



## Governor's Council for Workforce and Economic Development

### YOUTH PROGRAM COMMITTEE

#### Meeting Minutes

**Date:** June 17, 2016

**Time:** 10:00 a.m.

**Place:** Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City, 900 N. Portland Ave., Oklahoma City, OK

#### **Call to Order/Welcome and Introductions**

Co-chair Chuck Mills called the meeting to order and welcomed the group. Two new members were introduced: Anthony James, Branch Manager, Packaging Corp. of America; and Tracy Brigham, Visual Services Transition Facilitator, Dept. of Rehabilitation Services.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Steve Crank to approve the January 22, 2016 minutes. A second was made by Karen Davidson and the motion carried unanimously.

#### **Youth Members Presentation**

- **Anthony James, Packaging Corp. of America** – Anthony James said that he was a retired soldier and spent 30 years in the military. In his secular job, he is a branch manager of a packaging and box manufacturer. Anthony related a story about when he was younger and had quite a few brothers. Where he came from in Georgia, their food staple for Sunday dinners was collard greens. Sometimes they had ham hocks in the greens and they were so good. His brother commented that his sister Edna must have put her foot in it. Anthony came to learn that the saying meant that she put her passion in it – the love she had in it. Soul food or passion food for him is collards. Anthony said part of what they are doing in Muskogee is looking for opportunities to give people a chance to express their passion, their love, and what they can do for the community. That is their biggest challenge.

He showed a YouTube video made by one of their high school students regarding manufacturing and Georgia Pacific, the largest manufacturer in Muskogee County. See link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=diyF00IDFKY>. The video talks about different salaries and that the average manufacturing salary is \$50,000. It states that over the next decade, nearly 3.5 million manufacturing jobs will likely be needed and 2 million are expected to go unfilled due to the skills gap. The video encouraged people to look into manufacturing jobs. The Dream It, Do It web site is [www.dreamitdoitok.org](http://www.dreamitdoitok.org).

Anthony said that they believe their students are like an investment. They look at them as investments and what they can accomplish are like dividends. So what will be their legacy? What will our legacy be?

Words of wisdom from Anthony:

- Don't do what you're told, do more than that.
- Set your watch or cell phone 10 minutes fast.

- If you can't be early or on time, you're late.
  - If you're not the lead dog, the scene never changes.
  - Find a mentor.
  - Find a coach.
  - Working hard can help us succeed.
  - Prepare for jobs of tomorrow.
  - Write down your goal – name it – put it in front of you.
- **Roberta Douglas, Career Tech, OK Career Guide** – OKCareerGuide.com is now a live system. It is a tool for Oklahomans to go to work, find a job or a career. It will help them to decide what they want to do. It helps them find their interests, skills and values. There are 3 different assessments (interest, skills, and values) which can be taken at no cost. It serves 6<sup>th</sup> grade through adult users. At this time, they have about 55,000 users. Right now, according to OK Career Guide, the highest industry interest in Oklahoma is Law Enforcement and the lowest interest is in Manufacturing. Roberta gave a demonstration on how to navigate OK Career Guide.

**Purpose:**

Chuck Mills reported that he met with the CCOSA Board about Oklahoma Works. We have to start with educators to get the doors open and bring them on board. He is going to talk to Cindy Koss, State Dept. of Education, about the New Skills for Youth grant they received, which will focus on career exploration throughout the state.

Sonia Johnson said that she just talked to Cindy Koss and invited her to attend the Youth Council meeting. Cindy acknowledged that she needed to attend and will try to do so. Sonia also mentioned that there is a great group that teaches character education, Madison Thomlinson, out of Muskogee, OKCharacter.org and Character.org. There is also the Afterschool Network with the Mott Foundation that a group is working with. These are good connections and she is willing to contact them to see if they will get involved with the Youth Council.

Toni Pickle said that the Northwest Oklahoma Alliance has been focusing on workforce for this year and every month they've been meeting. The meetings started with Chuck Mills and Don Raleigh coming to Woodward. They had invited every school superintendent and every CareerTech superintendent and only one attended – Kyle Reynolds, Superintendent of Woodward Public Schools – and he has made almost every single meeting. They hired a facilitator for the meetings and every meeting they have been going through a different manufacturing firm in the NW area and learning about them. She is excited because the Alliance is going to have their first ever Northwest Oklahoma Alliance Summit on November 7 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. in Woodward. This will be a resource summit and the purpose is to focus on workforce issues, particularly the education side, and where they can find resources.

