

Benton-Franklin Workforce Development Council

Youth Committee Minutes

September 15, 2021
3:30 pm – Zoom

Present

Dennis Williamson
Alicia Perches
Lynn Ramos-Braswell

Excused

Bob Legard
Cinthia Alvarez

Absent

Staff/Partners

Tiffany Scott, BFWDC
David Chavey-Reynaud, BFWDC
Diana Hamilton, BFWDC
Cynthia Garcia, BFWDC
Jamilet Nerell, BFWDC
Mark Wheaton, TC Futures

Ex-Officio

Darryl Banks
Paul Randall

Call to Order

Dennis Williamson called the meeting to order at 3:32 pm. Members responded as Cynthia Garcia called roll.

Approval of Committee Minutes

Members received copies of the May 19, 2021, Youth Committee Meeting minutes for review.

Alicia Perches moved to approve May 19, 2021, Youth Committee Minutes as presented, seconded by Lynn Ramos-Braswell. Motion carried.

TC Futures Director Position Updates – Tiffany

Mark informed members that he had submitted his resignation from his position as the director of TC futures. ESD123 has posted the position, and Troy from ESD123 informed us that they had seen a strong applicant pool so far. As soon as next week, there will be interviews for that position. Our partnership at TC futures enabled us to review and provide feedback on the job description and be part of the interview panel. The BFWDC will play an integral part in selecting the next TC Futures Director.

Tiffany took the opportunity to thank Mark Wheaton for all he has done. Thank you, Mark, for your leadership, expertise and for finding the property where TC Futures is now housed. Best wishes in your future endeavors.

BFWDC Updates– Cynthia

PY21 State Monitoring Updates: Cynthia announced that the state monitoring visit scheduled for next month during the week of October 4, 2021, has been rescheduled for May 23 -27, 2022. Rescheduling gives the BFWDC and subrecipient staff more time to ensure participant files are compliant with the federal, State, and local policies and data element validation requirements. Cynthia thanked Tiffany for bringing the scheduled change request to the State Monitors as they were here at the beginning of this year.

Measurable Skills Gain Policy: Cynthia informed members that the BFWDC Team has created a Measurable Skills Gain Policy to provide official guidance to our subrecipients on the requirement of documenting the participant's progress while attending education and training services as required for

Federal Reporting. She also informed the committee that all of the information in the policy has already been provided to our subrecipient in the form of a program notice or technical assistance. Cynthia informed members that we (BFWDC) will be requesting a motion from the full board at the end of October for their review and approval.

Data Element Validation Policy: Cynthia informed members that the BFWDC team created this policy to guide Data Element Validation (DEV) requirements specific to Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I-B Youth, Adult, Dislocated Worker, Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA), and discretionary programs. Local workforce boards must implement local policies and internal procedures to fulfill the State's annual assessment to identify the accuracy of prescribed data elements. Cynthia indicated that this policy will also be taken to the full board at the end of October for review and approval.

WIT Replacement Updates: All 12 WDCs are working with ESD on the Washington Integrated Technology (WIT) Replacement project to acquire a new case management solution to replace Efforts to Outcomes (ETO) and the existing labor exchange platform. We want to ensure the system meets the program management and operational needs of all WIOA partners. ESD hired the Athena Group to facilitate multiple sessions to design and develop a decision-making process and operating framework to define the scope of the WIT Replacement project. Once that work is completed, they can issue a Request for Proposal (RFP), review potential solutions, and select a vendor and solution. They hope to release the RFP sometime early next year.

Jamilet added that the Athena Group provides a series of sessions to identify and agree upon the factors needed to support a constructive and productive product. Cynthia indicated that we would be providing updates as the project continues.

Youth Program Highlights: Cynthia provided an update on the status of the PY21 Youth contract. Cynthia informed members that the Youth Contract had been thoroughly reviewed and was approved by the Benton County Deputy prosecuting attorney. This process is taking longer than prior years as we could not use the DocuSign process like we did last year, per new County requirements. We continue with the required signature process and hope to have fully executed contracts sometime in October.

Cynthia took the opportunity to recognize Career Path Services (CPS) for last program years outcomes. Last year, the youth program served 200 youth and young adults; 70 were connected to employment opportunities and post-secondary education. We recognize that the pandemic presented and continues to present challenges, especially to youth in our community. We have a dedicated team recognized for finding solutions to continue to serve the most in need. Cynthia presented a letter from the Employment Security Department (ESD) recognizing the Youth Program for their performance outcomes.

