

Minutes
Youth Council Meeting

Georgia Mountains Workforce Development
March 19, 2015 ~ Franklin County Parks & Recreation
Carnesville, GA

The Georgia Mountains Workforce Development Youth Council met on Thursday, March 19, 2015 at Franklin County Parks & Recreation, Carnesville, GA. All those present registered on a sign in sheet.

Members

Joan Hughes
Lynne Warren
Bonnie Lofredo
Anne Marcengill-For Brenda Dalin

Staff

Jessica Williams
Ebony Tucker
Samantha O'Day
Patrick Shuler
Danielle Avelar
Angela Pugh

Guest

Anne Oliver
Rebecca Milford-Floyd

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

Jessica began the meeting by explaining to the council that with the upcoming changes to the program in July we will no longer be under Workforce Investment Act, WIA. Instead, we will be under the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act, WIOA. WIOA does not require the youth services program to have a youth council, but would like to see youth committees develop. Jessica explained that she would like to keep all active members on the committee, as well as bring in others. She stated that there is a need for a Vice Chair and Co-Chair, and plans to send out emails once she has more information on developing the committee.

Jessica asked Danielle Avelar, Youth Case Manager to update the council on the in-school youth programs. Danielle stated that currently there are tutoring programs in Hall, Hart, Franklin, Habersham, and Union counties. There is a Y.E.A.R program in Lumpkin County, and since September 2014 there have been forty monthly meetings and workshops with the youth in these programs.

Jessica asked Ebony Tucker, Youth Case Manager to update the council on the out-of-school youth programs. Ebony announced that she has four college students graduating at the end of spring semester, and one that has completed her GED. This youth has enrolled at Lanier Technical College and plans to complete the Criminal Justice program.

Jessica asked Ebony to share with the group the "Golden Ticket" workshops that she is doing with seniors at Woody Gap High School. Ebony explained that the workshops begin with the students taking three assessments; ONET, CAPS, and CDM, these assessments take the youth's interest, skills, and ability and shows what career path(s) may be good to consider or explore. Once the student reviews the outcome of the

Minutes

Youth Council Meeting

Georgia Mountains Workforce Development
March 19, 2015 ~ Franklin County Parks & Recreation
Carnesville, GA

career path determined by the assessments, they may begin to research colleges or tech schools offering a program to fit the career path. The goal is to inform the youth that there are many career path opportunities that will match their skills and interests and they can move forward with an educational program. The workshop also informs the youth of financial assistance opportunities that may be available to them, if money is an issue.

Angela Pugh, Independent Living Life Skills Mentor, who works with Ebony on these workshops added, that in the beginning none of eleven seniors at Woody Gap had an interest in education after high school. She continued to say that after participating in these workshops, she noticed the youth take an interest and start asking questions about career paths. The youth really started thinking it is possible for them to go college or tech school. It also helps the youth recognize that, with the assistance of the Workforce Development, college or tech school can be a possibility.

Jessica asked Samantha O'Day, Youth Intake Specialist, to share with the group the Leadership Development activities she has been working on. Samantha stated that she has been looking into power plants for guided tours, because there will be one in each of the counties that we serve. She plans to have youth tour the plant in the morning, and spend the afternoon at a tech school to explore the careers they observed through the plant. Once she has the tour set up, she will work on the transportation aspect and selecting the youth.

Anne Oliver, Teacher, Franklin County High, suggested that Samantha try Lake Hartwell because they are hydroelectric. She also mentioned that she has worked with several manufacturing plants to get youth in for tours, but finds difficulty when it comes to the plants stipulations to stay within OSHA guidelines.

Bonnie Lofredo, Youth Council Member, mentioned Johnson & Johnson as another facility to consider.

Jessica asked Angela to update the council on the Regional Youth Detention Center in Hall County. Angela explained that the center is used for temporary housing for youth who have committed a crime. These crimes range from truancy to murder. The center is trying to change its focus on the more heinous crimes. The youth are usually housed at the center for a max of thirty days. Angela explained that the majority of the youth do not have above a third grade education when they get to the center; therefore working with this population has been very difficult. So far, there have been two youth to obtain their GED and there will be two more youth who will be testing in the

Minutes

Youth Council Meeting

Georgia Mountains Workforce Development
March 19, 2015 ~ Franklin County Parks & Recreation
Carnesville, GA

upcoming weeks. Angela stated that it has taken a lot of time and effort to get the program going not only at the local level, but at the state level.

Jessica asked Angela to talk about the partnership with Kipper Tools. Angela explained that Kipper Tools has become a worksite and will use the staff there as mentor to the youth who work through the Workforce Development program. Angela stated that the staff there really has a heart for working with youth who are considered “at risk”, and are enthusiastic about the plans for the mentorship program.

Jessica asked Patrick Shuler, Program Assistant, to provide an update on the summer worksites for 2015. Patrick stated that he had mailed out over three-hundred worksite agreements, and so far has received twenty back. There have been twenty-five youth confirmed for summer work so far.

Jessica explained that this summer will be much smaller, in order to prepare for the upcoming changes to be implemented July 1, 2015. Also, in preparing for these changes, Patrick has been scheduling visits at the high schools to talk with seniors about college. Samantha expressed an idea of giving the youth the eligibility survey out to all of the seniors during advisement to determine eligibility for services.

Jessica asked the group to look over the program goals in the packet. The new guidelines are requiring the program to shift its focus to out-of-school youth. Jessica explained that youth not attending school will not have to fall under the income guidelines, depending upon the barrier. The definitions for not attending school are still to be determined. Samantha will be visiting college and tech schools with Whitney Williams, Adult Program Assistant to see if any of the 18-21 year olds could qualify for youth services. Also with the program changes the maximum age for youth will go up to 24.

Jessica announced that the new regulations go into effect July 1, 2015, with final implementation on July 1, 2016. The state has requested a waiver to allow 3 years for final implementation, but there has not been any indication this will happen. This means that the focus for the next year will be on community outreach, more college and tech school assistance, mentorships, internships and apprenticeships. She plans to refocus credit recovery programs and work based learning to assisting students after graduating high school.

Jessica informed the council she has not received all of the regulations from the state, but they are expected sometime during the spring. She plans to carry on programming with the changes that are definite for the next year.

Minutes
Youth Council Meeting

Georgia Mountains Workforce Development
March 19, 2015 ~ Franklin County Parks & Recreation
Carnesville, GA

Some of the good changes are; youth that are considered drop-outs, involved in juvenile court, homeless, foster care, pregnant or parenting, or disabled the program will not have to meet income guidelines. The youth barriers of being basic skills deficient or need for additional assistance will still be required to meet the income guidelines.

Jessica informed the council that the program has been mandated by the state not to accept any more in-school applications at least for one year. After July 2016, there will be no more after school tutoring for in-school youth. Jessica explained that the program will still maintain its relationship with the high schools, but in a different way, such as transitioning youth to college, apprenticeships that would last for a minimum of one year, and earn a credential with possible increase in wages upon completion. No in-school youth can be accepted until the program has reached the 75% of funding for out of school youth. Some of the in-school youth that will be exiting may be able to re-enroll as out-of-school if transitioning.

Jessica explained that there are many unanswered questions at this time in regards to the new WIOA law, but assured the council that once she receives more information she will pass the information along.

Motion to adjourn was given by Brenda Dalin, City of Hartwell and seconded by Lynne Warren, Banks County High School.

Recorders Signature: _____ Date _____