



Governor's Council for Workforce and Economic Development

YOUTH PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Date: October 13, 2017

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-chairs Chuck Mills and Cecilia Robinson-Woods called the meeting to order and welcomed the group. New members welcomed were Earnie Gilder, Chair of the Eastern Workforce Development Board, and Marissa Lightsey, Project Manager, Dept. of Education, ICAP. Everyone was asked to self-introduce themselves.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Jared Bates to approve the August 11, 2017 minutes. A second was made by Karen Davidson. There was no further discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

Committee Progress Reports:

- **ICAP (Individual Career Academic Plan)**
 - Marissa Lightsey said about a month ago they finished their ICAP kick-off meetings. They had 29 school districts and 60 schools participated. All of the materials from the ICAP meetings have been added to the SDE website, so everyone can follow their progress. The schools are very excited to get started on the work. They equally have excitement on the employer side as well.
 - They have had the opportunity to speak at several engagements. One was at the Oklahoma Transition Institute located in Norman (students with disabilities).
 - For information on the ICAP or New Skills For Youth, go to the State Dept. of Education's website and type in the search box "New Skills For Youth". They would love to have feedback.

- **High School Equivalency**
 - Chuck said at the last meeting there was discussion of moving the High School Equivalency piece to the Career Pathways committee. In the meantime, Chuck had a conversation with the co-chair of the Career Pathways committee, Chuck Gray, and their main focus is going to be directed at dislocated youth, young adults, dropouts, the 18-24 year olds. This would fit in well with the High School Equivalency piece to help youth get their GED or a certification to get into the workforce. In talking to Jared Bates, he learned that Jared has experience in career development and career pathways, so Chuck (Mills) would like to split Jared in half so he can serve on the Career Pathways committee and the other half stay with the Youth committee. If Jared would like, he can serve on both committees. He asked Jared his thoughts.

- Jared said that he has visited some with the co-chairs of the Career Pathways committee, Chuck Gray and Peggy Geib. He said that he would make a recommendation based on what Chuck Mills has been discussing to change the sub-committee's name from High School Equivalency to Career Awareness so there is no confusion. There needs to be a delineation between the two to focus on career development from kindergarten all the way up through 12th grade to get them to think about careers and employment opportunities and to think about where they want to go.
- Jared said the High School Equivalency secondary diploma higher education component that will become part of the career awareness is for a number of students. He said that we want to break that cycle – the poverty cycle and all those other cycles that are occurring like the parent didn't complete their high school diploma and they don't see the necessity or importance of a high school diploma. There needs to be more education of the parent on this because it will trickle down to the students. He said that we have OKCareerGuide through CareerTech and that might be one avenue they can explore and bring them in on this. Cecilia Robinson-Wood added that we want to put the emphasis on the destination – being the career - and not so much on the vehicle – such as CareerTech, Higher Ed, on-the-job training, etc. Career Awareness allows us to start doing that so students can get exposed to different types of careers, not just the ones they see on television but different things that are realistic and meaningful right here in their own backyard or nationwide.
- **Character Development Program**
 - Chuck said that some of them might have a graph that Robert Greenlaw made. Chuck says it is kind of a how to guide, not a step-by-step, but it does have a lot of elements that you would need and it has testimonials and results. He said that people need to know why you would want to do this program. It covers work ethic, pride in workmanship, respect for others and accountability for your actions, basic things that people should know but they're not getting in their homes or their environments. This cover soft skills and also academic.
 - Chuck thinks that you need to find a champion first, someone that is passionate about this to get it started. Someone like a counselor, principal, or a superintendent.
 - Steve Buck asked the question about keeping data on the program and results rather than self-reporting. Chuck said that it would need to be worked out with the schools, etc. Since you're dealing with soft skills, this may be hard to track.
- **Work Ready/Career Ready**
 - Chuck said we lost Kim Osmani so now the new chair of this committee is Rhonda Mize.
 - Work Ready/Career Ready is the recognition of schools that have implemented ICAP and character development. Cecilia said that we need to work out some metrics.
 - Chuck said the other part of this is creating an incentive through a grant possibly through some of our education entities or non-profits that we have in the state. Then they might see the value of having this kind of program in place and that a school or a district that have focused on creating that well-rounded individual would see the results and proof of what we are doing.

Next Steps

- Chuck said next steps are redefining our committees. We also need to take a look at our membership. We've lost some of the members and there are some that don't attend very often.

- Committee members were reviewed and the membership list was also reviewed. Some of the committees can meet today for the rest of the meeting.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Next Meeting

The next Youth Council meeting is TBD.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:15 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Linda Emrich*