

OKLAHOMA GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR WORKFORCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
YOUTH PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

State Workforce Youth Council

Meeting Date: December 6, 2019

Meeting Time: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Meeting Location: Federal Reserve Bank – Oklahoma City Branch
211 N. Robinson Ave, #300, Oklahoma City, OK

AGENDA

Welcome & Introductions	Co-Chairs	10:00am – 10:10am
Review of October 4 Meeting Minutes (Vote for approval)	Co-Chairs	10:10am – 10:15am
Subcommittee Meeting and Discussion	Subcommittee Leads	10:15am – 10:30am
Presentation & Discussion on Career Ready Schools Project	Lester Claravall & Rhonda Mize	10:30am – 11:00am
Discussion on 2020 Strategic Priorities	Steve Shepelwich	11:00am – 11:15am
High School Equivalency Subcommittee Update	Lance Allee & Kerry Manning	11:15am – 11:25am
Resources and Outreach Subcommittee Update	Tracy Keeley	11:25am – 11:35am
Old Business New Business	Co-Chairs	11:35am – 11:40am
Adjourn Next Meeting February 7, 2020	Co-Chairs	11:40am

ATTACHMENTS

- October 4, 2019 Meeting Minutes (Draft for approval)

Following meeting adjournment, a networking lunch will be sponsored by the Federal Reserve Bank.

ATTENDEES

Steve Shepelwich, co-chair	Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City
Cecilia Robinson-Woods, co-chair	Millwood Public Schools
Curtis Calvin, member	OETA
Greg Hall, member	Youth Advocate
Jackie Pearson, member	Tinker Air Force Base
Joyce Jones, member	Kiamichi Career Tech
Karen Davidson, member	Southern Workforce Board
Kerry Manning, member	Southern Workforce Board
Lance Allee, member	Oklahoma Career Tech
Lester Claravall, member	Oklahoma Department of Labor
Marissa Lightsey, member	Oklahoma Department of Education
Rhonda Mize, member	Choctaw Nation
Robert Greenlaw, member	Kimray
Shannan Beeler, member	Junior Achievement of Oklahoma
Toni Pickle, member	Pioneer Telephone Cooperative Inc.
Tracy Keeley, member	Oklahoma Insurance Department
AJ Crowell, guest	OKCareerTech
Amanda Burnside, guest	Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse
Chelsea Hunt, guest	Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse
Darrell Strong, guest	OETA
H.L. Baird, guest	OKCareerTech
Jaclynn Gray, guest	AGC of Oklahoma
Leslie Baker, guest	Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City
Megan Brown Ellis, guest	Oklahoma Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs
Royal Aills, guest	RSU Public TV
Darcee Simon, staff	Oklahoma Office of Workforce Development

MEETING MINUTES

Welcome & Introductions

At approximately 10:10am, Steve Shepelwich began the meeting by welcoming members and guests. He asked attendees to discuss challenges to soft skills that come up this time of year in their personal or professional lives. After discussion, a few participants shared what they had discussed. Steve welcomed guests to the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Review and Approval of October 4, 2019 Minutes

Steve asked the committee members to review the October 4, 2019 minutes. Robert Greenlaw made a motion to approve the minutes and Rhonda Mize seconded the motion. The motion passed without objection.

Subcommittee Discussion & Meeting Time

Steve asked the subcommittees to convene in small groups for approximately fifteen minutes.

Presentation & Discussion on Career Ready Schools Initiative

Steve reminded the committee that this project was part of the state workforce goals and the strategic plan of the Governor's Council. Rhonda Mize, co-chair of the subcommittee, began by thanking the subcommittee members for their time and efforts to work on this project. She stated that they have made good progress in getting closer to having a rubric ready to be vetted through the full committee and other stakeholders to share feedback on the project. Lester Claravall, co-chair of the subcommittee, added that the timeline has been aligned with the goals of the strategic plan. He emphasized that the project has been streamlined to avoid duplication with the efforts of the Individual Career Academic Plan (ICAP) requirements and thanked Marissa Lightsey from the State Department of Education for her help. He explained that there were four sections for evaluation on the rubric and that the subcommittee had divided the sections among their subject matter experts to offer a rationale and example criteria for each.

