

**Minutes**  
**Youth Council Meeting**  
Georgia Mountains Workforce Development  
October 18, 2012 at 11:00 a.m.  
Georgia Mountains Regional Commission  
Gainesville, GA

**The Georgia Mountains Workforce Development Youth Council met on** Thursday, October 18, 2012 at the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission Office, in Gainesville, GA.

Attendees were:

<u><b>Members</b></u>	<u><b>Staff</b></u>
Bindy Auvermann	Jessica Williams
Chuck Graham	John Phillips
Will Wade	Danielle Avelar
Brenda Dalin	Samantha O'Day
Shelby Ward	Ebony Tucker
Tina Pratt	
Chevalier Ruff	

Vice Chair Chevalier Ruff, called meeting to order and welcomed attendees.

Mrs. Ruff instructed all attendees to review the meeting minutes from the August 2, 2012 meeting. Will Wade made a motion to approve the minutes, and the motion was seconded by Shelby Ward. All were in favor.

Mrs. Ruff introduced Jessica Williams, Youth Services Supervisor. Jessica asked the group to review the revised youth work statement. The work statement was revised to add the additional barrier and to update the income guideline chart. Will Wade made a motion to approve the revised youth work statement. Shelby Ward seconded the motion, all were in favor.

Jessica Williams addressed the group on the topic of changing the percentage needed to declare a quorum. The Georgia Mountains Workforce Board has changed their percentage from 50% to 25%. Will Wade asked if our percentage changed how many people would need to be present in order to declare a quorum. Jessica responded that four youth council members would need to be present. Will made a motion to change the youth council meeting attendance percentage to 25% to be declared as a quorum. Chuck Graham seconded the motion, all were in favor.

Jessica continued to the next agenda item; staff update. She informed the group that Kameo Parks, who was the program assistant for youth services, was no longer with the program. She commended the youth staff for their efforts in keeping the program running smoothly in the absence of the program assistant. Jessica informed attendees

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that she has already begun the interview process and hopes to have someone in the position within a week or two.

Jessica asked members to review the 2012 Youth Program Plan. She provided attendees with the following updates:

- Franklin, Union, Towns After-school programs have a total of 26 active youth
- Chestatee High School After-school program has 13 youth applications in process
- Habersham After-school program partnership with United Way has 3 active youth
- Dawson County After-school program is pending, still needing requested information on program coordinator
- Hart County After-school program partnership with Bell Family YMCA has 4 active youth
- Stephens, Franklin, Hart Credit Recovery program has 4 applications in process
- Banks Y.E.A.R Program, 2 active and 3 application in process
- Planning for 2013 Summer Work Experience

Will encouraged the youth staff to continue contacting and pursuing the implementation of an after-school program in Dawson County. He stated that he feels that it is a good fit and that he will be pushing for it also.

John Phillips updated the group on the mobile classrooms. John stated that we should have the larger unit in mid-December, or the end of December. There has been one change made to the larger unit. The handicap ramp will no longer be on the right side of the unit, it will now have a door coming out of the back of the unit. The smaller mobile unit will be ready in January. John stated that he would like to have a ribbon cutting ceremony when the units arrive, but they will be housed in Dawson and Union Counties.

Shelby Ward asked what types of services the units would offer. John responded; training, and testing. He stated that there will be a small cost to use the unit, but it is available for the entire region. The cost will cover gas and the hourly rate for the driver.

Ms. Ruff moved to the next agenda item and introduced Samantha O'Day to talk about the Homeless initiative that the youth program will begin in November. Samantha explained that she worked with the homeless population while she was at the University of Georgia and when she saw the article John sent to the youth staff regarding the homeless youth in Gainesville City Schools, she began to think of ideas for assisting these students. The article in the Gainesville Times stated that Gainesville City Schools

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has had an increase in their homeless population. Last year they had identified 75 homeless students and this year they have identified 115. Samantha stated that she will begin contacting the counselors and school social workers to let them know the services that we offer and give them information on the 2013 Summer Work Experience program. She also plans to meet with parents and give them information on the adult/dislocated worker program.

Will stated that he has seen a growth in the homeless population region wide in all of the schools. Will explained his ideas of getting the parents involved so that they can push to get our programs in the schools. He stated that we could do this by presenting information on our services to parent cabinets and PTO Chairman.

Danielle Avelar presented the plan for the 2013 Summer Work Experience. Danielle explained that the process for the summer program applications will be different this year. In previous years, youth staff would mail out packets to all of our partners, school counselors, and social workers. We relied on them to get applications out to the kids and back to us. This caused a lot of confusion and we received a lot of paper work that was incomplete or could not be read. This year we will still send out the applications, but we will also be holding overview sessions in every county. We are doing this to meet with the student and parent to go over paperwork and provide them with an overview of the services we offer. Sessions will be held in January in the evenings from 3:00-6:30 p.m. These sessions are mandatory and there is a deadline of March 16<sup>th</sup> for all completed applications. Eligible students will then attend orientation that will be held in April.

Jessica discussed the new partnership with the GACHE organization. GACHE is a federally funded program through the Appalachian Regional Commission, an agency which serves 13 Appalachian states. Housed at Pioneer RESA and sponsored by North Georgia College & State University, GACHE invites eligible high schools in the Appalachian region of Georgia to submit a proposal for a grant to implement strategies that encourage and assist at-risk students to continue their education beyond high school. Youth staff attended a meeting with Shirley Davis and Pat Ellis, who is working on her Doctorate degree and would like to use our partnership and pilot program for her dissertation. The project will be with Woody Gap High School in Union County. Woody Gap is one of the most disadvantaged high schools in this region, and the only K-12 left in Georgia. The partnership will focus on at risk youth to help build reading skills, and give them some work experience through the community center. Youth ages 14-16 will practice reading by reading to younger children, and then participate in one on one tutoring with an instructor. The program is still in the planning stages and GACHE is

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looking into ways to get books and other materials donated, and we should have more information in November.

