

SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Draft Minutes Youth Committee Minutes

August 26, 2024 | 2:00 PM ET | Via Zoom

Committee Members in Attendance: Committee members: Evann Freeman, Grant Roddy, Chrisi Eggert, Jeff Rector, Andrew Hudson, Hannah Young, Patrick O’Hagan, Brittany Cannon, Stephanie Athalone, and Kathy White.

Staff: Maty Partin, Christi Chapman, Kevin Treadway, Michele Holt and Allison Schiavo; Youth Services Provider staff: Nedra Wakefield.

Introductions and Approval of minutes

Evann Freeman called the meeting to order at 2:06 pm and gave a brief welcome to all guests in attendance. He presented the minutes from the May 17, 2024, meeting for approval. With no objections, Chairman Freeman called for consent approval of the minutes. The motion was carried unanimously.

Youth Program Oversight

Mr. Freeman called on Maty Partin to give the program oversight. Ms. Partin noted that she would like to change the direction of the youth committee minutes that follows the local and state plan goals. She presented each goal while noting that a large focus from both plans centered around work-based learning and targeting the older, vulnerable populations. With no questions about either plan, she presented enrollment data for the past five program years noting the low enrollment numbers for the target populations discussed in the local and state plans. Ms. Partin stated she would like the committee to take a more proactive approach in guiding the youth program by leveraging committee member connections to build access to the focused populations, utilizing committee members to help drive the program framework, and incorporate various organizations that can drive the committee to meet the plan goals.

Chairman Freeman noted he felt that a half day strategic planning session would be beneficial for committee members. After some discussion, Ms. Partin turned the meeting over to Chairman Freeman.

Youth Program Report

Chairman Freeman called on Nedra Wakefield, Title 1 Program Manager, to give the youth program update. Ms. Wakefield noted all 4th quarter goals were met besides exits with a goal of 41 and only 4 completed. Although the 4th quarter goals were met, she noted the year-to-date goal was not met due to staff focusing on TYEP. She stated EDSI was focusing on promising practice as they start the new year which include maintaining contact with each high school and post-secondary school, creating opportunities outside of the American Job Center, and targeted outreach to individuals who do not have access to get into the American Job Center.

With no questions, she noted the outreach completed by case managers in each county and TYEP highlights and success stories. Lastly, she listed the number of enrollments by county for committee members. With no questions, she turned the meeting back over to Chairman Freeman.

Chattanooga 2.0

Chairman Freeman called on Andrew Hudson with Chattanooga 2.0 to give a brief overview of their programs and service they offer. He noted that Chattanooga 2.0 builds out viable pathway to prosperity for careers that lead to a sustainable wage of \$50,000 or more. The training is industry informed and provided by various training partners such as Chattanooga State or Southeast Lineman Training Center. He noted the various career pathways Chattanooga 2.0 has made available to students include line worker, welding, data analyst,

electrician, dental hygienist, cybersecurity, nursing, teaching, and accounting. The pathways were chosen based on labor market information and projected demand.

Michele Holt asked Mr. Hudson to expand on the structure of Chattanooga 2.0. Mr. Hudson noted the Chattanooga 2.0 team includes several professionals including 5 individuals who have backgrounds in early childhood education, career pathways and workforce development. He stated that they also work in partnership with the Workforce Development Board and other community partners to help include wrap around support for each individual. With no other questions, Mr. Hudson turned the meeting back over to Chairman Freeman.

Other Business

Chairman Freeman called for other business. With no other business to come before the committee, Chairman Freeman called for adjournment of the meeting at 2:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Evann Freeman