

Minutes
Youth Council Meeting

Georgia Mountains Workforce Development
February 27, 2014
United Community Bank
Clarkesville, GA

The Georgia Mountains Workforce Development Youth Council met on Thursday, February 27th at United Community Bank, in Clarkesville, GA.

Attendees were:

Members	Staff	Guest
Joan Hughes	John Phillips	Angela Pugh
Brenda Dalin	Jessica Williams	Katrina Dodd (for Bindy Auvermann)
Nikki Simmons	Danielle Avelar	Shelby Campbell
Lynne Warren	Patrick Shuler	Jon Hubner
Shelby Ward	Ebony Tucker	
Bonnie Loffredo	Samantha O'Day	
Scott Crain		
Jenny Stowers		

Jessica Williams, Youth Supervisor, called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees.

Jessica asked Samantha O'Day, Youth Intake Specialist, to provide the council with an update of the summer overview sessions. Samantha stated youth staff held overview meetings in all 13 counties in our region, and from those overviews we had a total of 160 attendees, 80 strong applicants, and 60 applications completed so far.

Danielle Avelar, Youth Case Manager, gave a breakdown of the attendees by county:

Banks: 7	Franklin: 11
Habersham: 30	Forsyth: 1
White: 18	Dawson: 8
Towns: 1	Lumpkin: 6
Union: 4	Stephens: 11
Hall: 53	Rabun: 4
Hart: 6	

Jessica explained the process of getting the applications out this year was different. Packets were delivered to the schools and recipients were asked to sign off stating that they had received one. Jessica said, "Even with the rescheduling of overviews due to weather, she feels that we are ahead of schedule preparing for summer." Staff is overall happy with the way the overviews turned out this year.

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John Phillips, Workforce Development Director, asked when the deadline for applications for summer was? Jessica answered that the deadline was set for February 28th.

Jessica informed the Council of dates for the summer orientations. Orientations will be held on April 12th at the North Hall Community Center in Gainesville and April 26th at Unicoi State Park in Helen, GA. Staff will be sending out letters to eligible participants in mid-March. Current participants have already been notified.

Patrick Shuler, Youth Program Assistant, updated the Council on summer worksites. Patrick explained he had mailed out two-hundred worksite agreements, and so far only received twenty of them back. He stated he had used worksites that were used in the past three years and would mailing out an additional fifty agreements this week. The Council was asked to contact him if they had businesses in mind that would participate as a summer worksite. He explained that the more worksites in each county that we have the more flexible job placement could be.

The Council was asked to review the handout in their packet. The handout is a list of program goals and outcomes that staff established for 2013 that planning for 2014 would be coming up soon. Jessica stated that the goals of 2013 had been exceeded and all of the previously established programs are still running smoothly and are growing.

Jenny Stowers, Union County Schools, asked if there were mandated outcomes for our programs. Jessica explained that we have three common measures that are mandated:

- Placement in employment or education
- Attainment of degree or certification
- Gains in literacy and numeracy

Jessica explained the handout with goals and anticipating programs for 2014. The new barrier (applicant living in a non-traditional household, or youth with an incarcerated parent) that had been approved in the previous meeting has been put to use and is helping bring in more participants. Jessica thanked the Council for their help and referrals. She informed them that due to their help the tutor programs have been growing and we are close to meeting our goal of having an up and running program in each of our 13 counties.

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Danielle introduced Jon Huebner, Program Coordinator for the after-school programs at East Hall Community Center and Habersham Central High School. Both programs are new and are in full operation.

Patrick is working on getting the tutor program started at Chestatee High School, and he will be visiting them again on Friday. There are a good number of eligible youth for the program and we are working on getting a tutor.

In Dawson County, Jessica told the Council that we are using the youth eligibility survey to find eligible youth. She introduced, Katrina Dodd, Dawson Next Generation Prevention Clubhouse, who was representing Bindy Auvermann. Katrina explained that the club house is state funded. So far there have been twenty-five youth and three interns working with the youth to teach them code. The clubhouse changed their teaching material using the S.T.E.A.M approach in order to add art into the curriculum. They are bringing in students from the high school, middle school, and now Hightower Academy. Jessica added that we are working with Bindy to have a tutoring program at the clubhouse.

The Hart County afterschool has been put on hold due to a change in administration. Jessica has met with the principal at the high school and they are very interested.

Jessica introduced Angela Pugh, Independent Living Coordinator/Workshop Facilitator. Angela explained she is providing workshops to eligible youth. These workshops teach youth skills needed in order to be independent, live on their own, or support their families. She has completed workshops on; budgeting, shopping, check writing, interviewing, how to do laundry, developing soft skills, and self-esteem.

Angela is also working with Samantha on the pilot RYDC program. Jessica is happy to announce, that after almost a year, this program is developing. Samantha and Angela visit the RYDC in Hall County every week on Tuesday's. Samantha announced the program has one youth that has six hours left of instruction before he can test for his GED. One of the youth that began, has been released and is participating in the credit recovery program. Samantha explained that getting youth started in the program was a challenge that some of the youth who are in the RYDC do not live in our region and would be released back to their counties. John stated, that he thought youth who were in the RYDC were considered a ward of the state, but this is not the case. The parent maintains all parental rights.

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Jessica stated once this program is up and running smoothly she would like to branch out to other WIA funded areas. Samantha said with the help of the new clerk at RYDC and the case expediter for DJJ, she expects to have more youth coming into our program.

Danielle explained that she is working with Sheriff Victim Association and the Enotah Juvenile Family Therapy Program in Towns, Union, Lumpkin, and White. The goal of the program is to catch youth before they make it to the RYDC and provides counselling and support for the families. So far, there have been three applications accepted.

Jessica asked the Council to review the minutes from October 17, 2013 and August 1, 2013. Motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Lynn Warren, Banks County High School, and seconded by Scott Crain, Hall County Schools.

Motion to adjourn was made by Jenny Stowers, Towns County High School and by Katrina Dodd, Dawson Next Generation Prevention Clubhouse.

Meeting adjourned.

Recorders Signature: Erany Jucher Date: 3/1/14