

YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Virtual Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85995740451?pwd=VTZEEeExCaVd6c3MwY0R4Y3lnTIR5QT09>

April 21, 2021 – 11:30 am

Attendees:

Members:

Khadija Hoeltke
Shelby Ward
Lynne Warren
Rhonda McLean
Rita Holmes
Staci Crain
Maria Calkins

Staff:

Kaitlin Andrews
Shameka Harrison
Juston Kearby
Angela Pugh
Ebony Tucker
Whitney Williams

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. Chairwoman Ward let the committee know that WIOA youth funding is still on hold. WorkSource hopes to receive funding early May. Mrs. Ward then transitioned to the staff for the program updates.

Program Updates:

- GED Program Update
 - Shameka Harrison, Youth GED Case Manager, let the committee know that Lanier Technical College has been offering in-person learning GED classes for three months now. A few participants have returned to in-person instruction, while many others have opted to stay online. There have been five GED competitions from Lanier Technical College since the meeting in February. Shameka continues to encourage students to attend class and complete the GED. There were no questions for Shameka.
- SHIFT
 - Angela Pugh, Independent Living Mentor, shared that her SHIFT participants have been offered in-person GED classes in the WorkSource Youth Center. Angela shared that they will be able to house seven participants safely in the building, and currently there are five active participants attending. Angela explained the difference in the SHIFT program and the pathway programs. SHIFT is for students who have a criminal history, or who need a smaller group setting than the traditional technical college setting. Three of her active participants will be testing for their GED at the end of May. There were no questions for Angela.

- College Update
 - Ebony Tucker, Youth Supervisor, shared that there has been a decline in participants this Spring semester due to COVID-19. A few students have contacted her already with plans to return. She hopes that more students will return for the summer and fall semesters. There were no questions for Ebony.

- Workshops and MEC
 - Kaitlin Andrews, Youth Program Assistant shared that Mountain Education Charter High School has begun to offer in-person learning again. Some students are going to school online, as well as in person. There has been one recent graduate from White County. Kaitlin shared that the workshops have continued to be virtual this semester. The interviewing workshop was recently presented to Banks County High School students. Kaitlin shared that we have begun a partnership with Foothills Charter High School in Franklin County to assist credit recovery students, but WorkSource has to wait for funding to open before we begin accepting new applicants. Shelby Ward asked if Foothills was the school that worked with the prison in Athens. Kaitlin was unsure. There were no more questions for Kaitlin.

- Intake Updates
 - Juston Kearby shared about the intake process. Currently, there is a waitlist for participants who would like to use WIOA. Juston has been working with applicants for the SHIFT program. Juston has also worked closely with the adult program staff to begin applications for a new bootcamp course. This bootcamp is a short-term training program. There were no questions for Juston.

New Business

- Virtual Job Shadow
 - Ebony Tucker, Youth Supervisor, took a moment to welcome Staci Crain to the committee. Ms. Crain currently serves as a Work-Based Learning Coordinator for Hall County Schools. Ms. Crain will serve as the WIOA Parent Representative once she retires later this year. Both her son and daughter have received WIOA services. Ebony shared information about a new program called the Virtual Job Shadow. This program will offer participants the ability to take career and interest assessments, create resumes, cover letters, professional email, and watch descriptive videos of various careers. This online program will also offer students an opportunity to learn more about apprenticeships and other training options. Ebony explained that the price per participant seat was relatively low at \$27 per student. Chairwoman Ward asked if a student did not complete the program will that seat be available for a new participant. Ebony answered yes, the seat would be able to be re-used, and students have access to their portfolios for one year. Staci Crain shared that she has success using it with her students.

Shelby Ward then let the committee know that they can share any updates. Maria Calkins, Gainesville Housing Authority, shared that she is excited to announce that they will have space available for new clients on the waiting list for housing. It has been several years since they have

had vacancies, and they are now looking to fill those at two of their sites. She also announced that Section 8 will also be opening up their hotline for rental assistance for one week. She asked the committee to share this information with her participants if they need assistance with housing. She will send a flyer to Ebony to share with everyone.

Old Business:

The minutes were approved from the October 2020 meeting.

Future Meetings:

The next meeting is scheduled for June 16th, 2021. The hope is to have an in-person option for the next meeting.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned by Chair Ward.