2/15/2022 - CWDB Youth Committee Meeting Minutes

Sarah Grant, Youth Program Coordinator-reviewed the last meeting. Spoke about the next steps for the Youth Committee moving toward diving into assessing issues related to youth transitioning into employment; becoming action-oriented. This will be a large focus during the next meeting and meetings moving forward.
-Purpose of today's meeting: To share what information committee members learned from their homework assignments.
-3 committee members will present on Youth Career Navigator (YCN) connections. These connections came from 3 committee members volunteering to get to know Youth Career Navigators for the purpose of learning more about the program and introducing them to the committee.

John Capps-Joe Girandola
-Met with Joe Girandola, Bedford County YCN.
-John didn't have a clear understanding of what the Youth Program is prior to meeting Joe.
-Facts John learned while meeting with Joe:
--YCN for Bedford, age ranges and barriers mentioned—a wide spectrum of barriers and ages.
--Some have support, others do not.
--Connects through human services, school, and community.
--Prepare for employment and education.
--Most important thing:
--Stands in awe of what Joe does, and the youth program as a whole.
--John connects with the work because he wants to see CVCC do the same.
--Because of this program people have changed lives; meaningful lives.
--Came away from meeting very excited about YCN work and VCW in general.

Anthony Cardoza-Jordan Johnson
-Background: Masters in Public Health from LU.
-Connects with a variety of people in many different locations, including schools, libraries, public access locations, etc.
-Challenges: helping individuals with barriers, including transportation; students struggle with mental health and learning needs.
-Successes:
--Has learned to understand what can be done programmatically; gave Sarah props for structure and program services; looks for individual successes which are very meaningful to her.
-Traci provided feedback that Jordan's work is excellent.

John Redding-Ryan House
-Cited not much additional information to share other than what was shared by the other presenters.
-Lots of juggling and resources used to serve the youth, including getting over certain barriers.
-Ryan has a B.S. degree in Youth Ministry; very seasoned for his work with youth.

Sarah-excited to see what's in store moving forward!

3 committee members volunteered to meet with the Program Coordinator prior to this meeting to learn more about the 14 Youth Program Elements. Today they are presenting what they learned.

Presenters:

Jason (Board Member): Presenting on Program Elements 1-5
1. Tutoring. Study Skills, etc
2. Alt Secondary and Dropout Recovery
3. Paid and unpaid WEX:
--Paid
--OJT: really excited about this one

4. Occupational Skills Training: overlaps with supportive services
5. Education offered concurrently with workforce preparation and training, captured by elements 1 and 6 et, al.

Bryan 6-10 (raincheck, will present at the next meeting).

Traci (Executive Director- CVWDB) Presenting on Program Elements 11-14
11. Financial Literacy:
--Organizations always talk about the importance of balancing a checkbook.
--Learning how to spend money wisely is very important.
-Spoke about the Honest Budget, used by the youth program.

12. Entrepreneurial Skills:
-Traci spoke of partnerships with Co.Starters, and the efforts that will be placed on expanding youth entrepreneurship partnerships by the youth program.

13. Services that Provide LMI:
-The Youth Program always contrasts desired jobs with practical tools from DOL, VEC, etc. to match those with in-demand occupations.

14. Post-Secondary Transition and Preparation activities:

Questions:
1. John: Is it sheer limitations and funding that makes us have only 3 YCN's?
   a. Traci: $1.3 million from WIOA.
   b. Traci: need agency subsidies to add more funding.
   c. Traci: more revenue streams could help aid in this effort.
2. Every person that enters, do all elements have to be addressed?
   a. No, but each element needs to be available if they need it.
   b. Career Mentoring Service is a good example of a service element that is available to everyone.

Sarah: Overview of Program numbers
1. The environment or group on a meeting usually determines the type of numbers that are shared.
2. Sarah will look for members to ask about specific numbers they would like to see.

Sarah: Success Stories
1. BCPS: serving CTE wait-list students
2. Very encouraged by employer conversations, 85% on board
3. Closing statement: become action-oriented

Announcement from Traci: LAYSI MLK event this Saturday, 10:30-1 pm on 5th Street in Lynchburg.

Meeting Conclusion.