

WorkSource Georgia Mountains

Youth Committee Meeting

Virtual Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85912757100?pwd=SGVpV3BSS0JEeHZpcW1KS2x1dml3dz09>

April 13, 2022 – 11:30 am

MINUTES

The Youth Committee met virtually through Zoom due to the COVID-19 issuance.

Meeting Called to Order:

Youth Committee Chair Shelby Ward called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance. The following members were present:

Members:

Shelby Ward
Shannon Cole
Lynne Warren
Brenda Dalin

Staff:

Ebony Tucker
Juston Kearby
Shameka Harrison
Ginger Little

Guest

Pete McGill, CEO of Workforce Innovators
Lara Jackson, CTAE Coordinator, Banks Co. High School

Program Updates:

Program updates were given by Ebony Tucker, Youth Program Supervisor.

- GED/ SHIFT Program Update
 - Intake for the GED programs has increased and WSGM is still accepting new applications. A GED Instructor for the SHIFT in-house GED program has been hired and referrals from Hall County Courts and Department of Juvenile Justice have started to come in.
- Workshop Update
 - Staff attended and presented at the Hall Co. Schools Transition Fair and Dawson Co. Teen Maze Event. WSGM also facilitated workshops at North Forsyth and Banks Co. High Schools.
- College & MEC Update
 - Both Program are growing and actively accepting applications. Ebony explained that several students that previously earn their GED have returned to receive assistance with occupational skills training as well as students that dropped out of their training programs due to COVID.

- Performance Updates
 - Ebony explained that currently WSGM is not meeting PY21 performance measures for Employment Q2 and Q4 due to not meeting Measurable Skills Gains. She stated that in the past the program was able to hold students that had earned a credential and were not working or vice versa, but due to those students hurting the measurable skill gain performance numbers they were exited during PY21 and this is reflected in the low performance numbers. She stated that for Q1 of PY22 there have been 35 participants exited with both credentials and employment. WSGM will catch exiters during Q1 follow-up if they are not working and invite them in for employment and soft skill workshop in hopes of them obtaining employment before Q2 & Q4. TCSG has also given more flexibility with giving local areas the ability to determine what satisfactory milestones are.

Committee Member Updates:

Shelby asked attendees if there were any updates that they would like to share with the group. Lynne Warren, Banks County High School, announced that she would be retiring at the end of this school year and that Lara Jackson, who was also attending the meeting as a guest, would be her replacement. Shelby and Ebony thanked Mrs. Warren for her service on the youth committee and all she has done for the program. Shelby then welcomed Ms. Jackson to the committee.

New Business

Virtual Work Experience

Ebony explained that WSGM has partnered with Atlanta Career Rise and will be offering a Virtual Work Experience to all participants this summer. The program runs from May 31st until July 1st. Participants will attend 90-minute zoom session Monday thru Wednesday to learn about different career paths and developing soft skills. Participants also have journal entries and soft skill modules that are required to be complete in order to earn a \$200 stipend each week.

Stipend Policy

Shelby explained that Ebony will be presenting a policy on youth stipends to the board at the end of the month. The state already has provided guidance for these types of payments, and she will be adding the language to the youth policies and procedures.

Program of Study Policy

Shelby stated that currently there is no policy or procedure in place that addresses participants changing their program of study once WSGM has begun to pay for training. Ebony will be working on a new policy to be added to the youth policy and procedures. Ebony explained that over the years students have dropped out of their programs after one - two semesters because they realize the program was not a good fit for them. She explained that with the new policy case managers would submit a change of program request to the Youth Supervisor for approval. The participant would have to meet certain criteria to be eligible for the change. Some of the proposed criteria would be the maximum of 24 credit hours two semesters, maintained required 2.0 GPA each semester, 15 of 24 credit hours must be transferable to new program, and the new program must not extend the original completion date or exceed the maximum cost of training. Ebony asked the committee for their thoughts on the policy. Lynne Warren agreed that this

would be beneficial to students and that it would help more of them complete instead of just dropping out completely. Shelby agreed that the policy should be added.

Ebony introduced Pete McGill, Co-Founder and Vice President of Workforce Innovators of America. WSGM has partnered with Workforce Innovations to offer short-term welding certifications to youth and adults enrolled in the program.

Pete explained that the Weld Ready program is designed to prepare participants for entry level welding positions in 4 weeks. Participants learn soft skills, and receive an introduction to MIG Welding. He also stated that the boot camp touches on Welding Safety, Symbols and Drawing, Thermal Cutting, Welding Inspection and Testing, and Gas Metal Arc Welding. All students will receive training in additive manufacturing, basic forklift, blueprint reading, cranes and rigging, CPR, First Aid, electricity basics, Lean Six Sigma, OSHA10, and Torque Wrench. Pete explained all student will be prepared for and take the test to become certified welders, and have the opportunity to interview with local employers.

Old Business:

Shannon Cole, Dean of Adult Education, gave motion to approve the January Youth Committee Meeting minutes. Lynne Warren, Banks County High School seconded the motion all were in favor, motion carried.

Future Meetings:

July 13, 2022 will be the date of the next meeting and it will be an in person meeting.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned by Chairwoman Ward.