Lester shared more about the Workplace Health & Safety component and the complementary US Department of Labor standards and Oklahoma DOL partnerships that support student safety and learning.

Robert Greenlaw described the Personal Ethics and Character category, which drew from the National Schools of Character program, Character.org. The criteria was based on their 11 principles of effective character education. He emphasized that there are many character development programs and the evaluation tool is not designed to prescribe or encourage one specific program, but rather to support the identification, teaching, and integration of a character program. This supports equity and accessibility across different types of schools to be responsive to their unique populations and student needs.

Ginger Allison summarized the category of Community and Employer Engagement which was cross-referenced between guidance from the Governor's Council and the

State Department of Education's reference on community and employer engagement. She shared examples of a few of the objectives that were developed as well as sample activity criteria for meeting those objectives.

Rhonda briefed the committee on the Employability & Professionalism category. In developing the criteria, national organizations such as National Association of Colleges and Employers, who have adopted a definition of career readiness and identified eight associated competencies.

Steve asked what the next steps are and Rhonda responded that the committee will be working to bring all of the sections together into one cohesive rubric draft. Steve emphasized the importance of vetting through stakeholders such as school administrators and employers and added that the State Department of Education will ultimately decide whether to accept this recommended proposal or not. Rhonda added that they have been supportive in providing guidance along the way, so she is hopeful that they will continue to be interested in supporting this project. Darcee recognized the subcommittee for leveraging the subject matter experts of the Youth Council for the evaluation criteria development. Steve thanked the subcommittee for their update.

Updates from Subcommittees

High School Equivalency – Lance Allee

Lance Allee introduced himself and his subcommittee members, Karen Davidson and Kerry Manning. He began with the first priority of the subcommittee, which is to expand the number of testing sites in Oklahoma. One idea is to pursue the option of getting testing sites in place at the local workforce offices. Lance shared that there are currently 398,000 Oklahomans without a high school diploma. He shared a recent goal of increasing the number of credentials by 198,000 within six months, but explained the feasibility challenges since we are projected to gain a total of 3,500 high school diplomas for 2019. The original goal has been revised to 95,000 in two years.

The subcommittee recommends a goal of 4000 for 2020. He also brought up the option of expanding the number of alternative pathways in Oklahoma. Currently, an individual without a high school diploma can take the GED and the HiSET. There are also options for veterans or those who complete two years of higher education. Lance noted that other states have been expanding alternative pathways such as stacked industry credentials paired with specific academic testing sections. He provided the context that in 2013, 10,500 people in Oklahoma received their GEDs. The reason for that was the heavy recruitment and marketing in anticipation of the exam version changing.

Marissa asked about primary barriers to expanding the number of testing sites and Lance responded that it may be related to staffing requirements. He added that testing sites can generate funds to provide for the staff. Robert asked about the process to take and complete classes and Lance responded that there are free classes offered at 119 sites across the state in addition to the Department of Corrections. Robert asked about online pathways and Lance responded that flexible scheduling is an option after enrollment, but the student must first go to the site to enroll.

Rhonda added that most of the tribes also offer adult education and GED classes. H.L. asked if there was a correlation with the low unemployment rates and low motivation to complete a GED and Lance responded that numbers are down across the country. Darcee asked Lance to clarify the average time from enrollment to testing and he responded that most students are on a 3rd grade reading level when they enroll and it takes an average of a year to a year and a half to complete the course and be ready to take the test. Steve thanked Lance for the update.

