

Youth Committee Meeting
WAPDD 1109 S. 16th St., Fort Smith, AR 72901
April 8, 2021 at 2:00 pm

Committee member attendees: Stacy Muntz, Jack Gray, Rachel Mize, Jennifer Turner
Other attendees: Carman Hensley, and Dennis Williamson

Stacy Muntz, called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

The first item on the agenda was the Job Fair at Magazine Public School. Dennis give an update. The date for it is May 4th, 2021 from 10-2pm at the high school. 48 students are expected to participate with many of them looking for work. The flyer has been completed and sent to the board members and local chambers to help promote the event. Student profiles will be complete by April 23rd. They will be sent to employers interested in participating. Some committed companies are Rockline, Student Exchange, Michael Springer Build and Earth, Harry Robinson, Bennet Construction, Denali, City of Magazine, Stark, and Bank of Ozark. Discussion was had about this being a bridge between education and workforce. Stacy asked the group to discuss next steps for this type of job fair and how to get other schools to participate. It was stated Magazine high school has put a lot of effort into this. We want to share their success and the effort it takes with other schools to get them interested. We need to get employers feedback on the job fair.

Further discussion was about including other populations in future events such as foster care youth and the like. It was asked if employers would be able to make job offers at the fair, but it is unlikely since the event is limited in time. However, it was said most employers will set up interviews to get students to the next step. The committee did discuss challenges some of these youth would face once they did have jobs such as transportation. The group discussed how to educate them on what it takes once they are out of school.

Dennis told the committee that they will do a dry run on May 3rd for the students and anyone willing could volunteer to help.

The committee moved to the topic of youth aging out of the foster care system and the Get Real 24 Program. It was discussed how challenged these youth are in integrating into society. Jack supplied information on many of the difficulties of youth that come through the program. The need for mentoring and life skills training was discussed. Jack mentioned a soft skills and financial literacy training put on for some of the youth to help them better understand what employers need. There was discussion on how to help these youth successfully transition from the system to the working world.

The committee talked on the topic of internship. Stacy spoke on the program that Bank OZK has with Ozark high school and the success they have had with it. The group did talk on youth not fully understand all of the aspects of a job they take and examples given were about not knowing when they get paid or benefits even though they go through extensive orientations. It was mentioned that one challenge of these internships is that individuals with significant barriers tend to be passed over and so there was discussion around how to be more inclusive. The main objective determined was to help employers see options and value these individuals might be if given the chance. It was also stated that there are resources for employers that provide assistive service or tools for specific barriers.

Stacy asked if there was any other topics of business for the committee and hearing none adjourned the meeting.

Stacy Muntz

Stacy Muntz, Committee Chair

4/15/2021

Date

Signature: 
Stacy Muntz (Apr 15, 2021 16:10 CDT)

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