Occupations in Demand Committee: Jamilet thanked all attendees who provided their recommendations to the OID List. Jamilet named all participating agencies. Jamilet explained that on August 18, the Occupations in Demand Committee (OID) met to review the recommendations provided by our system partners. This meeting takes place once a year. The OID committee's purpose is to ensure projections and the current economic State in our area are reflected on the Benton-Franklin OID list. Recommendations are inclusive of Committee Members, Board Members, and System Partners. Jamilet also indicated that the local recommendations were submitted to the State on August 25. This year we submitted the most recommendation than any other year. It was a total of 87 recommendations.

TC Futures Update – Mark

Mark went over the TC Futures September Report. He informed members that after his departure, Cynthia and Jasmine from CPS will be working with Amy from TC Futures to ensure the reports are created every month. Mark presented the new format of the report where demographics are included and a success story focusing on co-enrollments. He informed the board that we had more than 50 youth that has completed their GED, and we anticipate the number to continue to go up as our center is now providing in-person services 100%. Mark asked members if they were interested to see other information to let us know. Mark informed members about the community event occurring at TC Futures. The purpose of this event was to re-introduce TC Futures to community partners. Some of the partners that have already confirmed their attendance are SARC, Legal Counsel for Youth and Children, Three-Rivers Therapy, Job Corps. TC Futures considers all social distancing and safety protocols. TC Futures wants to move forward with having small events possibility every other month or quarterly.

Cynthia thanked mark for the information provided and reminded board members to provide feedback on the TC Futures report; if there are interested to see other information, this is the opportunity to inform us.

Liaison Report – David

David explained that the August liaison report had a new element; a month-over-month change represented red for decline and green for incline. These changes are largely seasonal and year-over-year; you can see patterns for our area. There is still a strong showing in Benton and Franklin in terms of recovery; the percentage change from this year compared to last year is 135% to 219%. In total, staff assistance to jobseekers and staff assisted services to job seekers; there is a small decline compared to 2019 or pre-pandemic levels. It's down 9%, or down 2% in total staff-assisted services. We are still significantly up in our business services. In 2020, we served 48 unique businesses, and in 2021, we have served 201. That's an increase of 319%, and in 2019, we only served 56, so it's an increase of 259% from there. The unemployment rate has dropped significantly compared to last year, even last month. Even pre-pandemic levels were at 4.5% unemployment in Benton County, 4.9 and Franklin compared to 2019, that was at 5.2 and five or by 5.2 and 5.8 respectively, we are doing well with jobs right now, even if you compare it to COVID-19.

The COVID-19 job recovery charts there at the bottom; we have dropped a little bit there. If you remember from our July liaison report, we had that number at 108%. David uses the most up-to-date ESD numbers, which is a preliminary estimate, followed by solidified figures the following month. The previous month wasn't sitting at 108. It was sitting at 98%. I just wanted to assure everybody the swing is not a full 16 percentage points; it is just six. Starting next month, we should start seeing much more stable numbers.

Childcare Awareness Presentation- Suzanne Suyama

Suzanne provided an overview of their programs called Child Care Aware. This is a community-minded enterprise based in Spokane. They have several services up in Spokane, including recovery services, early learning services, services to help people with disabilities get back to work, and they also have an office down here in Pasco that employs about 20 people, specifically around early learning issues. Suzanne provided copies of several flyers (attached to the meeting packet). Suzanne provided information about a current grant through the Department of Health that TC Future customers can benefit from. Suzanne indicated that due to pandemics, all services are virtual.

Tiffany asked how they see their organization partnering with TC Futures. Suzanne indicated that at this time, she would like to share information about their programs with TC Futures customers, so youth are aware of the resources that are available for youth pregnancy and parenting. Cynthia informed Suzanne

about an upcoming event at TC Futures for community partners to tour the facility, learn more about TC Futures. Cynthia recommended Suzanne connect with Mark or Kayci to learn more about the event should they be interested in participating.

Other Business

Dennis provided information about what is happening in the electrical construction world and the need for Material Handlers. Dennis offers his time to meet and speak with anyone interested in apprenticeship opportunities. Dennis provided an overview of what are the minimum requirements for a material handler. For those that would like to become an apprentice, they would need to be a high school diploma or GED with a C or better in algebra. Cynthia will be connecting the Business Service Team to Dennis to ensure our Team assist with the current material handler positions.

Tiffany reminded board members of our coming full board meeting on Tuesday, October 26, at 4 pm.

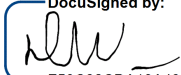
Next Meeting

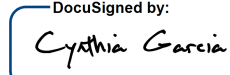
Youth Committee Meeting – November 17, 2021, 3:30 pm at Zoom

Adjournment

With no further business, Alicia moved to adjourn, seconded by Dennis. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

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Dennis Williamson, Chair

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2FCCE1D4106A4E8... 11/29/2021
Cynthia Garcia, Youth Program Manager