



Carroll County Workforce Development Youth and Young Adult Standing Committee

Wednesday, October 16, 2024

Exploration Commons, 9:30 am

Attendees: Zach Tomlin, Bryan Zuber, Leslie Chesley, Stacey Watts, Molly Allen, Reid Oliver, Tammi Ledley, Ed Singer, Franklin Miguel Kelly, Nathan McConarty, Heather Powell, Tammy Haines, Eileen Vozzella, Tammi Casson, Stanley Whiteman, and Shelby O'Leary.

Guests: Teresa Mena

Ms. Vozzella started the meeting at 9:35 am.

1. **Welcome and Introductions-** Ms. Vozzella welcomed the committee members and began introductions.
2. **Summer Youth Program Recap-** Ms. Vozzella shared a brief overview of the success of the Summer Youth Employment Program. This year 37 youth were placed at 15 businesses for the six-week program. The number of businesses grew from eight to 15 businesses, an 87% increase, and the number of youth participants expanded 16 to 37 participants, a 131% increase. Because of this increase, the program was able to expand and hire two college-student interns to assist with the work. This year, 86% of participants reported that they felt better prepared for their next interview and job. Ms. Vozzella said the goals for the program for next year are to grow the partnership with the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services and to increase the cohort Department of Rehabilitation Services for the enrichment days.
3. **CCWD Updates-**
 - a. Youth and Young Adult Program-Ms. Vozzella shared about the fact that the ARPA funding is expiring, so they continue to look for other funding opportunities to continue to grow the program. Darian Rahnis has resigned her position, and they are in the process of hiring her replacement. Ms. Vozzella and Ms. Haines commented on the work they have done to promote paid work experiences. Ms. Powell also shared about the Justice System to Careers Initiative (JSCI) with the Department of Juvenile Services and Carroll Community College. This partnership will be extremely beneficial to serve the justice-involved community.
 - b. Workforce Updates- Ms. Powell reported that she attended a conference in Philadelphia for the region U.S. Department of Labor. She mentioned one of the

themes of the conference was that the WIOA funding would be slimming down in the future, therefore stressing the importance of finding alternate funding opportunities. She also mentioned the success of the Raising the Bar Conference, put on by the Maryland Workforce Association, with 1100 attendees each day of the conference and 500 attendees on the Blueprint-focused post-conference day. Ms. Powell also shared that the recent U.S. Department of Labor audit went well, with some small recommendations on policy.

4. **Blueprint Update-** Ms. Chesley reported they are on the second year of the program and continue to adjust the curriculum to the individual needs of the students, counselors, and schools. The CTE office continues to handle all apprenticeships.

Ms. Casson reported that they have hired Jacob Fernandez for the vacant career navigator position. He will start on Thursday, October 24th. The Blueprint team continues to have a great relationship with Carroll County Public Schools. They continue to work on forming and strengthening relationships with businesses in coordination with Economic Development. They also have over 60 applications for the ARPA incentive internship program.

5. **Apprenticeships-** Ms. Mena announced that Carroll County has 194 apprentices and 11 employers. Mr. Singleton reported on the last apprenticeship committee meeting. He said there was a great conversation with many partners in the room. He shared data on employment, both nationally and in Carroll County. He said the national unemployment rate is 4.1%, while Carroll County's is 2.8%. He also mentioned that jobs were increasing in hospitality, healthcare, construction nationally and in Carroll County those industries as well as transportation and manufacturing are increasing. The national average wage rate is \$35/hour and it is \$30/hour in Carroll County. He also said that only 62% of the labor force is participating in the labor market, which begs the question: what can be done to help people enter or re-enter the workforce?
6. **Planning Session for Future Convening-** The committee discussed plans for the upcoming convening that will take place in the spring of 2025. Speaker topics included transportation, generational separation, social equity, effects of COVID-19 on youth, apprenticeships, and alternate pathways to college. The committee decided to invite the public, specifically businesses to the convening. Further detailed information about the convening will be emailed to the committee.

7. **Committee Member Updates-** No committee updates.

Ms. Vozzella adjourned the meeting at 11:00 am.

The next meeting will be the convening event in the spring. Date and time are TBD.

Submitted by Shelby O'Leary on 10/22/2024