

WorkSource Georgia Mountains

Youth Committee Meeting

In-Person Meeting:

1856 Thompson Bridge Road Suite 3 Gainesville, GA 30501

July 20, 2022 – 11:30 am

MINUTES

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
Staci Crain
Maria Calkins
SarTaj Bush
Karen Green

Staff:

Ebony Tucker
Juston Kearby
Shameka Harrison
Angela Pugh

Guest

Judy Reynolds, Adult/DW Case Manager

Program Updates:

- GED Program Update- Shameka Harrison, GED Case Manager
 - Intake for the GED programs have increased and WSGM is still accepting new applications. There has been a total of 21 new GED files approved and of those 21 files, 11 of them have already completed their GED. Ms. Harrison stated that she will be contacting the graduates to see if they are interested in college or short-term training.
- SHIFT Program Update- Angela Pugh, Independent Living Mentor
 - Ms. Pugh stated that after the long search for a GED teacher, the position has been filled and the students are doing really well. She explained that the offender/dropout population is a very hard population to serve, and it takes a special person to be able to come in to teach these students. She announced that we have had one completion so far and two students will be testing in the upcoming weeks. She also mentioned those students will also be transitioning into work experiences and short-term training programs.
- College & MEC Update- Ebony Tucker, Youth Program Supervisor
 - Ms. Tucker explained that application for both of these programs have been very low. Applicants are wanting more short-term training programs. As for Mountain Education we should see an increase in applications due to the state extending the waiver to assist 50% in-school and 50% out-of-school youth, instead of the 75%/25% split. She also stated that staff will be heading back out

during the upcoming school year to recruit, facilitate workshops, and attend event to increase enrollments in these programs.

- Intake Updates – Juston Kearby, Intake Assistant
 - Mr. Kearby announced that since the April meeting the youth department has assisted 52 participants with applications, 23 of those being for the GED program, Four for SHIFT GED, and 25 for college and bootcamp programs. He stated that WSGM is still currently accepting application for all programs.

- Virtual Work Experience/Boot Camp Updates – Ebony Tucker, Youth Supervisor
 - Ms. Tucker stated that for the summer cohort of the Virtual Work Experience there were four participants, and although they were virtual only two successfully completed. She announced that there will be a fall cohort starting in October, and she will need participants. All participants must be enrolled in an educational program to participate. The program is for five weeks, and participants earn a total of \$1000, or \$200 per week. Each week the participant is required to attend a 90-minute zoom meeting, Monday through Wednesday, complete modules, and journal assignments to meet requirements for the stipends. Ebony shared that there were recently 10 graduates from the Forsyth Co. Welding Boot Camp and that two of them had already accepted employment with the employers that were brought in during the third week of training. She explained that there were seven employers and all participants interviewed with each of them. She also shared a slide show with the group of the students during the training.

New Business

Performance Negotiations

Youth Committee Chair Ward directed the committee to the handouts with the new proposed numbers for performance measures. She explained that since we have done well in the past years the state is proposing higher performance levels. Ms. Tucker added that she has a meeting next week to negotiate the levels with TCSG and is planning to negotiate the following levels:

	PY 22 Proposed	PY 22 Response	PY 23 Proposed	PY 23 Response
Employment Q2 After Exit	85%	72%	86%	73%
Employment Q4 After Exit	82%	75%	82%	76%
Median Earnings 2 nd Quarter After Exit	\$4,990	\$3000	\$5090	\$3100
Credentials 4 Quarters After Exit	75%	70%	75%	71%
Measurable Skill Gains	38%	38%	38%	38%

Suitability Screening Tool

Ms. Tucker explained that for a participant to exit the program with a positive outcome they must earn a credential and maintain employment for up to one year after exit. Currently we have not been able to meet the employment and measurable skill gain measures due to the large numbers of OSY we are serving. She stated that while every youth ages 16-24 that are enrolled in adult education are eligible for WIOA services we now need to consider suitability for services. She directed the committee to the Suitability Screening Tool that will be added to the application packet. She explained that for suitability applicants’ employment history, post-

secondary, and long-term supportive service needs will be considered. She asked the committee to review the screening tool and email her with any edits that needed to be made.

TransfrVR

Ms. Tucker shared a short video overview from a demo meeting she recently attended. She explained that TransfrVR offers virtual reality training for a great number of growth and demand occupations. The headset come loaded with modules, career exploration and skill mastery. Trainees master real skills needed to get hired for well-paying jobs in a safe, supportive setting, under the expert guidance of a digital coach. The program also helps prepares them to take certification exams. Ms. Tucker explained that she would like to use the program as a screening tool for boot camps, and to take to career fairs and school events to get students to explore different career paths.

Well Root Family Services

Ms. Tucker introduced Ms. SarTaj Bush as a new member to the committee. She is the Area Director of Wellroot Family Services. She explained that Wellroot has been around for over 150 years. They provide services for foster families, transitional and independent living, as well as assist with housing. She explained that she oversees Healthy Families of Gainesville and through that program they provide in-home therapy services, programs for new moms, justice involved youth and their families, parenting courses and other mental health assistance. All services are provided to participants free of charge, with or without insurance. Case managers are assigned to each family with youth ages 16-24 and new parents from birth to 5 years old. She asked Ms. Tucker to email her contact information out to the committee for anyone that has referrals or questions.

Old Business:

There was no quorum therefor meeting minutes will be emailed out for vote.

Future Meetings:

Ms. Ward explained that the state does not require the committee to meet every quarter and we are proposing to move to meeting once a year in June or July or meeting twice a year in January and in June. Meeting consensus was to meet twice a year but will also get votes from members that were not in attendance before setting next meeting date.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned by Chairwoman Ward.