**Central Virginia Workforce Development Board**

**Youth Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** June 23, 2025 **Time:** 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
**Location:** Virginia Career Works Lynchburg Center, 3125 Odd Fellows Road, Lynchburg, VA

**Attendees:**

 Sherie Fulcher (Chair)

 James Davis

Tori Gilmartin

Sterling Wilder

Traci Blido

Tim Saunders

Renee Riegel

Katelyn Windsor

Mar Davis, Intern from Beacon of Hope

**Meeting Minutes:**

**1. Call to Order & Welcome**

Chair Sherie Fulcher called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. She welcomed attendees and introduced the purpose of the meeting. She began by referencing the possible closure of the Old Dominion JobCorps Center and asked the committee for ideas on how to increase work-based learning opportunities for impacted youth.

**2. Title I Youth Program Updates**

**a. Introduction of New Youth Career Navigators**Sherie welcomed new staff members Renee Riegel and Katelyn Windsor.

* Renee Riegel, serving Campbell County schools, previously worked with Lynchburg Beacon of Hope. She shared that four of her participants recently completed CNA training and secured employment. One participant completed a work experience at Bon Air Jet and is pursuing a private pilot’s license.
* Katelyn Windsor, serving Bedford County schools, shared that one client recently completed a work experience at Fleet and is being hired. Another client is currently pursuing NCCER CORE training. She noted challenges connecting with school staff and building relationships but appreciated offers of support from committee members. Sherie offered to personally introduce her to school principals, and Tori encouraged both Renee and Katelyn to attend the upcoming Educator Workforce Academy.

**b. Program Success Stories & Discussion**

* Sherie highlighted local collaboration and partnerships that make the Lynchburg region unique.
* Traci shared that the board’s proposal to fund a CNA to LPN training pathway through CVCC and Centra College was not selected for grant funding.
* Sherie voiced concerns to Virginia Works about a statewide focus on quantity over quality in workforce programs and stressed the need for sustainable, high-quality program development.
* She emphasized that youth can be placed in Registered Apprenticeships and that exemptions to youth labor laws can support employer participation despite insurance concerns.

**3. Worlds of Opportunity & Educator Workforce Academy**

Tori Gilmartin provided updates on two key initiatives:

* Educator Workforce Academy (July 24–25, 2025): A two-day experience for school administrators and counselors to visit employer sites and learn about in-demand jobs in the region.
* Worlds of Opportunity Career Expo (October 20–21, 2025): A hands-on career exploration event for 7th and 8th graders designed to introduce them to diverse career paths.

Tori also shared that she submitted a GoVirginia implementation grant application to fund the creation of a regional workforce portal and other development initiatives.

**4. Committee Member Updates**

* James Davis reported that 64 students remain at the Old Dominion JobCorps Center, with 22 from the Lynchburg area. Staffing has been reduced to around 90 employees. A decision on the center’s closure is expected within the next week.
* Tori reiterated her commitment to workforce development and highlighted the potential impact of her pending grant application.

**5. Next Meeting**

The next Youth Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 22, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at the Virginia Career Works Lynchburg Center.

**Meeting Adjourned: 10:00 a.m.**