



Carroll County Workforce Development Youth and Young Adult Standing Committee

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Stratosphere Social, 9:15 am

Attendees: Zach Tomlin, Bryan Zuber, Leslie Chesley, Peg Ryan, Stacey Watts, Steve Berry, Ed Singer, Heather Powell, Eileen Vozzella, Darian Rahnis, Tammi Casson, and Shelby O'Leary.

Guests: none.

Ms. Vozzella started the meeting at 9:20 am.

1. **Welcome and Introductions-** Ms. Vozzella welcomed the committee members and began introductions. Mr. Zuber led the committee through a tour of his facility.
2. **First Convening Outcomes-** Ms. Powell shared that the first convening of the Carroll County Workforce Board was a success, even though the original date had to be rescheduled due to weather. There were a little over 70 people in attendance. The focus of the convening was how youth are the future talent pipeline. The presenters discussed the importance of engage youth and show them all their future possibilities, not only the college route. Bob Stokes, Southern Regional Education Board, presented on how the Blueprint plan does just that.
3. **Program Updates-**
 - a. EQUATE Grant Update- Ms. Powell shared that unfortunately, Maryland was not chosen for the pilot of the Maryland State Department of Labor and Maryland Department of Disabilities' Maryland Equity and Engagement for Transition Success (MD EQUATE) grant application by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy. The CCWD staff continues to look for other funding opportunities.
 - b. ARPA Funding- Ms. Powell stated that CCWD is in the second year of ARPA funds. The funds must be obligated by December 2024 as the grant twilights.
 - c. Transfr VR- Ms. Powell reported that CCWD has purchased VR headsets and software. They will be used for career exploration and on-demand training.
 - d. Key Bridge Collapse Response- Ms. Powell said there are five dislocated workers and no businesses identified in Carroll County that were affected by the Key Bridge collapse yet. The most effected individuals and businesses will be the

independent contractors, such as CDL drivers. She also stated that there is a link to the MDOT key bridge collapse resource page on the CCWD website.

- e. Maryland Workforce Association- Ms. Powell shared that she has been elected the Vice President of the Maryland Workforce Association. MWA is working very closely with the Accountability & Implementation Board (AIB) to promote the goals of the Blueprint plan.
 - f. CCWD Youth & Young Adult Program- Ms. Vozzella announced the initiation of a formal mentoring program that meets WIOA regulations and provided members with a program description. Ms. Vozzella informed the group that this year the Summer Youth Program has expanded from 11 participants to a goal of 50 participants, with a cohort of 10 participants through DORS due to ARPA funding. She asked the committee to help advise as to other funding opportunities in the future, since the ARPA funding is sunseting. Ms. Vozzella discussed the continuation of the ARPA internship grants for Carroll County Public School seniors. Without an alternative funding source, the program may not continue past this year.
4. **Young Adult Program Customer Success Profiles**- Ms. Rahnis shared with the committee the Young Adult Program Customer Success Profile sheet. She highlighted that more than half of the paid work experience (PWEX) participants were hired by their employer or by an employer in the same field since January 2023.
5. **Blueprint Update**- Ms. Chesley and Ms. Casson reported that the staff in the schools are welcoming the career coaches and career navigators. The partners continue to work very well together. They are currently working on a service project that connects the community and the employer. They continue their efforts to find businesses for job shadowing. Students are using the Pathful Explore software in the middle schools, with 5900 students logging 4500 hours. Ms. Casson stated Transfr VR goggles and software will be deployed late spring in the high schools, targeting seniors who have not identified a pathway.
6. **Committee Member Updates**- Mr. Singer shared that there will be a free Homelessness Services Summit on May 21st at Carroll Community College. The purpose is to hear experiences from the homeless population and have a discussion on improving the situation.

Ms. Vozzella adjourned the meeting at 10:40 am.

The next meeting will be virtual on Wednesday, July 17th at 2pm.

Submitted by Shelby O'Leary on 5/8/2024