

Youth Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday

April 30, 2024

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Huntington One-Stop Office (2nd Floor)

Meeting Facilitator: Melissa Bias, Executive Director of Region 2 Workforce Investment Board

Present: Chairman Charles Shaw, Melissa Bias (Executive Director Region 2 WIB), Region 2 WIB Staff: Heather Merritt, Malissa Dishman, and Burcu Delph. Region 2 WIB Youth: Carmen Hill. Tali Gaydosz (COTRAIC), Derek Hagler (Branches), Janet Gaither (Prestera), Angela Stanton (CCCS/Goodwill), Linda Meade (WCCSO), Dessa Fairchild and Emma Dalton (The Center), Rachel Patterson (DoHS), Bradlee Jordan (One-Stop/HRDF), Kaitlyn Blankenship DHS/Youth Services, Olivia Bird and Katlan Maynard (MCTC), Xena Buntun (HJC), Brian Hankins (Wayne DoHS), and Terri Lynn Queen (Wayne Co. BOE).

Call to Order: Pastor Charles Shaw – Youth Chair

Prayer: Pastor Charles Shaw

Minutes: A motion to approve the March 2024 Minutes was made by Brian Hankins and seconded by Burcu Delph.

Executive Director Report:

- **Melissa Bias** welcomed everyone and had introductions of all the partners present at the meeting. Melissa Bias explained that R2 WIB can pay up to \$5,000.00/yr but also can pay up to \$10,000.00 per two years for a youth to go to training; we can pay \$1,500.00 Supportive Services. Melissa Bias turned the meeting over to Heather Merritt, Youth Supervisor.

Youth Supervisor Report/Career Planner's Presentations:

- **Heather Merritt** introduced our Guest Speakers:
 - **Kaitlyn Blankenship- Youth Services DHS:** Kaitlyn informed everyone of her job working with youth 12-18 years old at-Risk Youth & Families who are struggling; youth not going to school, not following rules, committing crimes... things of that nature. She reminded us that anyone can make a referral. They offer in-home therapy, tutoring, along

with multiple resources to help youth trying to keep them from having to be referred to CPS and beyond.

- **Linda Meade- Executive Director for Wayne Co. Comm. Services:** Linda has been the Director since 2017. She talked to us about In-home Care Programs. They employ close to 85 people. They need referrals for employees who must be at least 18 years old and can pass a criminal background check. Employees will be able to earn their CPR/First Aid and Basic Skills Training which will help them get into the Health-Care Field.
- **Angela Stanton- VP Financial Goodwill:** Angela spoke to us about Debt Management Plans offered, a Home Buyer's Education Online Course they offer, and a "Make Your Move" course offered (cost is \$35.00; take it at your own pace and earn a certificate). She gave us all great advice on financial budgeting and strategies on how to save some money (even on groceries/not wasting leftover food).

Heather Merritt- Youth Supervisor: Heather spotlighted some of our R2 WIB Youth. She explained to us what the Virtual Headsets are that we use to help youth with career exploration. The Youth Career Planners, along with Heather, informed every one of the tours and workshops that R2 WIB Staff and youth have been attending.

Upcoming Events:

- **The Center:** Resource Fair- July 20th.

Adjourned at 1:39 pm

Respectfully Submitted by: Malissa Dishman