Resources & Outreach – Tracy Keeley & AJ Crowell

Tracy Keeley shared that the committee is using the survey to collect resources that can support youth with barriers to employment. The committee has been focusing on resources used by the local workforce areas and CareerTech sites. The next area of focus will be on state level organizations. Initially, the information will be shared as a spreadsheet with those who have completed it. Ultimately, the goal is to have a centralized online location for anyone to access the information. Marissa noted that some students may not be able to recognize or self-identify barriers, so it could be beneficial to offer a means of filtering needs within the resource list. AJ Crowell shared that 40 resources had been collected including 2 adult education centers, 6 tech centers, a handful of nonprofits, some community colleges, Choctaw nation, and DRS. There is strong representation from the Tulsa area, but there are still gaps for resources from other parts of the state. Amanda Burnside noted that this sounds similar to 211, who struggle to maintain a comprehensive representation of available resources. Tracy added that adding a resource to the survey does not obligate you to be the owner or expert of the survey. She also mentioned the Governor's Front Porch initiative and the subcommittee's interest in partnering with that project.

Discussion on 2020 Strategic Priorities

Steve emphasized the importance of the Youth Committee in the work of the strategic plan of the Governor's Council. He thanked the subcommittees for sharing more and their efforts towards those goals. He asked about projects and priorities that attendees

and their organizations are working on and ways the Youth Committee could support that work.

Shannan Beeler from Junior Achievement of Oklahoma shared that there is a pilot program called JA Inspire for 8th graders that is a hands-on, interactive career fair. She shared that two pilots were conducted this year and there will be another pilot in Norman in January and Tulsa in February. They are looking for vendors for both events to sponsor booths and share career information. They only accept one job/profession to enhance the diversity of the experience.

Rhonda Mize from Choctaw Nation shared that on October 28, 2020 there will be a Career Expo event to promote career exploration and alignment with ICAP goals. They hope to have 1500-1600 high school students from 10th to 12th grade. The expo will be organized among five career sectors: Construction, Allied Health, Engineering, Aviation, and Hospitality/Tourism. The expo is open to employers and education/training providers to create engaging, interactive hands-on experiences for the students.

Megan Ellis from the Oklahoma Alliance of the Boys and Girls Club shared that there is a new Workforce Readiness Act, House Bill 5236 was introduced on the floor and a similar bill has been introduced in the Senate. The Bill was co-sponsored by Oklahoma Representative Tom Cole. The purpose of the bill is to create a federal funding stream for afterschool youth programs for workforce readiness.

Royal Aills from RSU TV shared that they have a project in partnership with MidAmerica Industrial Park. They have partnered with a public television station in Pennsylvania to develop a “What’s So Cool About Manufacturing?” video contest where students can develop the videos and share them peer-to-peer in a competition for awards and recognition. They are working with five schools from fifth grade through high school. Students are learning the hands on video skills through on-site visits in manufacturing to enhance their awareness of industry options.

Steve shared that the Federal Reserve is focusing on opportunity occupations that don’t require four-year degrees but pay more than the average median salary. They are looking to highlight those opportunities within the Federal Reserve. They are also looking at some type of expungement fair or expo to clean up criminal records. He recognized efforts to achieve this in the Tulsa area and expressed an interest in expanding those types of efforts to other parts of the state.



Ginger shared that there are some upcoming spring events from the work-based learning team at the Oklahoma Office of Workforce Development. They are convening industry sector partners to develop internship standards. They will also be launching train the trainer sessions to invite partners to learn how to develop Registered Apprenticeship programs and mentorship training. The second annual Oklahoma Work-Based Learning Summit will be on April 3, 2020.

Old Business

Steve asked if there was any additional committee feedback around the idea of an Apprenticeship Signing Day. It's taken off in Missouri and there is only one school in Oklahoma that does this. The task force would build a promotional toolkit that could be used with potential incentive funding. Steve said that anyone who is interested in helping can reach out to him or Darcee.

New Business

None.

Next Meeting

Friday, February 7th, at 10am
Oklahoma State University – Oklahoma City Campus
Business Technologies Building, 3rd Floor, BT304A

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:59am.

*Respectfully submitted,
Darcee Simon*

