career Initiative:

Jessica Williams communicated to the Youth Committee Members that WorkSource Georgia Mountains (WSGM) is trying to obtain grant, High Demand Career Initiative (HDCI), for Sector Strategies for the area. Jessica asked the Committee Members to commit to an hour per month to survey businesses on how their business could be served better, to inquire what some high demand careers in the businesses' area are, and also explain the services WIOA/One Stop could provide to their business. Adult Supervisor Diana Eddins-Wiggin addressed the Committee Members and informed them about Sector Strategies and referenced a sample letter. Diana explained that the Sector Partnerships/Strategies is an approved approach for aligning, training and educating programs in the community with the employee skills and competencies needed by employers in a given sector. The grant shall serve to create a sector partnership in manufacturing for the thirteen counties. Further information about HDCI was provided to the Committee Members along with a commitment letter. Based on the hours committed by each member, money will be matched.

New Out-of-School Initiative:

The New Out-of-School Initiative (NOSI) will be modeled on an existing program, the Frankenstein Project, based in Texas. The Frankenstein program trains students on how to repair and customize salvaged cars to then be sold in the market. WSGM initiative program is led by Shameka Harrison, Youth Program Assistant. Different from the Frankenstein Program, this program will use boats instead of cars. This initiative program should start no later than summer 2018. Shameka suggested the program's name to be A-boat Time. The program will be catered to out of school youth. The youth will be provided with boat repair training and will receive a ASE (Automotive Service Excellence) certification after completing the program. WSGM will be partnering with Lanier Technical College to obtain a certified trainer. The program will be potentially scheduled to meet at Lanier Career Academy since there is space there. The end result is for the participants to gain entrepreneurship skills and a certification to be prepared for the workforce. Among the boat repair training skills, participants will be taught business management and financial literacy skills.

Transition to Community

Angela Pugh, Independent Living Mentor, updated the Committee Members on the Transition to Community Program. This program commenced on August 1st, and is designed to educate and employ ex-offenders. WSGM has partnered with Goodwill to train participants to become employable. GED classes are offered by Lanier Technical College at the Goodwill location Tuesday-Thursday. Participants are evaluated at the beginning of the program then placed in positions to grow. Transportation is provided. The goal is to eventually implement several programs throughout the region WSGM serves. The program is open to those who are leaving the RYDC to go back into the community, and to those on probation. The pilot program holds a maximum of fifteen for this program year. There are currently eight active participants. The end goal is job placement within the community with the acquired work experience and life skills received.

Program Updates:

GED Updates (Danielle Avelar)

Danielle Avelar discussed the GED Success programs housed at the three technical colleges in the WSGM region. The number of GED participants has increased to 174. Since July, 61 participants have obtained their GED. One has received CDL. Those youth that complete high school and meet eligibility can also seek services through the Success program. All participants receive Georgia's BEST certification.

Workshops Updates (Shameka Harrison & Sonia Zavala)

Workshops are provided to high schools and middle schools in the WSGM area. The types of workshops offered are college knowledge, future planning, and resume writing. The goal for this year is to increase the number of schools for which the workshops will be hosted. Shameka and Sonia visited Towns, Rabun, Union and Franklin counties so far this year, to promote the workshops and met with counselors and graduation coaches. Schools previously attended are Banks, Habersham, Flowery Branch, Davis, White and West Hall. This year WSGM will host

quarterly workshops to lead into the annual workshop. The first quarterly workshop will be held at the WSGM office and the topic is entrepreneurship tied with the Pursuit of Happiness.

College News (Ebony Tucker)

Since the last Youth Committee Meeting there have been fifteen active college youth for fall semester, six have graduated, one female has become a truck driver and three active participants at Mountain Education Center. This semester WSGM is working with a new provider, Medical Institute of Northeast Georgia which has three participants there.

Old Business:

Youth Conference:

The first annual youth conference was set in Unicoi with four sessions available for the youth to attend. These sessions were as follows: Financial literacy hosted by Branch Bank & Trust, Character Building by Salvation Army, Resume Workshop by Department of Labor via WSGM's MTUs, and Healthy Relationships by Rape Response. Youth were provided food and door prizes were given. The closing session included a motivational speaker and a laptop served as the grand prize of the day. The sponsors were North Georgia Technical College, Home Depot, Goodwill of North Georgia, Freudenberg-NOK, and Jackson EMC. Freudenberg-Nok was recognized by Jessica for having representatives ready to interview participants seeking a job. The annual workshop will continue to be used as a recruiting tool as well, since youth are allowed to bring a friend.

Review and Approval of Minutes:

Scott Crain recommended the minutes be approved and they were seconded by Shelby Ward.

Future Meetings:

October 19, 2017 – Freudenberg-NOK Sealing Technologies (Cleveland, GA)
February 1, 2018

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned by Jessica Williams.