

# Youth Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday

January 21, 2025

12:00 PM-2:00 PM

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

**Present:** Xena Bunton, Elizabeth McCulloch, Sarah Weimer, Amanda Brubaker; Region 2 Staff: Melissa Bias, Malissa Dishman, Heather Merritt, Courtney Harrison, and Adam Warden; attending virtually: Sherri Slone.

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

## Minutes:

- There was a motion to approve the minutes from our last meeting on 12.17.24. Amanda Brubaker motioned to approve the minutes and Malissa Dishman seconded the motion.

## Region 2 Youth Report:

- Melissa Bias shared we are seeing many youth facing challenges dealing with mental health issues. She discusses the need for Region 2 and our partners to work hand-in-hand to help our young population, by offering every resource available. Melissa requests for any young adults needing services to be referred to us; we can send the youth to our adult program if they do not qualify for our youth program.

## Guest Speakers introduced by Heather Merritt, Youth Supervisor:

- **Sherri Slone**- Transition Agent with Jobs & Hope WV. They serve Cabell, Wayne, Mingo, Lincoln, and Logan Counties. Jobs and Hope is designed to help individuals who are: a WV resident, 18 yrs. or older, and have a barrier to

entering the career force. They help with various barriers by using supportive services. Transportation is a big barrier in WV; they have 3<sup>rd</sup> party drivers who assist with transportation, and also TTA bus passes are available. Some services offered by Jobs & Hope are: Legal Aid Services, Child Care Services, Training, Wage Reimbursement, and Open Financial Assistance. They have Transition Agents in every county in the State of WV. All participants are worked with one-on-one, at least in the beginning of the program.

- **Elizabeth McCulloch**- Cabell Family Resource Network (FRN). The FRN connects families to central resources, services, or programs. They will be putting on Community Events such as: March 29<sup>th</sup> from 11am-2pm at the Family Support Center at Marcum Terrace. Elizabeth has started a blog on her website spotlighting her own experiences navigating the system getting assistance like: SNAP, WIC, Medicaid, Link, etc. She handed out the updated Cabell County Resource Guide.

#### **Youth Presentation:**

- Heather began by introducing her Youth Career Planners Adam Warden and Courtney Harrison. Adam began by and sharing his youth updates about: Kelsey, Megan, Joshua, and the new twins. Courtney discussed Autumn completing her training at Med-Care. We had a recent graduate, Brooklyn, who is a working with us as a W.E. in our Cabell Office. Heather and the Youth Career Planners spoke about the partnerships we are working on building relationships with to offer more resources.

#### **Open Floor Discussion**

- R2 WIB will hold Open Workshops each month. Information will be sent out virtually with more information.

#### **Adjourned at 1:15pm**

- Malissa Dishman motioned to adjourn the meeting and Amanda Brubaker seconded.

**Respectfully Submitted by Malissa Dishman**