

Benton-Franklin Workforce Development Council

Youth Committee Minutes

November 18, 2020

3:30 p.m. – Zoom

Present

Dennis Williamson
Alicia Perches
Darryl Banks, Ex-Officio

Excused

Lynn Ramos-Braswell
Bob Legard
Paul Randall, Ex-Officio
Tiffany Scott, BFWDC
Mark Wheaton, ESD123

Absent

Staff

Cynthia Garcia, BFWDC
David Chavey-Reynaud, BFWDC
Becky Smith, BFWDC
Jamilet Nerell, BFWDC
Jessie Cardwell, BFWDC
Heather Woodruff, CPS
Kayci Loftus, CPS

Call to Order

Dennis Williamson called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. Members introduced themselves as Becky called their names.

Approval of Committee Minutes

Members received copies of the September 16, 2020, Youth Committee Meeting minutes for review.

Darryl Banks moved to approve September 16, 2020, Youth Committee Minutes as presented, seconded by Alicia Perches. Motion carried.

WIOA Youth Program Updates – Cynthia

Cynthia presented the Performance Summary for October. We recognize that our enrollments and employed exits are below target. Be aware that there are many strategies in place to increase these numbers. Many of these strategies are listed in the report. They are planning a virtual job fair. The idea is to invite about 20 employers for entry-level positions, apprenticeship coordinators, and post-secondary education representatives. The BFWDC will be working to ensure that TC Futures has access to the Brazen platform used by the WSCB.

The sub-recipient has set aggressive goals for the employment specialist youth staff. We are confident that the numbers will be met.

The state monitors will be conducting a virtual review the week of January 11. The OSY program is 100% paperless, so that makes it much easier for the monitoring team. BFWDC staff is currently conducting the quarter two file review to ensure everything is ready for the monitors.

Dennis confirmed that the primary reason we are behind in numbers is due to the restrictions caused by COVID-19.

The OSY team currently only has two case managers. They are in the process of hiring a bi-lingual case manager.

Heather shared that not being able to meet in person and walk students through the process has dramatically affected the level of engagement of youth in the program. They continue to problem solve and brainstorm and think of ways to connect with you. They aim to be back on target by the end of December.

Cynthia shared that they meet weekly to talk about challenges and how they can overcome them.

Darryl asked about the challenge of finding work for our customers. Getting Work Experiences for our youth has been a big challenge. They are working to see if they can find employers to agree to do virtual work experiences. They have had one customer involved in a virtual work experience for digital marketing. That individual has completed the Work Experience and is currently self-employed as a digital marketing specialist. The youth team continues to look for new opportunities.

TC Futures Monthly Report – Cynthia

Cynthia presented the printed report in the packet. She explained that this report includes feedback from board members. Please let us know if there is any other information that you would like to see. This report will be going to the Executive Committee each month.

New Statewide Covid Restrictions Updates/Discussion – Cynthia/All

Cynthia shared that based on the restrictions that were announced on Sunday, we wanted to let the youth committee know what the workforce system is doing to help those that are and will be unemployed due to this executive order. Six employees from WSCB will be transitioning to help the unemployment department. We are confident that this will not affect our customers.

She asked if anyone had any other information or concerns that they are hearing from their partners.

Jessie reported on the Virtual Chamber Luncheon today. They had Dr. Lynch from the University of Washington as their guest. The title was, “Is there an End in Sight.” The answer was no, with an asterisk. He said that all of the things we’re doing now to be safe are buying time until the vaccine is in place. They are expecting a peak sometime around January or February. They are hoping to have a vaccine out by early next year. They are working on a couple of them in the US with a 95% success rate so far, which is not actual data at this time. Dispersing the vaccine will be a massive undertaking.

David asked if there was any information we could send out to promote alternative safe activities that youth and adults can take and explore to maintain a sense of mental health and to continue to be engaged. We want to recognize that this is a hard time, and we would like to share this with them.

Kayci shared that the industries that we traditionally prepare youth for are the industries that seem to be the most impacted. We have had to be more innovative and creative in preparing our youth workforce for competitively going after more than entry-level employment. This is a unique time for our youth who are also being faced with participation restrictions not just due to safety, but they have families to take care of, there is a lack of child care, they don’t have access to technology, etc. This has created a perfect storm for job seekers and especially for our youth.

Heather shared that we will also be watching restrictions placed on our service providers. A lot of them are only operating on a limited capacity.

Other Business

Jamilet thanked those board members that attended the Occupations in Demand (OID) Review Meeting. Thank you for taking the time to participate and to provide valuable feedback and information.

Dennis shared that it looks like construction continues to be positive. This could mean more jobs for those going through TC Futures.

Cynthia reminded members to follow the TC Futures and WSCB Facebook pages. A lot of activities are going on. Heather thanked Cynthia, Becky, and David for their help with social media. They have received forty-five referrals and five enrollments in the last week due to this outreach. Dennis shared that he looks at the Facebook page regularly, and recognized that they are doing a good job.

Cynthia requested any suggestions for future agenda items.

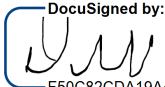
Next Meeting

Youth Committee Meeting –February 17, 2021, 3:30 p.m. at TBD

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

DocuSigned by:

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2/23/2021
Dennis Williamson, Chair

DocuSigned by:

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2/23/2021
Becky Smith, Office Manager