

**MIDDLE GEORGIA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING  
DECEMBER 5, 2024**

**MINUTES**

A meeting of the Middle Georgia Workforce Development Board Youth Committee was held at Noon, on December 5, 2024 at the Middle Georgia Consortium, Inc. The following were in attendance:

**Members Present:**

Africa Porter-Virtual  
Sam Dorsey  
Brenda Brown  
Keith King  
Clifford Holmes  
Tishua Green  
Joy Carr, Virtual  
Juan Daniels, Virtual  
Patrick Manuel

**MGCI Staff Present:**

Darrell Stillings  
Terrell Mitchell  
Adreyan Brown  
Alexus Steele  
Teresa Ragan  
Carolyn Robertson  
Ashlee Simmons

**Guests Present:**

Jeffery Johnson, TCSG  
Brandon Ona, TCSG  
Melodi Robinson, CGTC  
Jennifer Houston, TCSG, WD

**WELCOME** – Chairman Clifford Holmes chaired the meeting. He called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM and welcomed everyone. There was a quorum present.

**MINUTES**

1. **Approval of the Minutes from the August 15, 2024, Youth Committee Meeting** –A motion was made by Sam Dorsey and seconded by Tishua Green to approve the August 15, 2024, minutes as written. There were no opposing votes and the motion carried by voice vote.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was none.

**NEW BUSINESS** The agenda was amended to allow Brandon Ona and Jeffery Johnson to present information on the TCSG Apprenticeship Pathway for Youth and the new WIG for Work-Based Learning

1. **TCSG Update on the Apprenticeship Pathway for Youth** – Jeffery Johnson explained that the State is focused on getting youth into the apprenticeship program and looking to local areas to get the CTAE Directors and local businesses in contact with them to help facilitate the pathway. Since it is a new program, the State is currently developing the policies and procedures for the program. He asked that he be included in any meetings with schools or businesses to provide an overview of the program to local partners. Darrell Stillings explained that we currently have students at local career academies in the internship program but they're not in the pre-apprenticeship program and asked if the State will help bridge the gap between local internship programs to the pre-apprenticeship program with the businesses. Mr. Johnson added that yes the goal is to bridge the gap but there are no guarantees that

the students will be accepted into employment or an apprenticeship program but the goal is to bridge the gap.

**TCSG Work-Based Learning WIG** – Darrell Stillings explained that the State has issued a Work-Based Learning WIG with a checklist outlining all the criteria it takes for someone to be approved. The checklist included work experience which caused some concern. He explained that when enrolling an adult in transitional jobs where the employer pays the wages, it is important that the employer be vetted to ensure they are a legitimate organization that pay taxes and meet other requirements. However, with our youth work experience program the Consortium pays the wages and workers comp so the burden is not on the worksite to meet those requirements. He introduced Brandon Ona, with TCSG, to provide an overview of the WIG and explain the exclusion of the youth work experience worksites as part of the WIG. Mr. Ona explained that the purpose of the WIG was to make sure the businesses are being reviewed to ensure they are current on their taxes, that they provide a safe work environment and jobs offered are sustainable. The WIG is to make sure what local boards are doing across the state is consistent and that they have the resources they need to administer these programs. The WIG is directed at programs where WIOA funds are paid directly to the employer and in the incident of the Middle Georgia youth work experience where the wages are paid directly to the participant and not to the employer the WIG would not apply. He reported the State is working to clarify that in the WIG and send out to the local areas.

2. **CGTC Update** – Melodi Robinson reported that there are two new career advisors on board which is Tiffany Tillman, who is full-time in Macon and Katina Skinner, who is part-time in Warner Robins. She explained that with the two new career advisors it allows CGTC to be on campus and at the one-stops at the same time. She also reported that the virtual work experience has just concluded and all students complete with exception of one which has remained in contact with the work experience specialist and their career advisor. This week will conclude classes for DAP students and recruitment is ongoing for the next classes. Since the TABE test is not a requirement of the DAP program but is a WIOA requirement, there is some hesitation from the students being recruited since they are in class, but hopefully during the month of December and January when they are not in class some of the hesitation will subside and they will take the TABE test and we will have some additional WIOA participants. For clarification Darrell Stillings asked Jennifer Houston, of TCSG, what assessment tools are acceptable? Ms. Houston added that if the assessment is for eligibility purposes only Wonderlic, Career Scope and Youth Science can be used but if it is to be used for measureable skills gain then it needs to be one from NRS such as the TABE test.
3. **TCSG Youth Roundtable Update** – Jennifer Houston, the Youth Services Representative for the Technical College System of Georgia, Office of Workforce Development provided an update on the Youth Roundtables. She reported they have hosted three Youth Roundtables – one in Clarkston, Americus and Macon, where they provided highlights from ETA regarding delivery of services, program enrollment and the changes issued from USDOL TEGs that have been received in an effort to make sure local areas are update with the changes that have occurred. The roundtables also provided an overview of eligibility and program enrollments because a lot of the local areas had some confusion with objective assessments. She explained that if the assessment is going to be used for measureable skills gains then the tool used has to be from the NRS. She noted that the Youth Roundtables are mandatory for local areas, however, with the storms there were some areas that couldn't participate this year. She volunteered to provide training to local service providers if needed.

