



Carroll County Workforce Development Youth and Young Adult Standing Committee

Wednesday, July 17, 2024

Hybrid Meeting: Zoom and Carroll Community College, 2:00 pm

Attendees: Zach Tomlin, Bryan Zuber, Bill Eckles, Leslie Chesley, Peg Ryan, Stacey Watts, Molly Allen, Chris Miller, Reid Oliver, Tammy Ledley, Molly Sherman, Heather Powell, Tammy Haines, Eileen Vozzella, Darian Rahnis, Tammi Casson, Stanley Whiteman, Franklin Miguel Kelly, Nathan McConarty, and Shelby O’Leary.

Guests: Teresa Mena

Ms. Vozzella started the meeting at 2:03 pm.

1. **Welcome and Introductions-** Ms. Vozzella welcomed the committee members and began introductions. She especially welcomed the new committee members, Molly Allen, Molly Sherman, Tammy Ledley, Reid Oliver, Nathan McConarty, and Franklin Miguel Kelly. Ms. Vozzella and Ms. Powell shared a brief overview of CCWD, current funding, trends, and performance outcomes. Mr. Eckles and Ms. Chesley provided additional insights to the data presented from the MSDE Report Card for Maryland.
2. **Summer Youth Program-** Ms. Rahnis shared an overview of the Summer Youth Employment Program. The program is for 16–18-year-olds with self-reported barriers to employment such as low income, basic skills deficient, disability, etc. The goal is to provide the youth their first work experience and help with soft skills. The youth and young adult staff hold enrichment days on Wednesdays that focus on soft skills and career exploration. Ms. Rahnis also stated that they are partnering with Department of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) to run a pilot program with a cohort of five of their participants participating in the enrichment activities on Wednesdays. She also stated that Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) has provided funding for kids with a juvenile record to participate in the Summer Youth Program, of which there are currently 3 youth.

Ms. Rahnis reported that the funding through Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) has been trending slightly downward and will not be able to support the program as it stands now alone at this level in future years. This year, there were 40 participants, with 32 funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and 8 through WIOA. She stressed that an additional funding source is necessary to help grow this program even further.

Mr. Kelly & Mr. McConarty introduced themselves as the Youth Program Interns. They stated that the SYP enrichment activities focus on-the-job success training, resume creation/editing, career exploration, financial literacy, and soft skills. The participants will attend job fairs and business panels and participate in mock interviews and virtual reality career exploration activities. Mr. Kelly and Mr. McConarty shared the participating host businesses in the program: Restivo Auto Body and Towing Inc., Autumn Lake healthcare at Long View, the Y of Central Maryland, Stratosphere Social, Habitat for Humanity ReStore, MAGIC, BrightView Senior Living Westminster Ridge, Lorien Taneytown, Carroll Lutheran Village, Brian Safe Haven, Human Services Program, Laughing Coffin, and Sober Truth.

3. Program Year 2024 Challenges & Opportunities-

- a. **Observations & Trends-** Ms. Haines reported that there is a slight decrease in enrolled WIOA and ARPA customers from last year. This means fewer are ready to work and/or commit to enroll in CCWD services. She stated there is consistency over the last five years in the top three barriers to employment: disability, basic skills, and low income. Ms. Haines said 77% of WIOA participants were employed or in training at time of exit in the last program year.
 - b. **Challenges-** Ms. Rahnis reported an increase of mental health challenges for youth and young adults. She reiterated the current decrease in WIOA funding and how the ARPA funding must be obligated by December 31, 2024. She also stated that challenges result from siloed youth services in the county, meaning there is no central point of entry and collaboration between partner organizations can be challenging. She concluded with the ongoing challenge of engaging youth before they exit the school system. There is the question of readiness, desire, or ability to work, and transportation needs of youth and young adults.
 - c. **Opportunities-** Ms. Rahnis emphasized the need to maximize and engage community partnerships, seek additional funding services, increase participation in state-led initiatives to boost public awareness of apprenticeships, and establish more registered apprenticeships. She also stressed the importance of using CCWD business services, tools, and assessment resources (mock interviews, blind resumes, joint job fairs, CareerScope, TransfrVR, and Pathful), and this committee to continue to grow the youth and young adult program.
- 4. Blueprint Update-** Ms. Casson shared the progress of the Blueprint program. The team has attended CCPS year end meetings and continued to strengthen the relationship between CCPS and CCWD. They are developing a pilot program for resume instruction at Francis Scott Key High School that will begin at the start of the 2024-2025 school year. They continue to develop experimental learning programs such as service-learning opportunities and with businesses such as Northrop Grumman. Ms. Casson stated that the Pathful Explore software has continued to be a successful digital literacy tool for the

program. Ms. Chesley added that they are continuing to look at data on Pathful to adjust the curriculum to fit the needs and interests of the students. They are also working on attaining industry recognized credentials for business students.

5. **Apprenticeships-** Ms. Mena announced that Stratosphere Social (Bryan Zuber) is the first business to sign up for the hospitality apprenticeship program at Carroll Community College. She also said that First Class Mechanical, Flowserve, Community Media Center, Simple Cell, and other local businesses are hosts for registered apprenticeships. Ms. Mena continues to work to increase business participation for apprenticeships according to jobseeker interests.
6. **October Meeting, Facilitated Discussion-** Ms. Vozzella and Ms. Powell shared that the October meeting will be a larger meeting that will include the greater community. The committee will invite businesses and partners to join for a comprehensive look at youth as the future talent pipeline.
7. **Committee Member Updates-** No committee updates.

Ms. Vozzella adjourned the meeting at 3:10 pm.

The next meeting will be in October. Date and time are TBD.

Submitted by Shelby O'Leary on 7/25/2024