

Youth Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday

February 27, 2024

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Huntington One-Stop Office

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, Affiona Brown, Burcu Delph, and Jakki Jackson. Region 2 WIB Youth: Carmen Hill; Virtual Youth: Jakob Quintero and Chris Daniels. Tammy Quinonez and Florida Kibble (HWVHA), George New (Wayne County BOE), Sally Nelson (Goodwill), Tali Gaydosz (COTRAIC), Kaitlyn Blankenship (Youth Services/DHS), and Stephanie Crozier (Division of Juvenile Services).

Call to Order: Pastor Charles Shaw – Youth Chair

Prayer: Pastor Charles Shaw

Motion to approve February Youth Council Minutes: was made by George New and seconded by Tali Gaydosz.

Executive Director Report:

- **Melissa Bias** welcomed everyone and introduced all the partners present at the meeting. She explained that the WIOA funding was cut again. Ms. Bias reminded everyone the focus on the Youth Program must be on enrollment. She has organized an Open-Enrollment Event at our Cabell Office to be held February 28, 2024. Melissa Bias also spoke about the Youth Program's Work Experience Contracts. Employers will be reimbursed at 100% for the first 500 hours the youth for the employer. Melissa Bias introduced Heather Merritt to Spotlight the Youth Program.

Youth Presentations:

- **Heather Merritt:** The Youth Staff Spotlighted 3 youth including: Samantha Blackburn, Elias Hill, and Chris Daniels. The Youth Staff discussed February's workshops and outreach efforts. They also encouraged those in attendance to share the upcoming open-enrollment event on Feb. 28th.
- **Heather Merritt told everyone of some of the events Region 2 WIB has been attending:** Mountwest FAFSA Event, Chase Bank Financial Literacy with Chase Bank and Goodwill (classes held at our Cabell office), Youth Valentine's Day Workshop

(making Valentine's Day cards/goodie bags to give to the homeless at The Center Youth Opportunity Hub), Mountaineer Challenge Academy, Re-Pack the Backpack at the Huntington Mall, The Point Café using our Career Exploration VR Headsets, and our Blenko Glass Tour.

- **Heather announced some upcoming events:** Open-Enrollment Event Feb. 28th, Training Provider Meeting Feb. 28th, CPR/First Aid/and Narcan Training for our Youth, One-Stop Meeting March 5th, and the Resource Fair March 27th.
- **Melissa Bias, Executive Director,** announced she will be the One-Stop Coordinator for the March 5th One-Stop Meeting 12:00pm-2:00pm.
- **Pastor Charles Shaw** did a Facebook Live Video for our Region 2 WIB Youth Program, with the staff and himself, to share our program's information to the community.

Adjourned at 1:13 pm

Respectfully Submitted by: Malissa Dishman