

YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date: August 18, 2016

Location: Amicalola Falls Lodge, 418 Amicalola Falls Lodge Road, Dawsonville, GA 30534

Attendees:

Members

Brenda Dalin
Shelby Ward
Lee Highsmith
Judi Lawson
Bonnie Loffredo
Scott Crain
Cassandra Hunter

Staff

Ebony Tucker
Angela Pugh
Shameka Harrison
Heather Feldman
Danielle Avelar
Jessica Williams
Sonia Zavala

Guest

Annette Boswell

Meeting called to order:

Cassandra Hunter, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:46p.m. She began by acknowledging new faces in the room and asked if each member would briefly introduce themselves.

New Business:

Out of School Request for Proposal:

First order of business was to discuss the Out of School Request for Proposal (RFP). The Youth Department will send out an additional RFP by the end of September, no later than, the beginning of October. The RFP is for an innovative program designed to meet the needs of out of school youth targeting primarily, but not limited to, students desiring to attend the Mountain Educational Centers (MEC) and for transitioning young adults who have served time in the Gainesville Regional Youth Detention Center (RYDC) and those involved in the Juvenile Justice System. Once the RFP has been approved, the Youth Committee will be notified. A committee will be needed to review the proposal once it has been returned.

Workforce currently has students at four of the MEC's. Contracting with a provider may allow Workforce Development to expand services to the other counties.

Mountain Education Center Overview:

Senior Youth Case Manager, Ebony Tucker explained that the Mountain Education Centers are alternative high schools for students to earn their credits in a non-traditional school setting. The students may attend classes from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Students who are interested in getting WIOA assistance must apply and be accepted into the WIOA program prior to beginning their first day of classes at MEC. Once the student has been approved for the WIOA program, the participant may be eligible to earn financial incentives and support services. Participants may earn \$25.00

each time a credit is obtained. Financial assistance is available for childcare expenses along with a transportation stipend, if needed. Workforce Development Also assists the students in transitioning to college post-graduation.

WIOA Updates:

Performance Measures:

Jessica Williams, Youth Department Supervisor, directed the attendees to the Economic Development Region page. On this page, the bottom three rows reflect youth progress. For Placement in Employment or Education and Literacy/Numeracy Gains, performance measures were exceeding. For Attainment of Degree or Certificate, the performance measure was meeting.

Developing Mission for Youth Committee:

Cassandra reminded the members of the task set before them during the last committee meeting; to create their mission statement. The mission statement should be a brief summary of the purpose for WIOA funded programs. Cassandra requested that the members spend fifteen minutes brainstorming. Jessica referenced Georgia Mountains Workforce Development's mission statement, goals and visions.

Mission Statement keyword and phrase ideas:

- Self sufficiency
- Look at the three youth measures
- Measureable Skills and Gains
- Education and Employment focus
- Finding opportunities for continuing education and employment and to target population
- To enhance the lives of youth, provide individual with self-sufficiency by developing education and obtaining measurable skills, gain and jobs
- Outcomes for youth in the areas of employment and education with a focus on retention
- Reach potential
- Foster learning
- Ability to educate the kids with the availability of resources
- The center that connects small businesses with work ready jobs seekers and employee driven businesses

Youth Committee Tours:

In the previous meeting, the topic of going on tours was discussed. The tours can be at a manufacturing facility, technical colleges, etc. Cassandra asked the committee for ideas. The Committee suggested the following: North Georgia Tech, UNG, Kubota, Kings Hawaiian, Ethicon, Northeast Georgia Medical Center, The Oaks, and Junior Achievement Discovery Center.

Lee Highsmith with Junior Achievement explained that The Junior Achievement Discovery Centers (JADC) focus on running a business and running life. These centers target middle school and high school students. There are centers located in Gwinnett and the World Congress Center, and soon there will be a center in Forsyth County. A discovery center serves between 15,000 and

30,000 young people a year. The young people have opportunity to study the stations offered before going through the simulations. Such simulations include careers such as CEO, CFO, banker, loan officer and many more. The simulation may include the CEO writing paychecks and invoicing the other businesses. The employees deposit their checks.

The Committee agreed on the following locations to visit for the Program Year 2016-2017:

- Project Search and Success
- Junior Achievement Discovery Center
- North Georgia Tech Welding

Jessica explained that the tours may not be during meeting times, and the Committee agreed. She said the staff would organize the tours and inform the Committee of the dates.

Program Updates:

Ebony discussed the Credit Recovery and College programs. There are currently 27 participants receiving credit recovery services and 37 participants receiving college assistance.

Danielle Avelar, GED Case Manager gave an overview of the GED program services. Since July 1st of 2015, there are 62 active GED students. 15 have obtained their GED and 10 are waiting to complete one or two more portions of the GED test. The Success programs are in progress now. These programs were awarded the grant funding from the Innovative Youth Services RFP released in March.

Shameka Harrison, Program Assistant gave updates on the workshops offered to the high schools and middle schools in the Georgia Mountains Region since the last meeting.

- Youth Staff have hosted the “Mapping Your Future” workshop at Davis Middle School and an overview of WIOA resources at Gainesville High School
- Shameka attended a senior cook out at West Hall High School to speak to the students about opportunities for college assistance through Workforce Development.
- She met with Brooke Dempsie of First Baptist on August 17th, to discuss conducting workshops with the youth group there.
- Shameka will meet with Kelly Blackwell on August 23rd, to discuss workshops at Gainesville High School.
- She will attend Banks County College Fair on September 16th.
- Youth Staff will host a workshop at Habersham Success Academy on August 24th. This workshop will include resume building and the “Mapping Your Future” workshop, this is a collaborative team effort composed of Blake Foster and Annette Smith of Georgia Department of Labor.

The most requested workshop is “Mapping Your Future” which entails:

- The choices that are made in school
- Knowing options because college is not for everyone
- Viewing military as an option

- Starting own business
- Travel and Volunteer
- Knowing the different salaries for different careers
- Looking at :unusual” careers
- Mock Interviewing
- Resume Building
- Dress for Success
- Life Skills

The workshops are usually about an hour. There is a packet that workshops can be chosen from. Shameka meets with the host or organization to schedule the workshop that best suits the needs of the organization. The workshops are targeted for 8th graders, high school and college students.

New Attendance Policy:

Jessica introduced the new attendance policy for the Committee. The Board has revised the Attendance Policy Bylaws to go along with the Regional Commission and WIOA standards. Since the Committee falls under the Board, the Committee will abide by the new attendance policy in the Bylaws. The new attendance policy states that if a Board member misses three consecutive meetings, they will be automatically removed from the Committee. A letter will be sent out after the second missed meeting to notify the Committee member.

Old Business:

Planning ahead:

Future Tours/Meetings:

Jessica discussed the future tours previously in the meeting. The next meeting is October 20th in Forsyth County.

Committee Goals:

During the next meeting, Jessica will share some goals with the Committee and receive the input from the members. Jessica will send these goals out with the agenda ahead of time. The goals are goals that have been set in the staff meetings.

Review and Approval of Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes from April 21st meeting was made by Scott Crain and seconded by Bonnie Lofredo. Motion carried.

Future Meetings:

October 20, 2016 – Forsyth County
February 17, 2017 – TBD

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m. by Cassandra Hunter.