

Benton-Franklin Workforce Development Council

Youth Committee Minutes

September 16, 2020

3:30 p.m. – Microsoft Teams

Present

Dennis Williamson
Bob Legard
Alicia Perches
Darryl Banks, Ex-Officio
Paul Randall, Ex-Officio

Excused

Lynn Ramos-Braswell

Absent

Staff

Cynthia Garcia, BFWDC
Tiffany Scott, BFWDC
David Chavey-Reynaud, BFWDC
Becky Smith, BFWDC
Jamillet Nerell, BFWDC
Jessie Cardwell, BFWDC
Heather Woodruff, CPS
Kayci Loftus, CPS
Mark Wheaton, ESD123

Guest

Paula Resa, NW Carpenter Union

Call to Order

Dennis Williamson called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. Introductions were made. New staff members, David Chavey-Reynaud, COO, and Jessie Cardwell, Programs Coordinator, were introduced.

Approval of Committee Minutes

Members received copies of the May 20, 2020, Youth Committee Meeting minutes for review.

Bob Legard moved to approve the May 20, 2020, Youth Committee Minutes as presented, seconded by Paul Randall. Motion carried.

Northwest Carpenters Union – Paula Resa, Pre-Apprenticeship Coordinator

Paula introduced herself. Paula works for the Carpenters Union to put pre-apprenticeships together. She shared that she went through a carpentry apprenticeship as a young person. They currently have an emphasis on encouraging women to take advantage of apprenticeships. She shared about the different programs they offer. Pre-COVID the pre-apprenticeship classes were four days a week for three weeks. At that point, participants are ready to go into an apprenticeship. Due to COVID, classes are currently 2.5 days a week, and the rest of the time is spent doing bookwork online. She explained some of the things participants learn while in training. Grants support the pre-apprenticeships and support services. Participants are not required to have a high school diploma but must have parents' permission if under 17. A significant barrier students face is the lack of transportation.

OSY program leadership will be reaching out to Northwest Carpenters Union to learn how we can start a pre-apprenticeship cohort in our area.

WIOA Youth Program Updates – Cynthia

Cynthia shared from the Youth Program Performance Summary provided in the packets. TC-Futures became a GED testing site about two months ago. That is the only essential service offered on-site at this time.

A waiver has been granted to allow flexibility to permit self-attestation for documents. This waiver is in effect through November 2020, with the hope of an extension.

The youth team continues to explore new ways of outreach during this challenging time of COVID. They have been doing weekly Live Orientations on Facebook. They have sent out a targeted mail to those on unemployment. They are working with the WorkSource Business Navigators to help find opportunities for youth employment.

Cynthia encouraged everyone to visit the TC Futures Facebook Page and Website.

GED Testing Center Updates – Mark

Mark reported that it was quite a process to become a GED testing center. Not having a place to test was a challenge for our customers. They opened as a testing center in June with all of the COVID-19 precautions in place. At the time of opening, they were considered a public testing center. For the safety of our staff and customers, the status has been moved to private. Since June, there have been 61 tests with 44 passing and 12 GED graduates. We are at about 75% pass rate.

Mark shared that Cynthia has been working very hard to help make the center be ADA compliant.

Tiffany asked if there has been any ideas or focus on having a GED ceremony. We want to celebrate their successes once COVID-19 has passed. Mark reported that this is definitely on their radar, but we don't know exactly how this will look in the future.

Dennis asked what kind of evaluation or advice is given to those that fail their tests. Mark shared that there are four sections to the GED tests. Should they not pass a test, feedback is provided on the areas that need focus. At that point, there is tutoring and help given. Most students don't miss it by much. They have great case managers that instill hope and set up plans to move forward. Very rarely has someone not passed on their second try.

Cynthia shared that we currently have 16 OSY customers working toward their GED.

PY19 Annual Report - Cynthia

Cynthia was happy to present BFWDC's first-ever Annual Report. This report came about due to the work of the Strategic Plan Goal Team #1 (P-ROC) focused on increasing visibility. She took the time to walk through the report. This report will be emailed to board members, partners, other WDC's, WWA Directors, Chamber members, and placed on Facebook and the Website.

Other Business

Tiffany asked board members if there were any needs that the BFWDC could help with during these challenging times. Dennis shared that we are very fortunate to have carpentry thrive in this area. There is still a need for workers in most of the crafts.

Tiffany recognized her staff and the work that they are doing during COVID-19. Dennis thanked the staff for the work they are doing.

Next Meeting

Youth Committee Meeting –November 18, 2020, 3:30 p.m. at TBD

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

DocuSigned by:
Dennis Williamson 11/19/2020
F50C82CDA19A496...
Dennis Williamson, Chair

DocuSigned by:
Becky Smith 11/19/2020
B9CCD06F08634F3...
Becky Smith, Office Manager