

**BENTON-FRANKLIN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Youth Committee**

November 18, 2020 at 3:30 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Please note – This meeting is being recorded for record-keeping and quality assurance purposes.

Promoting a prosperous community by providing a progressive workforce system

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order** – Dennis Williamson
 - Excused Absences
- 2. Welcome & Introductions**
- 3. Approval of Committee Minutes** – Chair
 - Youth Committee – September 16, 2020 (Needs a vote)
- 4. New Statewide Covid Restrictions Updates/Discussion-** Cynthia/All
- 5. WIOA Youth Program Updates** – Cynthia
- 6. TC Futures Monthly Report-** Cynthia
- 7. Other Business**
- 8. Next Meetings**
 - Full Quarterly Board Meeting – Tuesday, January 26, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. at TBD
 - Youth Committee Meeting – Wednesday, February 17, 2020, at 3:30 p.m. at TBD
- 9. Adjournment**

Attachments

- September 16, 2020, Youth Committee Minutes
- Youth Program Performance Summary – October
- TC Futures Update - October

Benton-Franklin Workforce Development Council contributes to our prosperous community by elevating the human potential.

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
Jamilet 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:

Dennis Williamson, Chair

Becky Smith, Office Manager

October 2020

PY20 Out of School Youth Program Performance Summary (Cumulative)			
Program Expenditures	Budget Total	YTD Spent	% Spent
As of September 30 th , 2020	\$718,485	\$127,001.97	17.7%
Enrollments	Actual Outcomes	Monthly to Date Target	Annual Target
Total Registrations	80	115	219
Exits			
Total Employed Exits	11	30	120
Total Post-Secondary Exits	1	4	4
Total Registered Apprenticeship Exits	0	N/A	N/A
Placement Rate	68.75%	85%	85%
Median Wage	\$13.75	\$13.75	\$13.75
Services			
Individual Training Account (ITA)	2	8	28
On-the-Job Training (OJT)	0	1	8
Work Experience (WEX)	5	8	33
Pre-Apprenticeship	0	N/A	N/A
Credentials Earned	1	N/A	N/A
Dropout Recovery Services			
General Equivalency Diploma	1	N/A	N/A

Total Enrollments

- The Unemployment Insurance (UI) Outreach Campaign continues- UI recipients who had been laid off from occupations in which Youth are typically employed continue to be contacted.
- Social Media presence is strong. Flyers have been created that advertise Welding, Dental Assisting, CDL, Construction training, How to Connect to Apprenticeships, and general Out of School Youth services.
- The Youth Team continues to send email blasts to “Friends of TC Futures” to inform and remind other community partners of TC Futures services.
- The Youth Team will be dropping off physical flyers at several locations around Tri-Cities.
- To ensure the same level of services provided to English-speaking customers is available to Spanish speaking customers, our Subrecipient is recruiting for a Bilingual Youth Employment Specialist with a potential start date of early December.
- Important to highlight- The Youth Team partnered with the Twin Rivers facility to enroll seven eligible Youth currently residing at the facility transitioning from incarceration to employment.

Total Employed Exits- We continue to see a slowdown in Employed Exits.

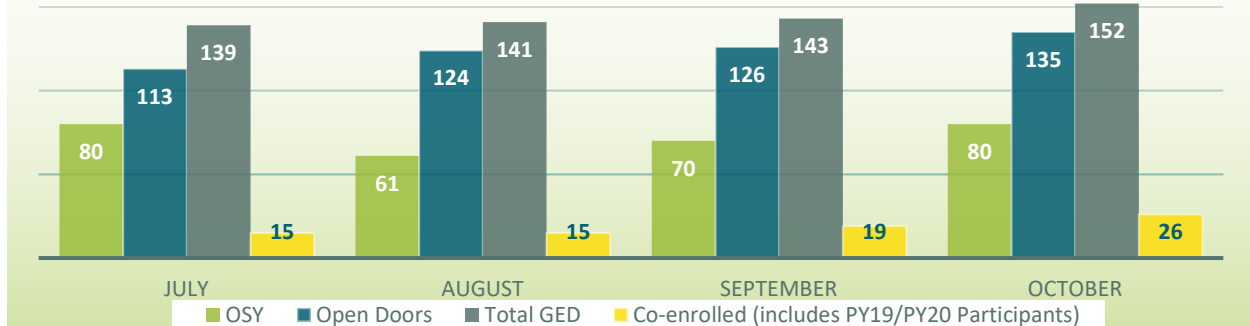
- The Youth Team plans a Youth Virtual Job Fair to take place in the next couple of months. We are currently navigating how we can utilize the same platform, WorkSource uses for Virtual Job Fairs.
- It is important to mention that currently, there are 26 youth and young adults working towards their GED, and employment will be their focus afterward.
- Placement Rate- This number will increase as more participants exit into unsubsidized employment.

Services-Individual Training Accounts (ITAs) and Work-Experience (WEXs)-

- There are 3 WEXs/ITAs and/or On-the-Job Training opportunities in progress and several more in the works that will count towards future performance.



TC Futures Numbers October 2020



GED Testing

TC Futures became an authorized Pearson VUE testing center at the end of June. We are incredibly excited about the access this has given our youth and young adults to GED testing. We believe that having the opportunity to test here at TC Futures will contribute to customer success. The numbers in the following chart include data from June 28 – October 19.

Month	Total	Passed	Grads
July	15	10	4
August	22	16	5
September	25	18	0
October	13	9	2
Total	73	53	11

Social Media Insights

Throughout this pandemic, TC Futures has continued to grow as an online presence. Staff have produced more than 25 workshop videos and a commercial for Facebook, and we were recently approved to start using Instagram! Staff also provide an online orientation every Tuesday at 1:00 p.m.

Month	Followers	People Reached
July	328	5351
August	339	2876
September	353	5026
October	360	6916

Facility Updates

These past few months we have identified a few areas that need our attention so that we can be ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant and provide access to all. We are currently updating our signage throughout the center, we will have a designated workstation for our customers that use a wheelchair, and I am currently working with the property managers to provide a designated “van accessible” parking spot. We are still working on ensuring that all of our doors and handles are up to code as well.

We recently received our temperature-scanning kiosk to be used by all individuals entering the center. We also have a protective shield in place at the reception area, as well as a large stock of masks and cleaning supplies.



Follow @tricitiefutures on Facebook and Instagram!



TC Futures is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. WA Relay Service: 711