Chuck added that the New Skills for Youth grant was awarded to 25 states for \$100,000 each to build a career awareness plan throughout the state. For states that qualified, they can reapply for another grant in which 10 states will be awarded \$650,000 for 3 years to implement those programs. Chuck said that there are pockets of people doing various things around the state and they all need to come together. Maybe with this grant, we can have a statewide summit on youth. We need to bring all of the partners together at one time and get on the same page and talk about the resources that we all have and look at the redundancies and proximities and programs and look at how we can help each other in one cohesive unit and learn about the programs that are going on around us.

Sonia Johnson said that the funders need to be a part of this conversation. Also foundations like Kaiser, Sarkeys, etc. We need to find a funders roundtable where they all come together.

Chuck said a key to this is the CareerTech superintendents because they work with the business community. He decided to do a Survey Monkey with five questions and at the end of it asked the question, "Tell us a little bit about the programs you already have". He thought that they could add these to a blog or a Facebook page or something where they could post the information about it with contact information because there were districts right next to each other that had no idea of what was going on. We could start this and they could build on it. Chuck talked to the Oklahoma Works people and they said that they were going to send out a survey and they could add it to theirs which was administered by OMES. There were 62 responses to the survey.

Questions on the survey:

- Please rate the priority of career awareness/preparedness in your district from 1-5 with 5 being the highest.
- If your response to the above question is lower than a 2, please elaborate.
- College and career awareness broadens the students' scope of learning and assists him or her in developing intellectual, social, technical skills and will be beneficial throughout his or her life. In considering these points, please designate how your district responds to offering access to these skills. (Rarely, frequently, always)
- How important is having a solid relationship established with the business community in your region? (Rank 1-5) (More elaboration if it is low.)
- What role do you feel that state government agencies such as the Department of Education, Department of Commerce, and the Governor's office should play in promoting career awareness in Oklahoma? (Rank 1-5)
- If there were free career technology resources available in the state, how likely would it be that your staff would use it? (Rank 1-5)
- Tell us about your existing programs and brag about them.

Chuck said he would like to take the responses to CCOSA and also have some blank surveys available and have attendees fill them out. He wants to tell them what our goal is and what we are trying to do and why we need this information.

Chuck would like for the Youth Council to be engaged in capturing best practices of schools in their areas. He would also like for the KENs to do this too.

Sonia Johnson suggested that we partner with the C.S. Mott Foundation because they have funded the Oklahoma Afterschool Networks and created the Oklahoma Partnership for Expanded Learning (OPEL). It is a collaboration of agencies and organizations throughout Oklahoma which helps build and expand school-based programs to enhance learning opportunities for students, and provides technical assistance to new and established programs. They do focus on out-of-school youth but it is a much broader thinking group of folks. It includes folks like Community Service, Impact Tulsa, it has a tribal piece to it, and a group from Tinker AFB that is engaged with it, etc. One of the things that they need to do is also around best practices. If we partner with them, they have the staff and they are managed through the Oklahoma Public School Resource Center, which has a huge rural connection across the state with superintendents. They will work on the out-of-school piece but there will be crossover and they will eventually have to work on what is going on in school and career awareness, etc. They will need to work on best practices and that will link it to us. They are trying to work in a data base so there is a small web site they have started and they are looking at how they are going to populate it with information around what's happening in our state. Sonia said it's a great

group of people who want to do something. Mott also has technical assistance at a national level that could help us at no cost.

Chuck said that we all need to work together and he thinks working with the Career Tech superintendents is a key piece. He also encouraged everyone to know who the KEN champion is in their area of the state and volunteer to help and get involved.

**Governor's Council Update:**

Jeane Burruss said that the committees of the Governor's Council have been restructured slightly and the Youth Council is now the Youth Program Committee which will have a sub-committee that will focus on out-of-school youth. Emmit Grayson, State Youth Coordinator with the Oklahoma Office of Workforce Development, will lead that sub-committee. The new WIOA now mandates that 75% of Youth funding has to be spent on out-of-school youth or those that are in the recovery stage or have dropped out of school, so this sub-committee will focus on that.

**Other**

Nanette Robertson related that Shawn Black, director of Oklahoma Association of Youth Services, said the Office of Juvenile Affairs would like to see us develop some kind of transition program. She said that they have offered a Career Ready 101 for them but there is nothing for them after that to transition to and that Steve Buck would like for us to do some kind of legislation for it.

**New Business**

None.

**Old Business**

None.

**Next Meeting**

The next Youth Council meeting will be on October 7, 2016.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:07 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Emrich*