John added that if the program is a success he would like to see it spread out to the region.

Shelby and Will suggested that we could get books donated from Dolly Parton's foundation or the First Foundation.

Ms. Ruff introduced Ebony Tucker to the group to cover the last agenda item, youth negotiated performance levels. Ebony explained that since common measures have been put in place, youth services are measured on 3 performance measures.

- Youth placed in employment or education
- Youth that earn degrees or certificates
- Youth that make gains in the areas of Literacy & Numeracy

Previously the negotiated levels were:

- Youth placed in employment or education    47%
- Youth that earn degrees or certificates        50%
- Youth that make gains in the areas of Literacy & Numeracy        22%

The proposed negotiated performance levels for the upcoming program year:

- Youth placed in employment or education    47%
- Youth that earn degrees or certificates        50%
- Youth that make gains in the areas of Literacy & Numeracy        25%

New program years negotiated performance levels:

- Youth placed in employment or education    59%
- Youth that earn degrees or certificates        63%
- Youth that make gains in the areas of Literacy & Numeracy        28%

Ebony explained that while this is an increase, youth services are only responsible for 80% of each level to meet performance. Last year's performance levels were exceeding. Jessica added that she is confident that we will be able to continue to meet these performance measures.

Mrs. Ruff opened the floor for questions, and there were none. Mrs. Ruff announced the tentative date for the next meeting will be on January 10, 2013 in Stephens County.

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Meeting was adjourned.

Recorders Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Addendum:**

The Georgia Mountains Workforce Development Youth Council met in a called session on **Thursday, November 1, 2012 at North Georgia Technical College Clarkesville Campus.**

The meeting was held for the purpose of re-voting on meeting items, due to the previous meeting not having public notification.

Attendees were:

**Members**

Angie Hanes  
Scott Crain  
Lee Highsmith  
Shelby Ward  
Tina Pratt  
Chevalier Ruff

**Staff**

Jessica Williams  
John Phillips  
Samantha O'Day  
Ebony Tucker

Vice Chair Chevalier Ruff welcomed all attendees and called the meeting to order.

Jessica provided an update on the planned overview sessions for the summer program in January. We have scheduled locations in 10 of the 13 counties. We are still waiting for responses from Lumpkin, Hart, and White Counties. Jessica asked the Council to e-mail her with any ideas of meeting locations for these counties that they would like to have the meetings at the schools but are open to all ideas.

Mr. Phillips asked that youth staff try contacting the YMCA in Lumpkin County.

Mrs. Angie Hanes asked for clarification, if we were trying to get programs in all the schools or just have overviews at all the schools.

Jessica answered, that we are still trying to get programs running in all the counties, but we are just looking at scheduling the overviews at this present time. Ms. Hanes stated that she had a few contacts in Lumpkin and that she would send Jessica the contact information.

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Jessica asked the group to read over the article that was in the Hartwell newspaper which highlighted our program and partnership with the Bell Family YMCA. The program targets foster youth and they receive tutoring and work experience at the YMCA. Jessica stated that this is a pilot program and wanted to start small with a group of 6 participants and as of now there are 4 slots filled. The YMCA provides transportation from the school to the YMCA.

Mr. Phillips spoke briefly about the mobile units; he said that he hopes to have one of the units by the next youth council meeting so that the council members would be able to tour it.

Jessica informed the group of another possible partnership with a program in Forsyth County that is similar to the partnership that we have with Hall Co. Schools and Project Search. Jessica attended the annual meeting for Project Search and met with the program director for the Forsyth program called Project Life. She plans to have more information by the next meeting.

Ms. Ruff asked the group to revisit the vote on approving the meeting minutes from the August 2, 2012 meeting. Shelby gave a motion to approve the minutes, Mrs. Highsmith gave the second. All were in favor.

Ms. Ruff asked for the group to review the revised youth work statement.

Mr. Scott Crain asked if the revision to the youth work statement made it easier or harder for youth to get WIA services.

Jessica answered that with the needs additional assistance barrier will make it easier for youth to qualify for services.

Shelby Ward made a motion to approve the revised youth statement, Ms. Hanes made the second. All were in favor.

Mrs. Ruff talked about the previous vote to reduce the number of attendees for a called quorum from 50% to 25%. Motion for the change was given by Lee Highsmith, and the second was given by Scott Crain. All were in favor.

Mrs. Ruff asked the group for any announcements or information that anyone would like to share with the group.

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Mrs. Highsmith shared a program that she thought youth staff could use during the summer called Personal Finance. The program is about three and a half hours and it teaches youth about credit, budgeting, savvy consumers, making life plans and the power of saving.

Mrs. Highsmith also let the group know that she will be doing another Reality Check Program with Gainesville State & Gainesville High School on November 15, 2012 from 9:00-11:00 at Gainesville College, if anyone would like to come see it.

Mrs. Highsmith also announced the building of the Junior Achievement Virtual Park that will be opening next fall. The park will be located at the Georgia World Congress Center and take up an entire floor. Students will have to have completed a Junior Achievement program before coming to the park. Junior Achievement has a partnership with Chick-fil-A for completing this project.

Mrs. Ruff adjourned the meeting.

Recorders Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_