

# Youth Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday

February 18th, 2025

12:00 PM-2:00 PM

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

**Present:** Amanda Brubaker, Lauren Tate, Tia Wray, Jennifer Pritt, Romena Shamshiri, Katie Rose Garden, Brian Hankins, Mark Smith. Virtual: Beth McCulloch, Rachel Patterson, Katlyn Blankenship. Region 2 Staff: Melissa Bias, Heather Merritt, Malissa Dishman, Adam Warden. Region 2 Youth: Bryanna Farnsworth and Michelle Raney

**Call to Order:** Melissa Bias – Executive Director Region 2 Workforce Investment Board

## Minutes:

- There was a motion to approve the minutes for our last meeting on 1.26.24. Amanda Brubaker motioned to approve the minutes, and Brian Hankins seconded the motion.

## Guest Speakers:

- Heather introduced our first guest speaker, Amanda Brubaker with Job Corps. Job Corps works with individuals 16–24-year-olds to assist them with obtaining their driver’s license, earning their high school diploma, and connecting them with a trade to complete. Amanda shared the various trades that are available for these students, and they can be viewed on the Job Corps Website. Amanda also shared that if a student would like to complete a training offered at a different Job Corps campus, they will assist students with transportation to get to that campus. Amanda shared that there are 2 Job Corps centers in West Virginia.
- Heather introduced our second guest speaker, Tia Wray from CONTACT Rape Crisis Center. Tia shared that they assist individuals that are affected by trafficking, stalking, protection orders, and physical and sexual assaults. Tia stated that they cover Cabell, Logan, Lincoln, Wayne, and Mingo Counties. Tia also provided information about a Volunteer Training Course on March 9<sup>th</sup> for anyone interested in volunteering. These volunteers can be the first pick for any job opportunities that open with CONTACT. Lastly, Tia shared that the age range for clients determines who they are referred to: anyone 15 and older is referred to their Adult Support Team while anyone under 15 is referred to their Children Support Team.
- Lastly, Heather introduced our last guest speaker, Katie Rose Garden with the American Cancer Society Career Action Network. Katie Rose shared that she works with Cancer Advocates and assists with civic engagement for young adults in the West Virginia. Katie Rose shared that they support these youth through these volunteer experiences to help get their voices heard.

### **Youth Presentation:**

- Heather began by introducing her Youth Career Planners Adam Warden and Courtney Harrison. Adam began by presenting new youth that started their Work Experience Contracts with Region 2 - Bryanna and Michelle. Adam continued to share about current youth on Work Experience Contracts at the Lavalette Goodwill – Jimbob and Lizzie. Heather discussed how we connect with employers to provide these opportunities and how we work with the youth's supervisor to make sure that the youth is growing their employable skills to make them a better employee. Next, Adam shared about a new youth, Jacob, that is currently on an On-the-Job Training Contract with Huntington Resources. Heather shared how we help youth that have prior work history enter new fields of work to grow their skills. Adam shared the next youth, Matthew, and how he is enrolled with 160 Driving Academy. Heather shared how we can assist with funding to help youth enter the career that they want to achieve. Adam provided an update on youth that are attending Huntington School of Beauty Culture and explained their progress in the program. Heather shared Zoe's experience at Boone Career and Technical Center where she completed the cosmetology program and is working towards her board certification. Heather shared Linda's progress with becoming a phlebotomy tech at Medcare Training Center. Adam and Heather shared the Open House events that took place in the Huntington and Logan offices through the last month along with our workshops and calendars. Lastly, Adam recognized Matthew for completing Penn Foster and earning his high school diploma.

### **Region 2 Youth Report**

- Melissa shared the challenges that we are seeing now with our Youth Program. Melissa challenged the partners to help refer youth to the program so they can receive additional assistance. Melissa discussed the barriers that the Youth Program looks for when it comes to eligibility. Melissa stated that she is working on changes to policy within the Youth Program. Melissa highlighted that the Youth Program needs to work on spending 20% of our funds on Work Experience. Lastly, Melissa shared One Stop referral forms to the partners and challenged them to refer new youth to the program.

**Adjourned at 2:14pm**

**Respectfully Submitted by Adam Warden**