

Youth Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday

August 20th, 2024

12:00 PM-2:00pm

Meeting Facilitator: Heather Merritt- Youth Supervisor/ SNAP E&T Case Manager

Present: Shannon Adkins, Brian Adkins, Evelyn Daniels, Sarah Conley, Jim Messer, Chris Daniels, Melissa Matthews, Josiah Hannah, Mark Esslinger, Amanda Brubaker, and Region 2 Staff: Heather Merritt, Adam Warden, and Courtney Harrison.

Call to Order: Heather Merritt- Youth Supervisor/ SNAP E&T Case Manager

Minutes:

- There was a motion to approve the minutes for our last meeting on 07.25.24. Courtney Harrison motioned to approve the minutes and Amanda Brubaker seconded the motion.

Guest Speakers:

- Heather introduced our host for the meeting, Mark Esslinger, as he discussed the Western Region Library System. The system covers: Cabell, Putnam, Lincoln, Mingo, and Wayne Counties. Mark shared the free resources that the library has to offer such as: GED prep courses, Computer Literacy, Job prep, and Learning Express Library database. Mark shared other resources such as: Tutor WV that assists with Tutoring, Test Prep, and Job search for all ages. Mark also shared an application called Meet Libby which offers library books to be downloaded on a device. Lastly, Mark shared that the library has a system in Cabell County called Comic Plus that has a variety of comics, graphic novel, and non-fiction books.
- Heather introduced our next guest speaker Josiah Hannah from Coalfield Development. Josiah shared the programs that Coalfield has to offer such as: community training, focusing on agriculture, Woodwork, laborer, t-shirt design, and other options. Through these programs, Josiah shared that there is also time given to these individuals to work on personal development each week to

overcome their barriers to strive further to reach their goals. Josiah shared a Ground-Up Gathering Event that will take place on September 26th from 4pm-8pm at the West Edge Factory in Huntington.

Youth Presentation:

- Heather discussed the progress of youth for the month of August. She discussed the different successes of our youth and recapped last month's Penn Foster Graduates and where they are at currently.

Awards/ Recognition:

- A Graduation Ceremony was held for Christopher Daniels, one of our youth currently enrolled in our Region 2 Workforce Investment Board Youth program. He completed Penn Foster High School and earned his High School Diploma. We are proud of Chris Daniels for his hard work and commitment in earning his high school diploma.

Adjourned at 12:53pm

Respectfully Submitted by Adam Warden