

# Youth Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday

September 24, 2024

12:00 PM-2:00 PM

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

**Present:** Quinn Miller, Grace Williams, Tammy Estep, Bradlee Jordan, Amanda Brubaker, Alex Blankenship, Tawny Alley, Brian Hankins, Kaitlyn Blankenship, Kierstyn Vanover, Maddy Akers  
Region 2 Staff: Heather Merritt, Adam Warden, and Courtney Harrison, and Virtually Present  
Region 2 Youth: Hillary Muncy

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

## Guest Speakers:

- Heather introduced our host for the meeting, Quinn Miller, Director of Larry Joe Harless Community Center. Quinn shared that the Community Center has been around for 25 years giving Gilbert and surrounding areas the opportunity to have community engagement all in one place. Quinn continued his discussion by talking about their afterschool program where kids from all ages come by and are able to be in one place until parents can get off work to get their kids. Lastly, Quinn shared they are planning a trick-or-treat event at the community center in October for kids in the area to come out and enjoy.
- Heather introduced our next guest speaker Tammy Estep from WVU Extension. Tammy shared her program though WVU Extension focuses on agriculture and primarily works with the Mingo County 4-H Camp. Tammy continued to discuss that the agriculture projects are teen-lead to help build leadership skills for the teens in the program.

- Lastly, Heather introduced Grace Williams from Big Laurel Learning Center. Grace shared that the learning center is an area where youth can go for a summer camp in order to learn about nature, business, community, and connection. Grace shared that this is an opportunity for youth to connect with local businesses and to be able to give back to the community as they grow. Grace also mentioned that there is an opportunity for adults, members of the community, and companies to utilize the same services for retreats and workshops, as well.

**Youth Presentation:**

- Heather began by introducing her Youth Career Planners Adam Warden and Courtney Harrison. Adam began by recapping from last month's meeting by highlighting on last month's graduates and updates for both graduates. Adam continued to share two new Penn Foster graduates that earned their diplomas in the month of September. Adam introduced Hillary Muncy, one of our currently enrolled youth, and shared her story of where she was before the Youth Program and what the Youth Program has helped her achieve. Adam continued to share current success stories of youth across our counties. Lastly Adam shared flyers for our interview workshops and our next Youth Council Meeting.

**Adjourned at 1:39pm**

**Following the meeting was a tour of Larry Joe Harless Community Center.**

**Respectfully Submitted by Adam Warden**