

**Southern Maryland Workforce Development Board Meeting
Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland
Southern Maryland Association of Realtors-Graham Room
8440 Old Leonardtown Road, Suite 211, Hughesville, MD 20637
September 12, 2019**

Minutes

Members Present: Doris Cammack-Spencer, Alan Crawley, Dr. Rich Fleming, Ellen Flower Fields for Dr. Maureen Murphy, Michael Ghosh, Larry Greenhill, John Hartline, Christy Lombardi, Edie McGreevy, Suzie Miller, Michelle Nicholson, Cindy Rauner, Mike Scott, Amy Scrivener for Therese Wolf, Kelly Williams

Members Absent: Marcia Chase, Stacey Cook, Robin Cullers, Pennie Drinkard, Seth Erlin, Marcia Keeth, Tracy Latham, Daniel Palliparambil, Stephanie Witte, Therese Wolf

Guests Present:

Summer Youth Employment Program Guests:

Erica Hawkins, Office Manager – Charles County Office of Public Defender, Unique Wright, Former SYEP participant, Joshlynn Jackson, 2019 SYEP Participant, Karen Johnson, Parent of Joshlynn Jackson

Employ Prince George's:

Jennifer Ricks - Youth Services Manager, Dashana Callendar – Youth Career Consultant, Martin Copeland, III – Youth Workforce Instructor, Michael Preston – Youth Business Consultant

Staff Present: Ruthy Davis, Melinda Bowling, Jobina Brown, Belinda Denton, Lamont Downs, Sandy Fauchaux, Candace Gains, Rodney Giles, Daryl Rice, Sandra Spence, Pam Wilkerson,

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 am by Michelle Nicholson, Chair.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS Michelle opened the meeting with a warm welcome and acknowledgement of attendees. Introductions were made among all attendees.

SERVING YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

Jobina Brown, Youth Services Manager, Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland gave a brief overview of the successful 2019 SYEP (Summer Youth Employment Program) and introduced the guest speakers for the Mission Moment.

MISSION MOMENT – SYEP

Unique Wright, former SYEP participant, provided the Board an overview of how the program was a tremendous resource in her life. As a foster child while a participant in the SYEP, the program allowed her to better herself, her kids and the community. She was employed with the Office of the Public Defender as an intake specialist. She has recently applied for a permanent position with the State and was hired. The program helped her tremendously, she was able to exit out of foster care with a car, an apartment and her kids are set. She plans to go back to school for a paralegal certification to continue employment with the State of Maryland. She is very thankful she participated in the program.

Joshlynn Jackson, 2019 SYEP participant, provided the Board an overview of how the program was a “lifechanging experience.” Prior to the program, she was in an unstable living situation, without a car and a single parent to twins, with no degree. She ended fulfilling the last slot of the Charles County SYEP which has drastically changed her life. The program helped her realize the greatness in herself and gave her the tools needed to invest in her career. She is currently still interning with the Public Defender Office

and is slated for an interview for the position of her dreams. The program allowed her to better herself and her career, for her and her children.

Karen Johnson, parent of Joshlynn Jackson, briefed the board on the importance the SYEP proved to be for Joshlynn. She explained how the program allowed Joshlynn to conquer her doubts and fears she had towards obtaining a job in the workforce. Joshlynn has been very successful and excited about her position at the Office of the Public Defenders Office. Although the SYEP is over for 2019, Joshlynn still interns there with the hopes of being offered a permanent position should one become available. Karen explained the SYEP program has empowered the youth and makes a tremendous difference in their lives.

Erica Hawkins, Office Manager, Public Defender Office, explained the SYEP is amazing, along with the participants. The Office usually receives around 4 participants a year and “they are her babies.” They go above and beyond and they are like family. “We have hired 3 in the past 3 years who are still employed with us today. This is a fantastic program and I hope it continues.”

BUSINESS

- A quorum was established.
- A motion to approve the minutes from the June 13, 2019 meeting was made by Larry Greenhill, was seconded by Doris Cammack-Spencer and carried.
- A motion to approve the consent agenda documents was made by Cindy Rauner, seconded by Alan Crawley and carried.
- A motion to approve the WIOA Policies & Procedures was made by Kelly Williams, seconded by Doris Cammack-Spencer and carried.

WORKFORCE BUDGET UPDATE

Melinda Bowling, Finance Director, Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland provided an overview of funding streams and how they are allocated. She also provided an overview of what programs are funded and how the partners we collaborate with fund them.

PROGRAMMATIC ELEMENTS

Jennifer Ricks, Youth Services Manager, Employ Prince George’s- K.E.Y.S. Program (Knowledge Equals Youth Success) Jennifer and her team provided a in depth overview of their Youth Program at Employ Prince George’s including their mission, 8-week program, and statistics. She provided the following statistics:

93,704 avg number of disconnected youth in the state of Maryland

16,225 disconnected youth in PG County

\$225,365,250 total money spent on Disconnected Youth in the US- annually from 2015 data

K.E.Y.S. goal is to enroll 65 youth this year into their program

Public Comment & Announcements:

Prince Frederick American Job Center at Calvert County DSS is now open - opened to public day after Labor day. Grand Opening will be planned in cooperation with Terry Shannon and Calvert County to provide the Calvert County Commissioners the opportunity to attend along with the TCCSMD Executive Board, SMWDB Board, DSS Officials, State officials, etc.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Larry Greenhill, seconded by Kelly Williams and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 am.