Darrell Stillings asked Ms. Houston to verify that any student that leaves their parent high school is considered an out-of-school youth regardless if they enroll to get a GED or High School Diploma. She responded that is her understanding.

4. **Pre-Award Review Work-Based Learning Program** – Darrell Stillings explained that this is the WIG that Brandon Ona previously spoke about in today's agenda item number one and it is presented here

for approval with the exception of the Youth Work Experience program but is inclusive of all other work experience for adults and Dislocated Workers to make sure the businesses are eligible.

A motion was made by Brenda Brown and seconded by Sam Dorsey to approve the Pre-Award Review for Work-Based Learning Programs as presented. There were no opposing votes and the motion carried by voice vote.

5. **WIOA Reauthorization Update** – Darrell Stillings explained that there is a strong push for the “A Stronger Workforce for America Act” to be approved before the new administration come into office, however, it not certain to happen by then. He provided a summary of the Act and highlighted the changes that will affect the youth participants in WIOA. He pointed out that it will redefine “out-of-school youth” as “opportunity youth” and mandates that Title I and Title II work together when serving youth, which he explained that we already work closely with Adult Education in our area but may not be the case in other areas across the State. He also pointed out that under section 123 it clarifies that providers of pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeships for youth can serve as eligible providers for youth programs. Also, section 132 is revised to allow funds to be spent on ITAs for in-school youth.
6. **Youth Expenditure Report** —Darrell Stillings provided copies of and discussed the Expenditure Report for all Youth Grants through October 31, 2024. He pointed out that there is only \$145,373.98 left in the PY 23 Grants that end June 30, 2025, which is historically low for this time of the program year so there is a need to slow down youth spending in the future. However, we do have funds to cover current spending under the PY 24 grant that ends June 30, 2026. He pointed out that spending requires have been met for all grants ending June 2025.
7. **PY '24 Youth Enrollment and PY '23 Performance Updates** – Terrell Mitchell, MIS Coordinator provided copies of and discussed the PY2024 Enrollment Report which showed enrollments from July 1, 2024 through November 25, 2024. She reported that the total number of enrollments for the period was 135 with 123 being carryover enrollments and 12 new enrollment since July 1, 2024.

Also provided was the Final PY 23 Performance Report dated November 26, 2024. Ms. Mitchell pointed out that we met all measures except the Credential Attainment measure which we only met 49.4% of the planned performance. However, we met our overall performance goal and we will not receive any sanctions. She also provided the PY 24 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Performance report dated November 26, 2024. She pointed out that this is only the first quarter, however, again we are lagging way behind on the Measureable Skills Gain measure and it needs to improve.

A motion was made by Brenda Brown and seconded by Patrick Manuel to accept items that did not require approval as informational items. There were no opposing votes and the motion carried by voice vote.

### **MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR**

1. Tishua Green announced that the Labor Commissioner has passed. They are waiting for Governor to appoint an Interim Labor Commission. At the moment the Lewis Green, the Chief of Staff is unofficial acting as interim.
2. Chairman Holmes thanked Sam Dorsey for attending even though he had other engagements that he had to rush away from. Sam Dorsey gave accolades to the staff for their outstanding job and Chairman Holmes agreed and added that we are well represented by Mr. Stillings through his partnership with other organizations.
3. Jennifer Houston added that she is the Youth point of contact for TCSG for any questions or concerns. If we need any help on how to obtain the credential attainments or measureable skills gain she will work with us to help come up with a solution.

**MATTERS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

1. Next Meeting – Chairman Holmes pointed out that the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on February 13, 2024, at noon, at the Middle Georgia Consortium office. He wished everyone Happy Holidays!
2. SETA Spring Conference Darrell Stillings announced that the SETA Spring Conference is scheduled for March 16-19, 2025 in Myrtle Beach, SC. He encouraged anyone wishing to attend to please let us know.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Juan Daniels commended the staff on the impeccable job with youth.

Chairman Holmes thanked everyone for participating. There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 12:43 PM.