

**Northwest Georgia Workforce Development Board
 Youth Committee Meeting-Noon
 Wednesday, March 10, 2021, Noon
 Via GoTo Meeting**

Minutes

Committee Members Present	Committee Members Absent
Ben Arp LaDonna Collins Nancy Edwards Molly Majestic April Sams Eric Waters	Beth Kelley Curtis Kingsley Lynn Rousseau <u>Guests and Staff Present</u> Tommy Baker Karla Conetta Derrick McDaniel Tammy Helbing Kimberly Justice Lesia Lambert Cindy Martin Terri Morgan Tammy Pence Courtney Rouse Anthony Rucker Vince Stalling

In the absence of Beth Kelley, Chairman, Ben Arp called the meeting to order. Mr. Arp informed those present that Minutes from the November 4, 2020 meeting had been emailed (attached). Eric Waters made the motion to approve the minutes. Molly Majestic seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Anthony Rucker updated the Committee on the status of expenditures and available funds. He stated that a report was not included in the packet but he presented information for the period ending 2/28/21. Nancy Edwards made the motion to approve thereport. Eric Waters seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Karla Conetta provided a performance report and youth enrollment report (attached). She noted that enrollments were low due to the effects of COVID, especially in the work experience component, but that staff has and would continue to provide technical assistance as needed.

Derrick McDaniel presented the following staff recommendations for the Youth Services contracts (also attached):

Contractor's Name	Budget Funds Requested	NWGRC Recommendation	Difference (Reduction)	Percentage Difference (Reduction)	# of Slots	Work Experience	Support	Total Funding Requested
Chattooga BOE	\$51,565	\$51,565	\$0	\$0	45	\$70,000	N/A	\$121,565
Endless Opportunity	\$298,520	\$298,520	\$0	0%	75	\$50,000	\$40,000	\$388,520
GNTC	\$617,383	\$617,383	\$0	0%	185	\$70,000	\$40,000	\$727,383
Rome City BOE	\$76,637	\$76,637	\$0	\$0	45	\$70,000	N/A	\$146,637
Eckerd-Connect Paxen	\$318,750	\$318,750	\$0	0%	100	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$398,750
Total:	\$1,362,855	\$1,362,855	\$0	0%	450	\$300,000	\$120,000	\$1,782,855

Mr. McDaniel stated that these contract budgets are at the same levels as last year, with a slight increase in Work Experience. He also stated that it was staff's recommendation to fund these contracts at a cost not to exceed \$1,782,855 with the ability to negotiate slot levels and funding requests contingent upon funds received from the Technical College System of Georgia, Office of Workforce Development.

Eric Waters made the motion to approve these contracts, at a cost not to exceed \$1,782,855 with the ability to negotiate slot levels and funding requests contingent upon funds received from the Technical College System of Georgia, Office of Workforce Development. Molly Majestic seconded. Motion carried with Nancy Edwards abstaining due to her employment with the Chattooga County Board of Education and with no dissenting vote.

Mr. McDaniel presented the "Northwest Georgia Youth Work Experience Policy" for review. He stated that these changes were made as a result of monitoring that took place the week of February 8-12, 2021. The state found that worksite agreements failed to require the inclusion of the names and contact information for all parties, require the signature of a parent or legal guardian for youth WEX participants that are under 18 years of age; and the inclusion of a statement of monitoring by both state and local representatives, as well as regular visitations by LWDA staff to check on the progress of the work experience participants. Staff added the specific requirements for Work Experience as set forth in the monitoring report (attached, changes highlighted). Eric Waters made the motion to approve this policy. Molly Majestic seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Lesia Lambert gave an update on the local response to the pandemic. She reminded them that our area received approximately \$1.2 million to provide temporary work experience and job training services for individuals who have been impacted by COVID and meets the definition of a dislocated worker. The work experience activities must meet the US DOL definitions for job descriptions and must be with non-profit, public employers. The work experience pays \$12.50 per hour for 40 hours a week for up to 16 weeks. She asked that the Youth Committee contact her if they would like to serve as a worksite or if they know individuals who might be interested in participating.

Courtney Rouse from Eckerd Connects/Paxen gave those present information on a unpaid virtual work readiness program for WIOA eligible youth, ages 14- 24. This 43-hour, 5-week program provides youth with work-ready skills and abilities along with opportunities to explore and practice work activities in a virtual environment. The program includes a \$200 stipend per week for a total of \$1,000 for the five-week program.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.