

Minutes

Youth Council Meeting

Georgia Mountains Workforce Development
August 2, 2012 ~ Lakeview Conference Center
Dawsonville, GA

The Georgia Mountains Workforce Development Youth Council met on Thursday, August 2, 2012 at Lakeview Conference Center, in Dawsonville, GA. All those present registered on a sign in sheet.

Members

Aprial Guerra-for Bindy Auverman
Lee Highsmith
Will Wade
Brenda Dalin
Clark Willingham
Tina Pratt
Chevalier Ruff

Staff

Jessica Williams
John Phillips
Danielle Avelar
Samantha O'Day
Ebony Tucker

Chairman, Clark Willingham, called meeting to order and welcomed attendees.

Mr. Willingham instructed all attendees to look over the meeting minutes from the February 9, 2012 meeting and the April 24, 2012 meeting. Since there were not enough council members in attendance, no quorum could be declared. Voting for approval of minutes will be delayed until the next meeting.

Mr. Willingham introduced Danielle Avelar, Youth Services Case Manager. Mrs. Avelar provided the council with an update of the 2012 Summer Youth Employment and Training Program:

- 67 attended orientations that were held in Dawson and Stephens Co.
- 63 youth started work on June 11th
- 60 youth successfully completed on July 20th
- 2 hired
- 5 hired as contract labor to fill in for the rest of the summer
- 3 youth will be transitioning in to the College Assistance Program

Samantha O'Day, Youth Service Intake Specialist, provided the group with details of the Wal-Mart Work Attire Event. Youth were given the opportunity to meet staff and summer counselors at Wal-Mart stores throughout the region to shop for clothes they would need for their work experience. Each youth was allowed to spend \$120.00. Staff allowed the youth to select their clothing, but made sure that attire was work appropriate.

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Danielle discussed a special case with a youth that had the special request of working at a funeral home. He needed a suit as part of his work attire and was also able to get it at Wal-Mart. Tina Pratt, Northeast GA Housing Authority, asked the question of how often do youth tell us what they want to do. Jessica Williams, Youth Supervisor, explained that all youth have the opportunity to tell us what their interests are during the interview sessions at orientation. Staff will then try to place them in worksites that fit their interest. Mr. John Phillips, Workforce Development Director, added that by doing this it not only gives them the opportunity to see if they will like working in that particular field but it also shows them if they would not like and, give them time to explore other options. He stated that the program is designed to help make the youth more self-sufficient and less dependent of others.

Mr. Will Wade, Governor's Education Appointee, asked for the total amount that youth earned this summer. Danielle answered youth were allowed to work 30 hours per week for six weeks and we had a total of 63 workers employed this summer the figure comes out to approximately \$90,000.00.

Mrs. Williams asked Mrs. Chevalier Ruff to share her experience with supervising youth this summer at her worksite. Mrs. Ruff, Stephens Co. Boys & Girls Club stated that she had 4 youth workers and they all did a great job this summer. She gave Kyle Segars a rave review, she said that he was always willing to work and do whatever was asked of him. Mrs. Ruff explained that there were very few issues and they were easily resolved.

Mr. Willingham moved the meeting to the old business of adding an additional barrier to allow more youth in the region to be served.

Mrs. Williams explained that with Workforce Development moving from the Georgia Department of Labor to the Governor's Office of Workforce Development there was a 8th barrier already in place, but mainly used for out of school youth. She stated that in her research the barrier of "needs additional assistance" can be used to qualify in-school youth also.

Jessica explained that the barrier is defined as:

- An individual who requires additional assistance to complete an educational program, or to secure and hold employment
- In-school youth that is off track for graduation, failing 1 or more classes required for graduation
- An individual that lacks employment for 6 consecutive months with at least 1 employer with at least 30 hours per week.

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Mrs. Williams explained that this was huge and will allow the youth services program to serve a lot more youth as long as they are income eligible, and suitable for the program. Mrs. Williams is working with the Governor's Office to gain clarification before the program will start accepting youth under this barrier.

Ms. Brenda Dalin, Ninth District Opportunity asked, once she has gathered all the information what will need to be done in order to begin accepting youth under this barrier. Mrs. Williams answered, the youth work statement will have to be revised and voted on, and it could be voted on as soon as the next scheduled youth council meeting.

Mrs. Williams went on to discuss youth programs for the 2012-2013 school year.

New Programs/Returning Programs:

- Franklin, Union, Towns After-school Programs
- Habersham After-school partnership with United Way
- Dawson After-school Program
- Hart After-school Program partnering with Bell Family YMCA
- Stephens, Franklin, Hart Credit Recovery Program
- Banks & Hall Year Round Youth Apprenticeship

Recruiting for the 2013 summer work experience will begin in January 2013. Youth staff have been working on new ideas for recruiting and intake for the summer program and these ideas will be discussed at the next meeting.

Mr. Willingham announced to the group the purchase of 2 mobile computer labs. Mr. Phillips stated that there is a large unit that will have 10 computer stations and the small unit that will have 7 computer stations. Each unit will have a 40 inch LCD smart board and 1 teacher station. He encouraged the use of the units to any board member and community partner for any testing or assessing they may need done at a particular location. Mr. Phillips stated that there will be a pro-rated fee that will cover the gas, contracted driver and the testing source. The small unit should be ready by the end of November and will be stationed in the mountain area and the larger unit will be station in the lower part of region and should be available at the end of January.

Mrs. Williams introduced Samantha O'Day who is new to the staff and working as the youth intake staff and has been very instrumental since she started. Ms. O'Day is a Jackson Co. resident. She recently graduated from the University of Georgia Graduate, with a BSW in social work. She has worked on several community service projects through her internship at Georgia. She has worked with the JobTrek program which assists homeless individuals with work readiness and job search skills. She also

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conducted a coat drive and was able to collect over 600 coats and distribute them within a week.

Mrs. Williams talked about the new youth newsletter that will be going out every quarter to keep everyone informed on what we are doing. Samantha O'Day will be in charge of gathering information to put in the newsletter. Mrs. Williams also encouraged board members to send in any information that they would like to have in the newsletter. Mr. Wade commented that the first newsletter was well put together and looked very appealing to teens. He also suggested that staff try to get the newspaper to add the youth newsletter to their circulation to market the youth program more.

Kameo Parks is also new to the youth staff but was not in attendance. Ms. Parks is the new Program Assistant. She will be the face of the youth services program and will be out in the region at least twice a week and at every school once a month.

Mr. Willingham asked the group if they had any news, or upcoming events they would like to share.

Mr. Wade stated that there are talks of a community wide service project that may be able to employ youth during the summer. The project will consist of a garden, cannery and farmers market, would be a great idea for summer worksites.

Mr. Wade also asked about having an after-school program in Lumpkin Co. Mrs. Avelar explained that there is already an after-school program in place in Lumpkin and we cannot duplicate services, but we are partnering with the high school and their work base learning coordinator to have a year-round youth apprenticeship program.

The next meeting date will be October 18th at the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission Office in Hall County.

Mr. Willingham discussed the importance of attending the next meeting due to the new information and items that needed to be voted on. If members themselves are not able to attend, Mr. Willingham asked that proxies be sent to cast their vote.

Meeting was adjourned, no vote to adjourn due to not having a quorum.

Recorders Signature: _____ Date: _____