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of South Central Kansas

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Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB) Youth Employment Committee Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2021 – 11:30 AM

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

The LWDB Youth Employment Committee assembled via ZOOM. Co-Chair Jennifer Hughes welcomed Committee members and called the meeting to order. As this was the first meeting for this committee, members were asked to provide self-introductions. Other appointments to the Committee may be made in the future and members were asked to suggest business and community leaders that they feel might bring value to the work of the committee. Staff are currently working with the YMCA, a HYPE partner, to appoint a representative from that organization to be on the committee.

2. **Committee Purpose and Establish Meeting Schedule**

One of the goals of the recently adopted 2020-2022 Workforce Alliance Strategic Plan is to enhance youth employment opportunities by expanding partnerships with businesses, schools and other community organizations. This will be the assignment for this committee and taking on this assignment for the LWDB to achieve this goal. Amy Williams noted that due to the current pandemic other people from their networking build upon momentum that was started before the pandemic. Jennifer Hughes stated that one of the goals before the pandemic was to increase outreach to parents to make them more aware of the programs and services that are available so they can promote to their children. Discussion took place in regard to a recurring meeting schedule for the committees. All agreed setting a schedule is important and meeting more often in the beginning may be necessary and then maybe every other month. Committee members will be polled as to their availability to meet the week of February 8th and again the week of March 8th and then assess schedules after that.

3. **Summary of the Youth Employment Project (YEP) and Overview of Helping Youth Prepare for Employment (HYPE)**

The Workforce Alliance's Youth Employment Project is one of the partners in the larger HYPE collaborative. WA operates YEP, which is administered through WA trainings and workshops, job placement and to help youth be more competitive in the job market. The City of Wichita has a youth employment program, Way to Work, and the YMCA has a Job Prep program. Both programs will be asked to present at the next Committee meeting. All of these programs are different but can complement each other. HYPE is the collaborative system of these three programs coming together in a sequential fashion. The Committee will be asked for recommendations on how these programs can work together better and build upon the current successes of each program. Also, to see where there is some overlap, so that a possible reduction in redundancies can occur and produce better outcomes. Another goal is to see how this collaboration can be replicated in other areas of the region. The Committee will have an opportunity to hear how these programs are operated, what the target audiences are and how they funded.

Report was received and filed.

4. **Helping Youth Prepare for Employment (HYPE) Report for 2020**

The goals and outcomes from the 2020 HYPE collaborative were reviewed. Participation had been increasing each year until the COVID situation began last year. Due to the pandemic, in-person workshops provided to students in the schools was not possible and job placements fell significantly. This year, WA staff are training school staff to provide workshop curriculum to students and report results back to WA staff for certificates and badges. In 2019, Camp HYPE was created to provide students with soft skills training and tours of area businesses and employers. The camp was structure was changed in 2020 due to COVID restrictions and it was hosted at the Wichita Workforce Center with smaller groups and health screenings funded by Spirit

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AeroSystems, Textron Aviation and trade partners. Soft skills training was provided in addition to presentations from community leaders. Upon successful completion of the camp, participants were given a \$200 stipend. A similar camp structure is planned for this year depending on COVID situation. Staff are also working with Kansas Department of Education on their Perkins V Work Based Learning Grant to improve communication and develop information to present to parents to help their children understand their career and education options. The Committee can assist staff in expanding employer partnerships to provide more job opportunities and apprenticeships, add employers to the work-based learning database and promote community engagement that helps to explain HYPE/YEP and how the programs benefits parents and students. The goal is to continue to build partnerships with employers and community centers and inform them about the support they can provide to and receive from WA programs.

The report was received and filed.

5. **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Program Overview:**

An overview and discussion of this program will be provided to the Committee at the next meeting.

6. **Other Discussion/Announcements**

There were no announcements or new business to discuss.

7. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM.

Attendees:

LWDB Youth Employment Committee Members

Rod Blackburn
Anne Marie Coughlin
Laura Hands
Jennifer Hughes
Angela Perez
Dr. Dennis Rittle
Sally Stang
Amy Williams

Staff/Guests

Stacy Cotten
Denise Houston
Aliex Kofoed
Keith Lawing
Shirley Lindhorst