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Workforce Alliance (WA) Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB)
Youth Employment Committee Meeting Notes
October 17, 2023 – 11:30 AM

1. Welcome and Introductions

The LWDB Youth Employment Committee assembled via ZOOM. Co-Chair Rod Blackburn called the meeting to order and asked for self-introductions. Jakobe Davidson, Spirit AeroSystems was introduced and Jennifer Avery with the Wichita Children's Home attended for Committee Member Debbie Kennedy. A quorum was not present.

2. Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) Performance Report for Youth Program - Final Report Program Year 2022 (PY 22)

Final performance reporting for the WIOA Youth Program were presented. Performance reporting for Program Year 2022 (PY22) began on July 1, 2022 and ended on June 30, 2023; reports have been submitted to the Department of Labor. The WIOA Youth program met all of the goals for all five of their performance measures (Placement in Employment, Education, or Training 2nd Quarter, Placement in Employment, Education, or Training 4th Quarter, Credential Rate, Measurable Skills Gain, and Median Earnings). Statewide, four of the goals were met; the only goal not met was for Credential Attainment and it was very close. No corrective action plan is necessary for LAIV or the State. Staff have engaged in outreach activities that have significantly increased the number of participants and the quality of enrollments. In PY22, 112 customers were enrolled in the program, an increase of about 40 participants from the previous program year. Staff feel this is due to working with community partners and building relationships. Blackburn noted that in the early years of WIOA, many measures were not met and asked about the significant improvement. Houston explained that with the shift from WIA to WIOA requiring serving out-of-school youth rather than in-school youth, there was a large learning curve. Staff have had to diversify the target population and expand outreach to referral providers to increase the number of participants. Staff also contracted with Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation (CPRF) to provide youth element services. A larger number of participants provides more opportunity to meet performance measures.

Report was received and filed.

3. Work-Based Learning (WBL) Project Update

A report of statewide WBL outcomes was not available as not all Local Areas (LA) had submitted their numbers by the date of this meeting. Preliminarily, 3,800 students have been served statewide in the 3rd quarter with 1,760 being in LAIV. 37 school districts statewide were served with 11 being in LAIV. 106 schools statewide and 24 from LAIV. Other data being tracked is the total number of WBL experiences provided (classroom encounters, job shadowing, mock interviews, facility tours, paid and unpaid internships), which was 91 in LAIV and the number of referrals to the WIOA Youth Program is ten statewide and three in this area so far this year. Once all numbers have been submitted to the Kansas Department of Commerce, staff will provide that information to Committee members. The program is in its 4th year and tracking is being enhanced in order to provide a better measure of outcomes. Blackburn asked the WBL Intermediaries what activities they will be engaging in in the near future. Auston Cooley and Amanda Hill are making presentations to schools, working with counselors to determine student needs by way of financial literacy education, career fairs, facility tours during the summer, providing Essential Skills workshops and promoting the YEP program.

Report was received and filed.

4. 2023 Youth Employment Project (YEP) Draft Final Report

A draft of the YEP final report for 2023 was reviewed. The report includes a comparison of this year's numbers to last year's and the goals for this year. The number of students served increased from 3,583 to 5,732. There was also an increase in the number of students employed and the total amount

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of wages earned. The report includes a breakdown of students who gained employment, demographics and feedback from the students that participated in the program. Helping Youth Prepare for Employment (HYPE) career camps are completed for the summer. More camps were offered this year and there was significantly higher participation in each camp than last year with 20 to 25 participants per camp. This report will be finalized and presented to the Board at its meeting next week and then posted to the WA website. The change in 2021 to 2023 is mostly attributable to COVID as staff were not allowed in the schools at that time and the hiring of the new WBL staff.

Caitlyn Gregory asked if there were any plans to work with local businesses to address the need for more summer internships as Textron had to turn down 350 young people that wanted to work and they could only hire 150. Textron would like to assist in working to come up with a plan to provide alternative to these youth. Duncan indicated that some efforts were made last year to reach out to some of these youth but, ran into some challenges that can hopefully be overcome this year. It is a priority for staff to work with community organizations to identify and be able to offer other internship opportunities. Blackburn suggested possibly getting vendors involved in hiring youth.

Report was received and filed.

5. Roadtrip Nation (RTN) – Paths Across Kansas

The WA, Wichita Public Schools (WPS), WSU and WSU Tech, along with other partners worked with RTN to develop a career exploration toolkit, [Build Your Future / Wichita \(roadtripnation.com\)](#) and documentary highlighting the employment opportunities in South Central Kansas, [Paths Across Kansas / Roadtrip Nation](#). The first episode of the documentary aired on PBS Kansas on September 28th and the second episode aired on October 5th. The project partners hosted a premier event at Exploration Place on September 28 that was attended by 145 community, education, and business leaders. Attendees had an opportunity to hear from creators of the film and Kelly Bielefeld, WPS Superintendent, moderated a panel discussion with the roadtrippers. The majority of attendees at the event were area teachers, with a goal to help get the stories, tools, and resources created by Roadtrip Nation into classrooms all across the state. The WA was also able to include WIOA Youth and YEP participants at the event and are actively using the RTN curriculum with these young adults.

Report was received and filed.

6. Consent Agenda

Minutes from the August 15, 2023 meeting, an update on the current Program Year 2023 budget and a final report on the 2023 Jobs FORE Youth Golf Tournament were presented to the Committee for review.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 PM.

Attendees:

LWDB Youth Employment Committee Members

Rod Blackburn, Partners in Education
Caitlyn Gregory, Textron Aviation
Jennifer Avery for Debbie Kennedy, Wichita
Children's Home

Staff/Guests

Auston Cooley
Chelsea Daniel
Amanda Duncan
Amanda Hill
Denise Houston
Shirley Lindhorst
KC Schumacher
Chad Pettera
Jakobe Davidson, Spirit AeroSystems
Deb Weve, Job Corps