



Carroll County Workforce Development Youth and Young Adult Standing Committee

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

CCWD Office, 9:15 am

Attendees: Chris Abell, Zach Tomlin, Leslie Chesley, Peg Ryan, Bill Eckles, Bobbi Hollingsworth, Stacey Watts, Ashley Roper, Corey Hardinger, Ed Singer, Heather Powell, Tammy Haines, Eileen Vozzella, Darian Rahnis, Ashley Farver, and Shelby O'Leary.

Guests: Aleah Williams, Tim Michaels, and Kim Samuelson

Ms. Vozzella started the meeting at 9:16 am.

1. **Welcome and Introductions-** Ms. Vozzella began committee member introductions.
2. **Summer Youth Program Successes-** Ms. Vozzella shared the highlights of the 2023 summer youth employment program with the committee. Participants of the program have barriers to employment such as low income, low literacy, disability, ex-offender, etc. The youth are matched up with an employer that fits to the participant's interests and abilities. They also participate as a cohort in enrichment days led by the CCWD staff that focus on soft skills, career readiness, and hard skills. Ms. Vozzella shared a video experience from Juliana, a participant who had a great experience in the summer youth program. Kim Samuelson, program director of MAGIC, shared her positive experience of sponsoring 4 participants. Mr. Abell spoke to his experience hosting a participant, specifically how he handled teaching the soft skills, how to boost confidence in the youth.

Ms. Rahnis presented on the success of the enrichment days. The Carroll County Health Department, the Carroll County Technology and Innovation Council, Exploration Commons, and Carroll County Government Payroll office were presenters on the cohort enrichment days. The CCWD youth staff led discussions with the cohort on soft skills training, asking questions such as "What is appropriate to talk about at work? How can you have empathy at the workplace both with coworkers and customers?" At Exploration Commons, the youth learned how to create their designs on computer software and then safely use industrial laser engraving machine and the large poster machine. The Carroll County Health department spoke with the youth on the topics of setting goals, communication styles, and stress management. The Carroll County Government Payroll department helped the youth to understand their paycheck. The

CCWD youth staff also worked with the cohort to develop their resumes and arranged mock interviews for them with either one of the adult employment consultants or business services consultants. At the end-of-program celebration event, the cohort visited MAGIC and were given a tour of robotics center. They also heard a presentation from the four participants who worked at MAGIC during the program.

Ms. Rahnis shared the results from the 2023 Summer Youth Participant Survey. Overall, the youth reported that they felt more prepared for their future careers. They said they gained confidence, learned how to work with adults, learned how to deal with negativity, and maintain a positive attitude. They enjoyed the interactive presentations at enrichment days, appreciated the knowledge and tips that they were given, and benefited from the teamwork and teambuilding.

Ms. Vozzella asked the committee “Where can the program go from here? How can we grow the program, even without additional funding?” Mr. Abell questioned if the youth program could be tied into the apprenticeship program with CCPS. Mr. Tomlin encouraged more branding & increased awareness among the corporate community. Ms. Watts spoke on the partnership with DORS and how there could be leveraging of the MOU that exists between CCWD and DORS to incorporate more participants.

3. **Blueprint Implementation Update-** Ms. Watts and Mr. Eckles agreed to arrange a meeting between DORS and the career coaches at CCPS. Mr. Eckles and Ms. Hollingsworth shared the “school within the school” is a new initiative stemming from the Blueprint plan, where a small staff works directly with students with barriers, to ensure that those students are not just doing the bare minimum or getting left behind. Mr. Eckles reported that CCPS has hired all the new career coaches. He said that the high school apprenticeship program will have 27 students finish this year, which is more than was expected. CCPS is an official apprenticeship host now as well and will be hiring students as education apprenticeships in the spring. Ms. Powell shared that CCWD has hired Ashley Farver as Career Navigator and are about to make an offer to the other Career Navigator and Blueprint Manager. Mr. Eckles shared that the delay on using Pathful software is because of a new state law effective September 1, requiring CCPS use an “expert” to certify accessibility qualifications before it can be used. The definition of who can qualify as an “expert” is unclear and requires further research before Pathful can be used in the school. Ms. Watts offered DORS assistance as an “expert”.
4. **Committee Direction/Survey Results-** Ms. Vozzella described the program year considerations. The CCWD youth team want to lay a mentoring program that meets WIOA qualifications that fits pathways for participants. She asked the committee “What are the critical components of the 12-month CCWD/WIOA out of school mentoring

program?” The committee suggested financial literacy, work life balance (mental health), overcoming the transportation challenge (Caroline County transportation project outcomes), focusing on leveraging partners, childcare resources, teaching social equity, and ability, addressing sibling care issues, awareness of substance abuse, etc. Ms. Vozzella stated they will consider these components and present the first outline of the mentoring program at the April committee meeting.

5. **Committee Member Updates-** There were no member updates at this time.

Ms. Vozzella adjourned the meeting at 10:45 am.

Submitted by Shelby O'Leary on 10/19/2023