



CVWDB Youth Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: 08-15-23

Time: 3:00-4:00 PM

Location: At Virginia Career Works (Lynchburg Center) – 3125 Odd Fellows Rd, Lynchburg.

For those needing to meet virtually: See MS Teams Link in calendar invite to join.

Public Meeting Note:

Because the Youth Committee is the arm of the Title 1 Youth Program which ensures parents and other interested community members are involved in planning and implementation, this meeting will be available to the public. Any members of the public may reach out to [Traci Blido](#), Executive Director, to request a meeting link or to attend in person.

Minutes:

1. **Welcome:** Sierria Phillips, Interim Youth Committee Chair, welcomed attendees and started the meeting at 3:01 PM.
2. **Introductions** of committee members
 - a. **Welcome New Member:** Annette A. Bennett, Ed.D, Division Superintendent, Appomattox County Public Schools
 - b. **Members Present:** Annette Bennett, John Capps, Kevin Davis (virtual), Sierria Phillips, Tiffany Riddle (virtual), David Sage, Jason Shockley, Carrie White (virtual), Sterling Wilder (virtual)
 - c. **Staff Present:** Traci Blido, Keith Cook, Lori Cumbo, Rachel Jenson, Jordan Johnson, Tim Saunders
3. **Community partner presentation – Beacon of Hope:** Laura Hamilton, Executive Director

Beacon of Hope exists to give Lynchburg's young people fair and equitable access to higher education and technical certification training programs after high school. The private non-profit has been operating for 10 years and operates several programs:

 - **8th Grade College Readiness Symposium** assists middle school students in better understanding the importance of their education.
 - **Career Acceleration Program** aims to accelerate training, provide mentorship, career development, and placement of talented opportunity youth and prime-age workers in the region. This partnership is among Lynchburg Beacon of Hope, Promise Pathways, the GO Virginia Region 2 Council, the Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance, and Central Virginia Community College.
 - **High School Internships** in Summer 2022, Lynchburg Beacon of Hope piloted a unique high school career exploration internship for 34 rising juniors and seniors attending the City's two public high schools. This program partnered with 13 different Lynchburg-based employers.

Students underwent 20+ hours of training and preparation before entering the workforce and spent more than 80 hours experiencing careers in high-growth industries of our region.

- **Kids to College** and Elementary College Fair initiatives aim to promote a college-going culture in Lynchburg City's Elementary Schools. From Kindergarten through high school, there is an expectation for every student to graduate with a plan to become an educated, contributing citizen in the community—whether it is embracing a vocation or trade school or matriculating to a four-year or two-year college, joining military service, or receiving on the job training in a field that needs local employees.
- **Middle School Heroes** began as a pilot program in 2018 in partnership with Dunbar Middle School (DMS) and the IRON Lives Program, a non-profit organization which focuses on positive youth development. The primary goal of the Middle School Heroes program is to invest in middle school students from a three-legged approach:
 1. Academic Improvement and Tracking
 2. Character and 'Grit' Development
 3. Future thinking.

- **Stay Close, Go Far (SCGF)** is the first Promise scholarship program of its kind in Virginia. The SCGF scholarship is a non-competitive, universal scholarship for all eligible Lynchburg City Schools students. SCGF provides last-dollar FREE tuition to attend Central Virginia Community College or at least a like amount (beginning at \$8,000 total/\$2,000 annually and going up to \$36,000 total /\$9,000 annually) over four years to attend Centra College of Nursing, Liberty University, Longwood University, Randolph College, Sweet Briar College, or University of Lynchburg.

4. **Title 1 Youth Program Performance:** Keith Cook, Director of Workforce Operations + team

Keith gave an overview of the current Youth Program, stating he felt the program was in partnership with the committee and he would like to share successes along with challenges. Due to WIOA budget cuts for PY23, HumanKind would not be filling the third Career Navigator position. Under the MOUs with Campbell County and Bedford County, Youth Career Navigators Jordan Johnson and Rachel Jenson, work 50% of their time in Campbell and Bedford County Schools. They provide basic career services to at-risk high schoolers while spending the balance of their time case managing WIOA Title 1 Youth Participants in the entire region.

Keith advised the committee of the 14 required youth elements, and the 20% WEX expenditure requirement. He stated due to PY23 budget shortfalls, funding would only be applied to Youth WEX to reach the expenditure requirement. Staff are co-enrolling with the adult program, when allowable, in an effort to stretch funding and offer occupational skills training. Keith requested the committee's support in locating employers willing to host WEX experiences.

5. **Youth Grants Announcement** – Traci Blido, Executive Director

Traci gave an update on supplemental grants awarded to the region:

- **Workforce Innovation Grant** – the grant, in partnership with Roanoke WDB, is to enroll 15 youth from Lynchburg regional CTE classes into youth apprenticeship programs at local employers. Looking for employers immediately willing to create youth apprenticeships and hire students, with grant support. CVWDB will host a luncheon for CTE Directors to remind them of the grant and help them identify students who could

benefit from it this school year. The WIG grant ends in March 2024.

- **Supplemental Training Grant** – This \$150,000 grant will help the CVWDB to work with employees to connect youth, adults and dislocated workers to OJT's and other work-based learning experiences. The grant will also help in identifying at risk youth in danger of not graduating high school and expose them to training opportunities and careers through a boot camp type of program. Students will be co-enrolled with WIOA Youth program. At least 20 youth and 18 adults/dw are to be served.
- **Outreach Grant** – (Tim) This \$25,000 grant will go toward production of six, 30-minute educational television programs on high-demand occupations in Central Virginia. The programs will be aired on a local station and offered to educators as a classroom resource for middle schoolers, as well as "re-packaged" for social media.

6. **World of Opportunity 2024**, a regional career exploration event for youth, is tentatively scheduled for Oct. 14-15, 2024. Plans are in development and employers should put it on their radar to participate.

7. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:04 PM.

CVWDB Youth Committee Description:

"The CVWDB Youth Committee will provide information and assist with planning, operational, oversight, and other issues relating to the provision of services to youth. The Youth Committee will ensure that parents, participants, and other interested community members are involved in the planning and implementation of Title 1 Youth programs. The committee will provide oversight to providers of youth activities in the local area, establish linkages with education and youth entities, and provide a forum for initial discussion on emerging issues affecting youth."

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