**Youth Committee Meeting – State Workforce Development Board – Minutes**

**Thursday, July 6, 2023**

**Meeting Date/Location:** Thursday, July 6, 2023 via Microsoft Teams

**Video Recording of the Meeting:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yLX-ayL-dl8&t=6s>

**Attendance:** Tori Biondolillo, Jess DeCarolis, Johannes Haensch, Sarah Kleinman, Rose Lucenti, Nicole Miller, Dylan Morse, Abby Rhim, Tracy Verge, Loretta Stalnaker

Tori began the meeting with a few general updates surrounding the state strategic plan and Abby followed by introducing the agenda.

Tori then presented the first upcoming milestone for the Youth Committee:
“By September 2023, the Youth committee will compile an inventory of state programs related to youth to be updated on a yearly basis and identify programming gaps and identification of barriers for students across the state.”

Tori emphasized the importance of making youth programs accessible by bridging program gaps. The current goal of this meeting and its follow-up is to construct an exhaustive list of youth programs across the state. A spreadsheet of programs is to be sent to the committee members following the meeting.

Following the first milestone, Tori presented milestone two:

“The Youth Committee will develop an initial statewide mentorship list with the help of local chambers, RDC's and school counselors.”

Tori explained the intent of this milestone as means of connecting employers to students across ages. She then asked the committee to brainstorm touchpoints that would be most impactful in bridging this gap and connecting students to employers.

Chambers, town governments, statewide industry associations, civic-based organizations were all mentioned as potential connections.

Sarah Kleinman expressed the need to prepare employers to host student learners to ensure a mutually beneficial learning experience.

Jess DeCarolis expressed additional hurdles that may be presented to businesses looking to get involved such as background checks, liability insurance, and other costs associated with taking on prospective students. Jess also inquired about creating work-based learning opportunities from job-fair participating companies already looking to get involved.

Tracy Verge offered a connection with VDOL and Tori covered next steps looking forward to January and future milestones. She then adjourned the meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

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Respectfully submitted by Dylan Morse

Dylan Morse, Intern, State Workforce Development Board