

**Northwest Georgia Workforce Development Board
Youth Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, March 8, 2023, Noon
Northwest Georgia Regional Commission
Rome, Georgia**

Minutes

<p><u>Committee Members Present</u> Ben Arp Christa Gilmore LaShawn Hall Beth Kelley John Rhodarmer April Sams</p> <p><u>Committee Members Absent</u> Tracie Ball LaDonna Collins Curtis Kingsley</p>	<p><u>Guests and Staff Present</u> Karla Conetta Lesia Lambert Cindy Martin Terri Morgan Marilyn Patterson Courtney Rouse Anthony Rucker Judy Siddall</p>
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Beth Kelley, Chairman, called the meeting to order. Those present introduced themselves. Ms. Kelley informed those present that Minutes from the January 11, 2022 meeting had been emailed (attached). Christa Gilmore made the motion to approve the minutes. John Rhodarmer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Anthony Rucker presented an update on the status of expenditures and available funds and referenced the handout entitled, "Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Youth Report, Annual, 2/28/2023" (attached). Beth Kelley commented that she liked the format of this report—that it was much easier to understand. Ben Arp made the motion to accept this report. Christa Gilmore seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Karla Conetta provided performance and enrollment reports (attached). She noted that enrollment remains low and staff continues to work with the providers to assist in increasing enrollments. Ms. Kelly asked if there was a possibility that the providers would add additional participants. Ms. Conetta responded that it was unlikely that, at this point in the school year, the in-school providers would add participants but could possibly add one or two. The out-of-school providers recruit during the year and will likely add participants. Ms. Kelley also asked why Endless Opportunities "Skill Gain" was so low. Ms. Conetta responded that it was directly impacted by the number of carryovers that Endless Opportunities has. She noted that the out-of-school population

is such that participants may come back to the program and that the providers sometimes hold onto participants in hopes that they will return and additional performance measures will be met. Lesia Lambert stated that she has spoken with staff at Endless Opportunities about the large number of carryovers they have. Their staff has begun exiting them slowly but it will take some time to complete. Christa Gilmore asked if participants could return after exit. Ms. Lambert responded that they must come back within a particular time frame. John Rhodarmor made the motion to accept these reports. April Sams seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Lambert presented the Committee with the “Northwest Georgia Workforce Development Board Youth Committee Contract Budgets PY 23-PY24,” attached and included below.

<i>Contractor's Name</i>	<i>Requested Budget</i>	<i>NWGRC Recommendation</i>	<i># of Slots Requested</i>	<i>Support</i>	<i>Work Experience</i>	<i>Total Funding Requested</i>
<i>Chattooga BOE</i>	\$51,300	\$51,300	45	NA	40,000	\$91,300
<i>Rome City BOE</i>	\$70,440	\$70,440	50	NA	\$40,000	\$110,440
<i>GNTC</i>	\$557,333	\$538,390	190	\$35,500	\$40,000	\$613,890
<i>Endless Opportunity</i>	\$179,042	\$150,000	65	\$10,500	\$15,500	\$176,000
<i>Eckerd-Connect Paxen</i>	\$280,000	\$280,000	90	\$25,000	\$32,500	\$337,500
<i>Total:</i>	\$1,138,115	\$1,090,130	475	\$71,000	\$168,000	\$1,329,130

Counties to be served by all the above contractors: Bartow, Catoosa, Chattooga, Dade, Fannin, Floyd, Gilmer, Gordon, Haralson, Murray, Paulding, Pickens, Polk, Walker, Whitfield.

She reminded the Committee that Youth funding continues to be cut each year. Additionally, the Governor added \$2,000 to state employees’ salary this year and that the funding available for the Youth program was not sufficient to cover those increases. She noted that the recommendation listed the budgets requested by the providers as well as the recommendation of staff for budgets and slots, contingent upon the availability of funds from TCSG and successful negotiations. Ms. Lambert also requested that staff be given the authority to adjust slots and funding as needed, provided the adjustments do not exceed approved contract amounts. Ms. Kelley asked if the contracts would include support. Ms. Lambert replied that the support amounts in the contract were only for tracking purposes. Ben Arp made the motion to approve the contract recommendations. LaShawn Hall seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Lambert reminded those present that the Technical College System of Georgia had conducted virtual and on-site monitoring in February. No findings or observations were noted (copy of report attached).

Ms. Lambert informed the Committee that the Youth Committee Goals were attached for review. She invited the Committee to review the Youth Resources Manual, located on the Career Depot website.

Ms. Lambert noted that a success story from Eckerd Connects was included in the packet (attached). Courtney Rouse provided more information about Gavin Saylor, a participant from the Eckerd Connects program.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.