

Youth Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday

July 25, 2024

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Region 2 WIB Logan Office

Meeting Facilitator: Melissa Bias, Executive Director of Region 2 Workforce Investment Board

Present: Melissa Bias (Executive Director Region 2 WIB), Region 2 WIB Staff: Heather Merritt, Malissa Dishman, Courtney Harrison, and Adam Warden. Region 2 WIB Youth: Levi Robertson and his Dad: Clifton Jarrett. Dejah Busby (R2 WIB Potential Youth), Bradlee Jordan (One-Stop/HRDF), Wesley Varney, Crystal Butcher, Kourtney Johnson, and Lisa Sigmon (Med Care Training Center), Lisa Hill (Step by Step), Amanda Brubaker (Job Corps), Kathy Stidham (PRIDE Community Services). Joined Virtually: Megan Smith (SASPRO).

Call to Order: Melissa Bias- R2 WIB Executive Director

Minutes: A motion to approve the June 2024 Minutes was made by Bradlee Jordan and seconded by Wesley Varney.

Executive Director Report:

- **Melissa Bias** welcomed everyone. She gave updates on our youth program. She spoke about the WIOA program, explaining that we need to get the DW's back into the workforce with training. Melissa Bias also informed every one of the WIOA Youth Program: OSY/ISY, about the eligibility process and the combination of challenges youth face. She shared that we are proud of our youth in our program and of the youth who we are celebrating today in our meeting who have graduated. Melissa Bias also talked about our One-Stop and Youth Council Meetings: in 2024 our providers can have the opportunity to host/provide the location of a meeting and give an on-site tour to those in attendance.

Youth Supervisor Report/Career Planner's Presentations:

- **Heather Merritt- Youth Supervisor:** Heather spoke to us about the eligibility process for youth to enroll in our WIOA Youth Program. She informed everyone that as long as a youth is age 18-24 and does not prefer to go through our youth program, the youth may be eligible to enroll in our WIOA Adult Program.
- **Adam Warden- Youth Career Planner:** Adam told us about Unlimited Future, who offers multiple business-type programs (in Huntington, WV or on Zoom). Cabell Co. resident's costs are currently "free" through a grant; other WV resident's costs are calculated by a sliding scale fee.

- **Adam** introduced our 2 youth who graduated this month: **Johnathan Smith** and **Levi Robertson**. Levi was present at our meeting and we celebrated with him by having a Graduation Ceremony. Adam presented Levi with his Penn Foster High School Diploma.
- **Heather Merritt** introduced our new Youth Career Planner: **Courtney Harrison**- who will be stationed at our Logan Region 2 WIB Office and will be working with our youth in our Southern Counties.

Heather Merritt introduced our **Guest Speakers**:

- **Crystal Butcher, Kourtney Johnson, Lisa Sigmon, and Wesley Varney (Med Care Training Center)**: Med Care puts out at least 100 students a year and 97% get job placement. They offer the MA Program, the LPN Program, and other classes. The programs take 22-24 weeks to complete. Med Care Training Center is located at: 1109 Holden Rd, Mt Gay-Shamrock, WV 25601.
- **Kathy Stidham (PRIDE Community Services)**: PRIDE has State/Federally funded grant programs. They employ 18 years and older with hands-on training; classes are paid for and wages are earned while in training. In-home services does not require a High School Diploma/GED to be employed; transportation is required. PRIDE offers the homeless a place to shower for free along with other resources. They work with the people in the community to collect and distribute resources to everyone in need. PRIDE offers: Senior Services, Head Start, Housing, In-Home Service for the elderly and disabled, Support Services for Veterans Families, Child & Adult Care Food Program, and Family Stabilization.
- **Lisa Hill (Step By Step)**: They recently opened the Family Support Center. They have a food pantry, hygiene pantry, baby pantry, Playground Programs, and others. They will be having a Back-to-School Clothing give-a-way coming up. Their facility is opened M-F 10am-4:30pm and is closed from 1pm-2pm for lunch. Their address is: 212 & 214 Dingess St., Logan, WV. In order to receive benefits from the Logan County Family Support Center, you will need to sign up. If you would like to donate or to know what's they offer, please send them an email at: logancountyfsc@stepbystepwv.org or call at: [\(304\) 414-4428](tel:3044144428).
- **Megan Smith (SASPRO)**: SASPRO opened in 2020. Megan is the Director of Education at SASPRO; campuses are located in Lavalette, WV, and Logan, WV. They offer 5 different programs. They became accredited in April 2024 and are currently waiting to be able to accept FAFSA. Please contact Megan at SASPRO with any questions at: megan.smith@saspro.beauty.

(Melissa Bias thanked everyone for coming.)

Adjourned at 1:39 pm

Respectfully Submitted by: Malissa Dishman