

YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board

41 Lewis Street, Geneva, NY

Wednesday, January 9, 2019

ATTENDANCE: **Members:** Andrea Badger, Wendy Cartwright, Chris Edgar, Jennie Erdle, Marsha Foote, Jeremy Hughes, Lori Parish
Staff: Amanda Lesterhuis, Karen Springmeier, Jennifer May

I. Introductions/Approve Minutes from November 14, 2018

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Erdle, seconded by Ms. Badger. All in favor, motion carried.

II. Youth Committee Mission Statement Development

The mission statement for the Youth Committee is as follows:

The purpose of the Finger Lakes Youth Committee is to improve the economic well-being of youth and employers in the region by aligning human potential with opportunities in the workplace by:

- **Identifying the challenges faced by the youth we are charged to serve by recognizing strengths and weaknesses when it relates to entering the workforce.**
- **Working with the servicing entities to strategically offer solutions to build on the youth's strengths and reduce weaknesses.**
- **Encouraging collaborative efforts across various resources.**
- **Identifying funding opportunities geared toward youth initiatives; whether it be research for federal, state and private sector grants or through establishment of local fund raising via FLWIB events.**
- **Recommending ways to leverage resources and coordinate services among schools, public programs, and community-based organizations serving youth.**

Ms. Parish also reiterated the need for involvement in the committee from the private sector. Committee members recommended representatives from Child Protective Services (CPS), Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Regional Transport Services (RTS) and the mental health field. They also proposed businesses and high school counselors involved with the career events, as well as representatives from LGBTQ groups. Ms. Springmeier suggested looking at the list of mandated representatives for the Youth Council to see what sort of representatives are lacking from the Youth Committee.

III. "Finger Lakes Youth" Facebook Page

Ms. Lesterhuis introduced the committee to the as yet to be published Youth Facebook page. The committee discussed the options to link other social media accounts to the Facebook page and sharing posts among the other applicable pages and websites. Ms. Foote suggested creating a separate FLWIB Youth website, using Wix, a free website builder. Ms. Foote also stressed the importance of internet safety and spoke of Ontario County's involvement with Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes, an anti-human trafficking initiative.

IV. WIOA Youth Incentive Policy

Ms. Lesterhuis recently updated the policy to include gift cards used as incentives for Job Shadowing. Prompted by the Executive Committee, Ms. Lesterhuis asked the Youth counselors if the incentives promotes retention and success and the counselors overwhelmingly stated that the incentives do help. Ms. Parish and Ms. Springmeier emphasized the need for concrete evidence of

the incentives aiding retention and success. Ms. Parish also stated that more creativity in the types of incentives offered is needed. The committee then discussed possible partnerships with local banks and using savings accounts as incentives for youth. While being appreciative of the many proposed ideas, Ms. Springmeier reminded the committee that all incentives must be approved by the state, as federal funds will be used.

V. Upcoming Ag Day Event

The newly renamed “Where Your Food Comes From” agricultural career event will be held on Wednesday, April 24th. The event will take place at Cornell AgriTech and FLCC’s Viticulture and Wine Center. A host farm is still being sought. The healthcare career day will take place on March 19th, at FLCC, Canandaigua campus.

VI. Other Business

Ms. Foote mentioned the upcoming volunteer fair at FLCC and Mr. Hughes spoke of the CDOS (Career Development and Occupational Studies) Credential. The credential is now available to all students and more information regarding the credential’s requirements needs to be given to employers. Mr. Hughes also told the committee that ACCES-VR is now a BOCES approved provider for youth aged 14 to 21.

VII. Next meeting: Wednesday, March 13, 2019 3:30-4:30 p.m.