

Youth Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday

October 22, 2024

12:00 PM-2:00 PM

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

Present: Jennifer Carpenter, Ashley Alford Glance, Amanda Brubaker, Bradlee Jordan, Brian Hankins, Region 2 Staff: Heather Merritt, Adam Warden, Courtney Harrison, Region 2 Youth Piper Murray, Attending Virtually
Region 2 Staff: Melissa Bias and Malissa Dishman.

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 09.24.24. Bradlee Jordan motioned to approve the minutes and Amanda Brubaker seconded the motion.

Region 2 Youth Report

- Heather discussed the connections that the Region 2 Youth Staff are building by hosting the various Youth Council Meetings in our 7 counties. There are different barriers within our 7 counties that our youth face and Region 2 is connecting with the communities to better assist our youth. Heather discussed the need of Referrals for the Region 2 Youth Program so that individuals 16-24 can be connected to the resources that can help them succeed. Heather provided the contact for Adam Warden to attendees if they have anyone interested in finding out more about the Region 2 Youth Program and how to get connected with Bradlee Jordan through the One Stop in Region 2.

Guest Speakers:

- Heather introduced our host for the meeting, Ashley Alford Glance, President of the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce. Ashley shared the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce houses offices for Visitor Bureau, Development Authority, Solid Waste Authority, Coffee shop, and Co-Working Space. Ashley shared that a foundation was started last year to help expand their non-profit. The chamber can support the local business communities through networking opportunities, job placement, workforce development and lobbying for small business. There are 543 active members of the Putnam Chamber of Commerce. Ashley explained the Transportation support called Ride Ready which allows youth to receive transportation to work in areas that directly relate to their field of studies. The program is starting at Putnam County Career and Technical Center and plans to continue growing in the next 5 years. One of the

barriers in Putnam County is transportation. Ashley explained the Comeback Club with the goal helping women with reentering the workforce. Lastly Ashley shared a Job Fair that will be at Putnam Career and Technical Center on Thursday October 24th from 6-8pm.

- Heather introduced our next guest speaker Jennifer Carpenter from Putnam County Adult Basic Education. Jennifer explains that they are known for High School Equivalent but have other options for anyone. Jennifer shared the various certifications that they offer that can help grow a resume. Jennifer also shared that Adobe is something new being brought into the certification. SPOKES is also provided by Adult Basic Education through the Department of Human Services. There are also local college credits that can be earned to help someone earn entry level credits. Jennifer can assist anyone 16 and older if they are not tied to the school system. Jennifer shared that they are exploring integrated education and training programs which will prepare individuals for the jobs that employers need. CPR/First Aid courses also coming soon.

Youth Presentation:

- Heather began by introducing her youth career planners Adam Warden and Courtney Harrison. Adam began by presenting the recent youth graduates. Adam shared the story of Jimbob and Lizzie to build their work experience as they pursue their high school diploma. Adam then introduced Piper and let her share her experiences with the youth program. Piper shared that she would not be able to attend her dream of being a stylist without the assistance of Region 2 and Division of Rehabilitation. Adam shared that Piper has been progressing through Palm Beauty as she is working through nail technology. Courtney shared her youth Kylie and how she is continuing to find employment opportunities. Courtney shared Dezirea and how she faced challenges at the end of her training but was able to persevere and is now employed at Logan regional hospital. Adam shared that in November there will be a workshop that will be available to work with youth on different skills through the month of November. Lastly, Adam shared that the next youth council meeting would be on Tuesday November 26th at Madison Library in Madison, WV.

Open Floor Discussion

- Bradlee Jordan from the One Stop shared the apprenticeship fair on Tuesday November 19th from 9am-1pm.

Adjourned at 12:43pm

Respectfully Submitted by Adam Warden