

## YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

### WorkSource Georgia Mountains

1856 Thompson Bridge Rd. Suite 3, Gainesville, GA 30501

September 27, 2018

#### Attendees:

##### Members

Brenda Thomas  
Heather Feldman  
Lynn Warren  
Rita Holmes  
Maria Caulkins  
Debbie Morris  
Shannon Cole

##### Staff

Jessica Williams  
John Phillips  
Ebony Tucker  
Shameka Harrison  
Angela Pugh

##### Guest

Victoria Thompson  
Christy Gosnell  
Joyesha Blake

The Youth Committee Members met at the WorkSource Georgia Mountains office for the Youth Committee Meeting.

#### Meeting Called to Order:

Youth Committee Chair, Shelby Ward, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.

#### New Business:

##### Youth Center:

Shelby Ward gave a brief overview of Youth Center. The plan is that the Youth Center will be located in the suite next door to WorkSource. The center will offer tutoring, GED instruction, and hopes to be a diaper pantry site, café, other services. The Youth Department is waiting on funding but the center has been approved. Shelby directs attention to the Youth Center layout provided in the meeting packet.

Maria Caulkins asked if area High Schools were aware of this initiative. Jessica Williams, Youth Department Supervisor stated once opened the high schools will be informed. Maria mentioned Gainesville High is starting something similar. Jessica pointed out that our population is out of school youth and we want them to have the opportunity for this type of service.

Jessica expressed that the space at WorkSource's office is limited due to partner agencies and other events. Having this space will allow the Youth Department to serve participants better. She discussed further the vision for something like this being in the works for a while. Jessica mentioned the need for outside funding, volunteers, and giving Youth responsibilities for some of the Center's operations and upkeep.

Maria asked if there would be information sheets provided for recruiting. Jessica informed the committee once details are established, there will be information brochures.

Lynn Warren wanted to know the estimated time to open. Jessica stated that we would like to open next summer, but there are still pieces to put in place. She concluded discussion by stating that this is new to all of us, so we want everyone on board to help and provide resources.

#### Apprenticeship 101:

John Phillips talked about the structure and program of Apprenticeship 101 bringing awareness to the importance of manufacturing. He explained that the Chamber put together a video to give knowledge, bring awareness, and show skills in manufacturing jobs. The video could not be viewed by the committee due to technical difficulties, but a link would be sent via email.

#### **Program Updates:**

##### Staff Update:

Jessica Williams gave a staff update.

- The Youth Department has a shortage due to the vacant positions of Intake Assistant and Youth Program Assistant (currently in the process of interviewing). We hope to fill these positions soon.

##### Workforce Innovated Opportunity Act (WIOA) Update:

Jessica gave an update on WIOA changes. They are as follows:

- WIOA is no longer under the state. WIOA is now under the Technical College System of Georgia.

##### Youth Department Intern:

Jessica Introduced Lanier Technical College's GED Graduate Victoria Thompson, who is working as a Youth Department Intern.

Victoria Thompson talked about her appreciation for WIOA assistance. "Worksource has been luck and blessing. I was pulled out of high school due to bullying and depression. I decided on GED and initially refused WIOA assistance when applying for my GED at Woodsmill. I'm glad I decided to apply for the assistance and was approved for WIOA services". Victoria stated she loves her job, learning a lot, and is thankful for the job and WIOA program.

Jessica mentioned Victoria has been invited to speak at the Hall County Eagle event.

Shelby explained the Eagle Initiative being a scholarship given to a GED graduate that pays for two years at TCSG College.

Shannon Cole mentioned that the past two years Eagle Winners have been graduates of Lanier Tech's GED program.

### Workshops:

Shameka Harrison, Youth Case Manager (formerly Youth Program Assistant) who is responsible for recruiting and workshops, talked about the ongoing workshops/events with Banks County High and Middle School. She presented Mapping Your Future at Banks County Middle and will be presenting Interviewing Presentation at Banks County High. She will also assist in Mock Interviews coming up at Banks County High in October. Once new staff members are hired, she's looking forward to training new staff. In her new role, she's busy due to the staff changes and preparing for the state audit coming up the end of October.

### GED Program Update:

Shameka stated GED schools are preparing for the audit. Lanier Technical College GED program has had many successful completions and constant applications. Jim Watson has been doing an excellent job getting participant's into work experiences. North Georgia Technical College GED program also has had many successful completions. Athens Technical College GED Career Pathways program has several enrolled in certification programs at Athens Technical College.

### SHIFT:

Independent Living Mentor Angela Pugh updated the Youth Committee Members on the SHIFT Program. The Shift Program has now moved its GED services out of the GED school to the WorkSource office.

The moving of this program in-house has shown great success. The program wasn't working offsite. Enrollment has doubled, and there has been 80% participation. The participants are demonstrating accountability. There's been three GED graduates and one high school graduate. One participant is enrolled and attending college and one enlisted in the military. Hall County Judges also see a difference in program and probation officers are suspending probation due to the success of participants in the program. Angela acknowledged that it's a difficult group, but they are looking for a second chance.

### Youth Conference:

Senior Case Manager Ebony Tucker spoke about the Annual Youth Conference. The conference was held on June 8, 2018 at Unicoi State Park. There were 81 attendees and five sessions.

- Banking, Finance, and Saving – BB&T
- Healthy Relationships and Boundaries – Rape Response
- Ways Phone Change Our Lives –Concord Baptist Church
- Drugs and the Teenage Brain-Avita
- Closing 5 Star Mentality-Motivational Speaker & Gainesville Middle School Social Worker Jarod Anderson

Ebony directed attention to the Youth Conference layout in the agenda packet. She talked about Youth Conference plans for next year and are taking suggestions from the surveys that were collected after the conference. Recommendations included less sitting, shorter sessions, team building activities, and Saturday session. Ebony talked about the awesome door prizes received this year.

Rita Holmes talked about the impact of the Youth Conference and how she's encouraging students to recruit for next year.

Ebony stated the college program is doing well. There have been 31 GED transfers to college. Mountain Education Center is growing and looking to continue with the partnership.

**Old Business:**

Minutes emailed from May 17, 2018 meeting.

**Review and Approval of Minutes:**

Minutes from February 8, 2018 meeting were approved. Motion made by Lynn Warren to approve minutes, Shannon Cole seconded, and motion carried.

**Future Meetings:**

November 15, 2018 – Jessica asked the committee to send suggestions for location.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned by Shelby Ward, seconded by several.