

# Youth Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday

November 26, 2024

12:00 PM-2:00 PM

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

**Present:** Brian Hankins, Rachel Patterson, Amanda Brubaker, Malayna Eubanks, Chad Barker, Jacob Messer, Tara Holstein, Region 2 Staff: Melissa Bias, Heather Merritt, Adam Warden, and Courtney Harrison

**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 10.22.24. Brian Hankins motioned to approve the minutes, and Amanda Brubaker seconded the motion.

## Region 2 Youth Report:

- Melissa shared that there are about 85% of youth that have earned their high school diploma from the recent enrollments in 2024. Melissa also shared that the Youth Program is actively looking for new enrollments to work on funding these youth to continue their successes. Heather shared the counties covered by the Youth Program. Lastly, Melissa shared the barriers and eligibility of the Youth Program.

## Guest Speakers:

- Heather introduced our first guest speaker, Chad Barker from the Boone County Sheriff's Department. Chad shared that he has a variety of roles of his service in Law Enforcement. Chad elaborated on some of his challenges in life and how he was able to overcome them. Chad discussed his involvement in his local community and the importance of working to encourage youth to continue to be involved. Chad shared the struggles of hiring and retaining police officers in

Boone County. Lastly, he shared the drug challenges in Boone County and how it has led to an increase of homelessness in the county.

- Heather introduced our next guest speaker, Dr. Jacob Messer, BCTC Principal/ Director and Boone County Commissioner. Dr. Messer shared his story of growth from where he started to where he has gotten to today from sports journalism to education. Dr. Messer discussed the Programs from Boone Career and Technical Center and new additions such as teaching pathways and CO-OP (career and work skills training along with education). Dr. Messer shared his goal for next year to include a firefighter/EMT program and Law Enforcement Pathway to be added to BCTC.
- Heather introduced our host from the Boone-Madison Library, Tara Holstein. Tara shared the resources available at the library. Tara also shared some holiday events that will be available at the local libraries in Boone County.

**Youth Presentation:**

- Heather began by introducing her Youth Career Planners Adam Warden and Courtney Harrison. Adam began by presenting the recent National Apprenticeship Fair that was hosted at our Cabell office on 11/19/2024. Adam continued by sharing his recent success stories for his youth. Courtney shared her youths' progress and her attendance at the Health Career and College Expo in Williamson. Lastly, Adam shared that there will be various workshops in the month of December to help encourage youth to grow their skills.

**Adjourned at 1:32pm**

**Respectfully Submitted by Adam Warden**