

# Youth Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday

October 24, 2023

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 (Region 2 WIB), Malissa Dishman (Region 2 WIB), Affiona Brown (Region 2 WIB), Burcu Delph (Region 2 WIB), Jakki Jackson (Region 2 WIB), John Brown (Catholic Charities), Tara Molinaro (Catholic Charities), Angela Jones (WV.GOV), Anna Dishman (Region 2 WIB Youth), Jay Harsh (Region 2 WIB Youth), Sam Harsh (Jay's Dad), Emma Ferguson (Region 2 WIB Youth), Danny Ferguson (Emma's Dad), Drake Ferguson (Emma's Brother), Deanna Boykin and Dee Childers (Emma Ferguson's Mom & Grandma), Jill Goheen (MAMC), Tonya Wallace (WVDRS), Rachel Patterson (DHHR), and Tali Gaydosz (COTRAIC).

**Call to Order: Pastor Charles Shaw – Youth Chair**

## **Minutes:**

- There was a motion to approve the minutes for our last meeting on 09.26.23. Jill Goheen motioned to approve the minutes and Tali Gaydosz seconded the motion.

## **Executive Director Report:**

- Melissa Bias thanked everyone for attending the Career Fair held on October 17th.
- Melissa Bias introduced Anna Dishman, a youth working for Region 2 WIB on a work experience contract. She is now acting as a Lead Youth reaching out to our Youth in our program encouraging participation and attendance at our events and to continue on their journey toward reaching their goals.
- Melissa Bias spoke of the 14 Elements that are the Goals of our Youth Program.
- Melissa Bias introduced Emma Ferguson, whom we celebrated her accomplishments during the Youth Council Meeting.

## Youth Presentations:

- **Affiona Brown** told us about 2 of her youth, Gabe and Tucker, began at the end of July attending CDL classes. She also told us about Autumn who is a youth working and attending LPN school. One of Affiona's new youth attended our meeting, Jay Harsh (and his Dad), who she briefly introduced, and Jay greeted us giving insight into his future plans.
- **Burcu Delph** reported that two of her youth, Brianna Kirk and Kaitlyn Moore, both recently graduated from their LPN Program.
- **Jakki Jackson** gave an update on her youth, Jacob Davenport, who recently joined the United States Army. He shipped out Sunday, October 22, 2023, heading to Missouri for Basic Training for 14 weeks. He will then go to Houston for 16 weeks for medical training (which he decided after using our VR Headsets to do Career Exploration in our office); after his training is complete, Jacob will be stationed in Alaska for 3 years.
- **We held a Graduation Ceremony for Ms. Emma Ferguson for her great accomplishment of completing Penn Foster High School. Emma walked down the aisle as the Graduation Song played and those in attendance stood around the room. Melissa Bias, E.D., and Pastor Charles Shaw, Youth Chair, presented Emma with her High School Diploma; pictures were taken with Emma having staff and her family surrounding her. We celebrated with lunch, cupcakes, and decorations; Emma loved taking pictures with the photo backdrop for her "Graduation 2023" party.**

Adjourned at 12:51 pm

Respectfully Submitted by: Malissa Dishman