

YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING
CareerSource Southwest Florida
VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON
February 15, 2023
10 a.m.

MINUTES

Members Virtually Present:

Kimberly Baker	Tim Goodman
Dr. Brad Myers	Anthony Oakes – In Person
Christine Sardina – In Person	Andrea Schaffer – In Person
Aaron Stitt	Vivian Watkins – In Person

Members Absent:

Curtis Brown	B.J. Brundage
Rita Davis	Carl Stringer

Guests/Interested Parties:

Staff Present:

Thais Kuoman, Staff Liaison	Peg Elmore - Virtual
Benita Richards	

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Aaron Stitt, Interim Chair, at 10:03 a.m., via ZOOM and in-person.

II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Aaron Stitt referenced the Committee Directory included in the meeting packet and invited all those present to introduce themselves. Aaron Stitt will send over contact information for Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ).

III. APPROVE SEPTEMBER 19, 2022, MINUTES

Andrea Schaffer made a **motion** to approve the September 19, 2022, Youth Council Meeting Minutes, Dr. Brad Myers seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by the Committee.

IV. ELECT/DISCUSS COMMITTEE CHAIR

Thais Kuoman shared Aaron has been appointed the Interim Chair by the Executive Committee. Aaron has served as Chair for many years. Committee Chair must be a Board of Director. In addition, the Chair will serve on the Executive Committee and commit to attending not only the Youth Committee meetings, but the Executive Committee and Board meetings as well. Thais opened the floor to volunteers and/or nominations. Aaron stated he is taking on a new role at DCF and will consume most of his schedule. Dr. Brad Myers volunteered.

Aaron Stitt made a **motion** to nominate and approve Dr. Brad Myers as the Youth Committee Chair; Andrea Schaffer seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by the Committee.

V. COMMITTEE SCHEDULE FY 22-23 AND FY 23-24

Thais Kuoman suggested the Committee choose dates to finish out FY 22-23 and she will work with new Chair, Dr. Myers, to set the FY 23-24 schedule. Following discussion the Committee concurred to meet 3/7/23, 9 a.m. and 5/9/23, 10 a.m.

Anthony Oakes made a **motion** to approve the remaining FY 22-23 dates, 3/7/23 and 5/9/23; Andrea Schaffer seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by the Committee.

VI. COMMITTEE ROLE, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND OBJECTIVES

Thais Kuoman referenced the two Committee Structures included in the meeting packet. The Committee's focus will be on Youth Services, serving ages 16-24. Focus on finding businesses to host, mentor, coach our youth in foundational/soft skills. Please contact Thais if you have any business contacts. Thais will provide more Youth eligibility requirements to the Committee at the next meeting. In addition, the Career Exploration Event, Summer Employment, Internships, Career Pathways, and Out-of-School Youth. Destination Graduation is phasing out 6/30/23 in Charlotte, Collier, and Lee Counties. Each of these districts have created their own program to mimic Destination Graduation and work with At Risk Students. We will continue the Destination Graduation Program in Hendry and Glades Counties. This is due to funding shifts requiring 75% funds utilized on Out-of-School Youth and 20% of that Work Experience. We will continue our Summer Employment; more to come.

The Committee discussed possibly hosting Workshop facilitators, such as, hosting a workshop with the organizations in which the members are employed, like Tri-County Apprenticeship, VR, etc. Youth is included in Job Fairs, as they are public events, and we advertise a lot on social media. Thais will be sure to include the Committee on any flyers, etc. so members can help spread the word on any events.

VII. CAREER EXPLORATION EVENT

Thais Kuoman stated this event has taken place for the past three years in Lee County. Junior Achievement is hosting a similar event this year called Inspire for Eighth Graders only. This recommended we skip 2023 and beginning planning for 2024. This will allow time to establish an Ad-Hoc Committee, secure locations and dates, and potentially increase business participation as many are busy due to Hurricane Ian recovery. The Committee concurs and would like to look at both Lee and Collier Counties if participation warrants and would like to continue with the Spring timeframe.

VIII. PICTURE THIS AS A CAREER POSTER CONTEST

Thais Kuoman referenced the website link included in the meeting packet. We hope everyone had an opportunity to view and vote. This year's participating school districts were Charlotte, Hendry, and Lee Counties. Due to declining participation, this will be the last contest and 2024 will be the last calendar. The schools receive many contest requests and cannot participate in all of them.

IX. OPEN DISCUSSION

With the Destination Graduation Program phasing out, do we expect to see an increase in High School Drop-Outs? No, graduation rates have been increasing. And with the districts implementing their own programs, we expect the same results. In addition, we encourage the districts to refer students to additional programs such as Boys and Girls Clubs, etc.

Can we rebrand 'Youth'? The group ages 16-24 do not like to be referred to as 'kids or youth'; they consider themselves young adults. We can look into how we reference events, etc. and have our Communications Department assist, but, the Committee name is Statewide and cannot be changed.

CareerSource works to educate the families not just the participants. CareerSource participates in school district career fairs, and VR will assist getting more information about CareerSource into the school districts.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.