

SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Draft Minutes Youth Committee Minutes

November 21, 2024 | 1:00 PM ET | Via Teams

Committee Members in Attendance: Committee members: Evann Freeman, Grant Roddy, Chrisi Eggert, Jeff Rector, Andrew Hudson, Hannah Young, Brittany Cannon, Angel Townsend, Susan Cowden, and Natasha Spencer for Chris Sands.

Staff: Maty Partin, Christi Chapman, Kevin Treadway, Michele Holt and Allison Schiavo.

Youth Services Provider Staff: Nedra Wakefield, Patrick Buford, and Liz McLaughlin.

Introductions and Approval of minutes

Evann Freeman called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm and gave a brief welcome to all guests in attendance. He presented the minutes from August 21, 2024, meeting for approval. With no objections, Grant Roddy made a motion with a second from Chrisi Barker. The motion was carried unanimously.

Youth Program Oversight

Mr. Freeman called on Maty Partin to give the program oversight. Ms. Partin mentioned she would be presenting the program plan developed based on the discussion and challenges discussed during the planning session in October. Before going over the plan, she emphasized the importance of engagement during the presentation, noting each committee plays a critical role in supporting youth workforce development in Southeast. Ms. Partin went over all 5 goals which include:

- Creating Resource Mapping
- Increasing Enrollment in Target Populations
- Expanding Outreach into Opportunity Zip Codes
- Increasing Awareness of WIOA Youth Programs
- Aligning Youth Services with Target Sector Strategies

With no questions raised about the goals, Ms. Partin proceeded to outline the 14 objectives, emphasizing how each would be measured for success. She acknowledged that 9 objectives were not met in Quarter 1, attributing this to the metrics established only at the beginning of Quarter 2. Despite these initial setbacks, she highlighted significant progress made in October to address the deficits. Key efforts included:

- Collaboration with the City of Chattanooga Gun and Violence Prevention Department.
- Enhanced outreach to Hamilton County Schools.
- Development of a draft outreach plan.
- Providing technical assistance to all youth case managers.

Following some discussion, Chairman Freeman called for a vote on the plan and its metrics. The committee unanimously approved the plan on a motion by Jeff Rector, seconded by Grant Roddy.

Chairman Freeman handed the meeting to Ms. Partin to present the youth program redesign. Ms. Partin emphasized that the youth program differs significantly from other programs at the American Job Center and requires its own targeted marketing strategy. She introduced the redesigned program, "EmpowerU," which adheres to all existing federal guidelines and eligibility requirements. Ms. Partin shared the program's mission statement: "Empowering young people to achieve their personal and professional aspirations while overcoming individual and societal barriers to employment," along with its new motto, "EmpowerU to learn, work, and grow." The redesign features three distinct pathways: EducateU, EmployU, EngageU that are structured to guide participants through program completion while helping them achieve their personal and professional goals. After some discussion, the committee unanimously approved the program redesign on a motion by Grant Roddy, seconded by Chrisi Barker.

Lastly, Ms. Partin stated the following would be her focus in the coming months and would like to give an opportunity for committee members to add anything else they feel may be necessary for the communities. With no discussion or questions, Ms. Partin turned the meeting back 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 the metrics for quarter 1 showing deficits in all but out of school enrollments and placement wages at exit. Enrollments by American Job Center reflect zero enrollments in Cleveland and Dayton, but she noted that staff are working to create opportunities outside of the AJC. With no questions, she noted enrollments, placements, and youth elements summary for the past two program years stating that they see areas that need to be focused on. After some discussion about showing more recent numbers, Ms. Wakefield mentioned the outreach that has been done with each secondary and post-secondary school. Lastly, she shared the Tennessee Youth Employment contract has \$66,992 remaining with 50 active participants. EDSI expects this contract to be completely expended by December 31st. With no questions, Ms. Wakefield handed 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 2:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Evann Freeman