

Stark Tuscarawas Workforce Development Board

YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING

January 8, 2024 @ 2:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

BUSINESS MINUTES**Present:** A. Kerns, A. Cantwell, S. Lenigar, D. Lightner, A. Miller, M. Miller, D. Sipe, D. Whitney, L. Yager**Absent:** None**STWDB Staff:** J. Breedlove, R. Harris, M. Miller**Meeting Called to Order**-Alison Kerns, Chair @2:02 p.m.**2023 Youth Working Group Review.....JoAnn Breedlove**

Breedlove shared the document highlighting the **2023 Youth Working Group Meeting topics**. As shown on the screen, each virtual session had 2 resource providers for 45 minutes and 1 professional development training for 45 minutes. One of the sessions was onsite, and the focus was the employers who have hired our youth. Each employer explained how hiring the youth has worked for them at their organization, and all felt it was a good fit. The last meeting of the year was in November at the OhioMeansJobs Center in Canton with nationally known trainer, Brian Blasko. We had him focus this session on "Thinking Outside the Box" which is critical when working with young people and staff and to start looking at things through a different lens on what we do in the community.

2024 Youth Working Group Survey Results.....JoAnn Breedlove

After the November meeting, a survey was sent out to the Youth Working Group distribution list to find out what works best on content and logistics for 2024. The results of the survey were sent out to the group.

Breedlove noted based on the survey results, everyone still likes this framework to meet with a resource and professional development training either virtual or in person. It was noted content has been helpful and relevant.

2024 Youth Working Group Meeting Planning / Ideas.....Committee Members

Breedlove noted to date we do not have any Youth Working Group meetings scheduled for 2024 as today is a **brainstorming session**. The Youth Committee meetings have been scheduled for 2024 which were previously sent out to the Youth Committee. The Youth Committee is scheduled to date to meet in January-brainstorming, April -Zoom and September- In person.

Breedlove shared a document called "**Suggested ideas & dates for the Youth Committee and Youth Working Group**." This document is only a "**framework**" to start the conversation.

January	Youth Committee- Brainstorming for YWG 2024
February	No Meeting
March	Youth Working Group -Networking (In Person)
April	Youth Committee (Virtual)
May	Youth Working Group (In person)-Half Day (Resource / Training)
June	No Meeting
July	No Meeting
August	No Meeting
September	Youth Committee (In Person)
October	No Meeting
November	Youth Working Group (In Person)-(In person)-Half Day (Resource / Training)
December	No Meeting

Kerns said she reached out to her staff on topics. Her staff mentioned topics on information / resources on Interpreters, artificial intelligence (AI) options and also groups that are working with girls in manufacturing as the staff said it is a hard sell on nontraditional careers / opportunities to our female youth.

Breedlove said there is activity in Tuscarawas County exposing young people to opportunities through a video series on in-demand occupations, and Manufacturing is one of the in-demand occupations. This project is working with Tuscarawas County Economic Development Corporation and the Educational Service Center. The conversations started with focus groups at the schools, and our goal is to hear how young people want to learn about these opportunities.

Amy Miller said there's a Chapter of Women in Manufacturing in Cleveland but serve all of Ohio, and this might be a group who can come speak. The website for this Ohio Chapter is www.womeninmanufacturing.org and there is information readily available with a virtual learning library and career center.

Amy Miller said it is important to focus the March meeting with **Goal4 It!** since we are implementing, and there are clear directions from the state that we need to get this moving. Some people still have questions, not every person involved was able to make it to the most recent meeting in the Columbus area. She thought of doing an in-person session at the OMJ Center in Canton with Gerrie Cotter from the state to give us guidance on how our process is going, answer questions from all the providers who are starting to use it, and challenges people are seeing. In addition, a 2nd meeting in May to continue the **Goal4 It!** discussion would be helpful since it's a big change in what we are doing. Kerns said this topic would be good for her new staff.

Breedlove asked Amy Miller and Yager, doesn't the state have videos on this topic with recorded trainings? Amy Miller said the state does a great job with the CCMEP page with lots of resources and information. Miller feels having someone to talk to everyone about what's going well and ways to make the implementation process smoother, and how to deal with challenges in our area that we are facing.

Breedlove asked, are we able to get the Mathematica representative here? Amy Miller feels that's a possibility as we are waiting to see what Mathematica's budget is for 2024.

Amy Miller noted she will follow up with Gerrie Cotter on the **Goal4 It!** topic and Mathematica to see if they are available. She feels the **March** meeting to cover the specific content and problems/issues plus networking, the May meeting to be a continued discussion on **Goal4It!** and November topic to be determined but still be a half day session. Cantwell suggested if Cotter is not available for the March meeting to get manuals to pre-read for the May meeting since it is a lot of information. Miller suggested if the March meeting is not feasible for Cotter than to have a general session on "What is **Goal4 It!?**", "How do you get resources for it?" and then the May meeting being in person goes more depth with Cotter, etc. Cantwell added additional follow up on changes with ARIES, so all comprehensive vendors know. The goal is to have the March & May meeting focus on **Goal4 It!** and the November meeting to cover other content. Next steps are Amy Miller will contact the state (Gerrie Cotter) and Mathematica to see what can be coordinated with them for the March and/or May meeting.

Breedlove said we can host larger group events at other locations besides the OhioMeansJobs Center that are centrally located. The sessions can start with breakfast with 3 training sessions with lots of content and information, opportunity to network and end around noon.

Amy Miller said Workforce Initiative Association (WIA) can take the role of organizing the Youth Working Group meetings as it makes more sense for WIA to run the meetings. She feels the Youth Working Group meetings are beneficial and wants to keep things going in a positive direction.

Breedlove noted the goal of the Youth Working Group meetings is to impact the people doing the work and their supervisors.

The discussion of **Youth Committee meetings** was decided by the majority to be *virtual*, but the **Youth Working Group meetings** would be 2 *in person* meetings and 1 *virtual* meeting.

Updates / Other Discussion..... Alison Kerns, Chair

Kerns asked, how are we doing with our **Youth Committee membership**? Do we have any openings? Breedlove said part of the Stark Tuscarawas Workforce Development Board strategic plan is to share information on career pathways and how do we best do that as the workforce board. Breedlove said the strategic plan suggests onboarding someone in Career Tech-Secondary & Post Secondary students and also would love to connect with someone working with young adults in the career tech field.

Breedlove said earlier last year she met with someone at Walsh University in the Counseling Department program as thought this would be a good transition there.

We are open to other people who might be a good fit for the work we are doing here.

Next Meeting: April 1, 2024 (Zoom)

Adjourned 2:50 p.m.