

Minutes
Youth Council Meeting

Georgia Mountains Workforce Development
May 21, 2015 ~ Georgia Mountains Regional Commission Office
Gainesville, GA

The Georgia Mountains Workforce Development Youth Council met on Thursday, May 21, 2015 at Georgia Mountains Regional Commission office. All those present registered on a sign in sheet.

Members

Joan Hughes
Lynne Warren
Bonnie Lofredo
Brenda Dalin
Jenny Stowers
Scott Crain

Staff

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

Guest

Cassandra Hunter
Katrina Dodge
Billy Boyd

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

Jessica explained that with the new WIOA changes that would be effective in July the Youth Council would no longer be required, but the regulations recommend forming a youth committee under the Workforce Board. She expressed that she hoped the current Council members would want to stay on and join the new committee. She also asked attendees to send her e-mails with thoughts and ideas on recruiting new committee members.

Jessica asked Danielle Avelar, Youth Case Manager to update the Council on In-school Youth Programs. Danielle went over the 2014-2015 In-School Youth Programs handout, the information is as follows:

Banks County:

Partnership for the YEAR work program with Banks County High School

Dawson County:

No established programs but contact maintained with High School

Forsyth County:

No established programs but contact maintained with High Schools

Franklin County:

Partnership for tutoring and YEAR work program with Franklin County High School

Habersham County:

Partnership with United Way for tutoring programs at Habersham Central and 9th Grade Academy

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Hall County:

Partnership for a tutoring program with East Hall County Parks and Recreation Facility
Partnerships for tutoring programs with the schools – Chestatee, Flowery Branch, Gainesville City, and Johnson High Schools

Hart County:

Partnership for tutoring program with Hart County High
Partnership for tutoring and work program with the YMCA

Lumpkin County:

Partnership for YEAR work program with Lumpkin County High

Rabun County:

No established programs but contact maintained with High School and Mountain Education Center

Stephens County:

Held monthly workshops at Stephens County High School
Partnership with Mountain Education Center –Stephens County for Credit Recovery and College Tuition Assistance

Towns County:

Partnership with 21st Century Program for tutoring program at Towns County High

Union County:

Partnership for YEAR work program with Union County High School
Held monthly workshops at Union County High School
Partnership for tutoring and YEAR work program at Woody Gap School
Held a Golden Ticket program and 7 of the 11 seniors are seeking WIA college assistance from Woody Gap

White County:

Partnership with Mountain Education Center –White County for Credit Recovery and College Tuition Assistance

Jessica explained she was excited to get together with youth staff and work on a vision plan for the new programming year, and plans to present the plan during the August meeting. The program is shifting to targeting seniors. Staff is planning to participate in Career Days and other activities that the schools have during the year. She would like the youth to know that there are available resources to help them in planning for their future, even if they are not attending college. If youth are planning to attend college, she wanted to let them know about the services of Youth Program and Adult Services option of the program. Jessica asked the committee to send her information on any events in the school that staff could participate in.

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Danielle discussed the summer program and explained that students graduating and planning to go to college in the fall, who are not working this summer, would be exited and re-enrolled in 90 days as out of school youth.

Jessica stated that she had been working with Flowery Branch High School to get the contact information for students that have dropped out and planned to work with interested students in obtaining GED or going back to school. These youth are considered out of school youth if they are not “enrolled” in school. She explained that in-school means attending any type of school at the point of application.

Cassandra Hunter, Job Corps asked what services are offered to out-of-school youth.

Jessica answered that, depending on the need of the individual, they could receive: GED test payment, transportation, book cost assistance, tuition assistance and childcare assistance if needed. They could receive training assistance up to \$10,000 max for two years.

Ebony Tucker, Youth Case Manager, updated the Council on Out-of-School programs. She explained that since the program has shifted its’ focus on Out-of-School youth; she had been working on ways to keep relationships with the Mountain Education Centers. In White County two resume workshops were held for juniors and seniors on the mobile training units, followed by workshops on time management and interviewing skills. She has been working with Stephens and Rabun centers to schedule workshops for the graduating youth who are transitioning to college. She stated that she had received several referrals from the Toccoa-Stephens County Boys and Girls Club. As for the college youth, WIA is still accepting applications and has one youth to graduate this semester with her degree in Criminal Justice.

Angela Pugh, Independent Living Mentor gave an update on the Regional Youth Detention Center Program. She explained that at the last meeting she announced that two youth received their GED and now there have been a total of five. Three of those five are transitioning to college.

Jessica explained that with the push to get more out of school youth, Samantha O’Day, Youth Program Assistant has been traveling with Whitney Williams, the Adult/Dislocated Worker Program Assistant to recruit youth from overviews.

Jessica also explained that under Workforce Investment Act (WIA), 80 percent of funding would be spent on in-school youth and 20 percent out-of-school. Under Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA), 75 percent would be spent on out of

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school and 25 percent in school. The program will no longer serve 14-21 years of age, but would increase to age 24.

Scott Crain, Parent Mentor Hall Co. Schools asked, if the waiver had been approved to allow three years for the funding transition.

Jessica answered that the state had not received a response yet, but after reading the regulations she doesn't think this area would qualify for a waiver. The final implementation is July 1, 2016, but the program needs to show that current effort has been made before then.

Jessica plans to have a team meeting with staff in the next couple of weeks to discuss restructuring, and funding. Updates, plans and strategies would be updated at the August meeting.

Jessica explained that sector strategies are also a part of the new law and right now they are working to collect data from all of the counties in the area.

Brenda Dalin, Ninth District Opportunity asked what type of data they are looking to collect. Jessica answered that it is mostly information on economic development and sustainable income.

Some of the other targeted programs with the new WIOA are Apprenticeship, Work Experience, and Internships. Jessica explained that the state applied for an apprenticeship grant. She has been working with John Phillips, Workforce Development Director to get partnerships with Kubota, Eaton, and Kings Hawaiian. There is already a partnership with Kipper Tools.

Jessica discussed the concern with cancelling tutoring programs in the high schools and explained that she had encouraged her contacts in the school system to utilize the grant writing department with in the Regional Commission and the 21st Century grant funds for some of the items that we had paid for, but may no longer be able to.

Scott asked if the Summer Work Experience 2016 would be the same as this year. Jessica answered that it would depend on the numbers and if the funding was at the right balance. Even though this summer is small, many of the youth are obtaining jobs on their own.

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Jessica asked the Council to review the meeting minutes from the March 19th meeting. Motion to approve the minutes as written was given by Scott, second by Jenny Stowers, Towns County Schools.

Jessica announced that the next meeting would be held in Hall County on August 20, 2015.

Motion to adjourn was given by Jenny and seconded by Scott.