

## SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

### Draft Minutes of the Youth Committee Meeting

Friday, March 1, 2024, at 2:00 am EDT

**Attending:** Committee members: Chrisi Barker, Evann Freeman Gary Behler, Grant Roddy, Hannah Young, Carol Johnson, sandy Pricer, Stephanie Athalone, Jennifer Thacker, Brittany Cannon, Jeanetta Smith. SETD staff: Maty Patton, Christi Chapman, Michele Holt, and Allison Schiavo; Youth Services Provider staff: Nedra Wakefield.

#### Approval of minutes

Evann Freeman called the meeting to order at 2:04 pm and gave a brief welcome to all guests in attendance. After brief introductions, he presented the minutes from the November 13, 2023, meeting for approval. Grant Roddy made a motion to accept the minutes with a second by Carol Johnson. The motion was carried unanimously.

#### Youth Program Oversight

Mr. Freeman called on Maty Partin to give the program oversight. Ms. Partin started with the monitoring report, sent out prior to the meeting, had no significant changes from the previous report. She stated EDSI has passed the goal of 150 enrollments for phase 2 and will continue to enroll until the end of phase 2. However, the board staff has noticed a decline in Title 1 enrollments which causes us to not meet our KPI's for quarter 2.

With no questions about the monitoring report, she continues to present the top 5 clusters and pathways data pulled from YouScience. She noted there were no significant changes since the last time she reported them. She noted both reports show teaching and teaching as a profession as the top occupation for almost all offices in Southeast. This could be due to the Grow Your Own Teaching apprenticeship. With no questions, she continued to note the state will be changing the Summer Youth Employment Program to the Tennessee Youth Employment Program. The changes will include adjusting the limit to \$4000, eliminating restrictions such as hours, weeks, and wages worked, adding supportive services, adding additional staffing costs, and adding career exploration. Although these changes have not yet been approved, the state will be implementing year-round work experience opportunities. After some brief discussion, Brittany Cannon shared some success stories and noted that 57 students in Bradley County have been served using SYEP funding.

#### Youth Program Report

With no other discussion, Mr. Freeman called on Nedra Wakefield to give the program report. Ms. Wakefield reported the service provider was behind on KPI's for quarter 2 leaving enrollments to just 17 for the whole quarter. She noted promising practices developed in quarter 2 and stated that 50 work experience positions have been established in McMinn and Meigs counties. She noted the outreach events and stated they have enrolled 162 individuals into phase 2 SYEP and are continuing to enroll into the summer. EDSI's strategies and takeaways for phase 2 include:

- Leveraging Partner Relationships
  - Business Services Team partners
  - School Systems
  - Youth Services/Organizations
- Outreach
  - Outreach at the beginning of the academic year
  - Establish a school presence.
- "The Power of One"
  - Relationships are everything.

- Make a difference as soon as possible.

She noted the outreach in the community are as follows:

- Hamilton County Schools
  - Ivy Academy – WBL students (27 students)
  - Southern Adventist University (25 students)
  - Tyner Middle Academy Worksite for 20 8th graders
- Polk County Schools
  - CTE Work-Based Learning student referrals
- Bradley County Schools
  - CTE – Work-based Learning student referrals
  - Foster Care Partnership – City Fields
- Grundy County Schools
  - College Career Fair
- Meigs Co. Schools
  - CTE Meigs County High School
- McMinn Co. School
- Central High School
- Rhea County Schools
  - Special Programs Dept. Family Night
  - Fall Advisory Meeting
- Post-secondary
  - Chattanooga State Community College
  - Southern Adventist University
  - Miller-Motte College
  - TCAT Athens
  - Cleveland State Community College

Lastly, she noted the 2024 SYEP kickoff events will be as follows:

- March 9 – Athens AJC (10 – 2 p.m.)
  - McMinn County
  - Meigs County
- March 15 – Avondale Community Center (11-4 p.m.)
  - Hamilton County
- March 26 – Foster Care – City Fields (4-6 p.m.)
  - Bradley County
- March – Sequatchie Co. High School
- March – Marion County
  - Marion Co. High School
  - Whitwell High School
  - South Pittsburgh High School
  - Richard Hardy Memorial High School

After some conversation, Ms. Wakefield turned the meeting back over to Mr. Freeman.

#### **Other Business**

With no questions, Mr. Freeman called for other business. With no other business to be presented, the meeting adjourned at 2:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Evann Freeman