



**Youth Council  
December 14, 2021 at 9:00 A.M.  
Virtual Meeting via Teams**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**In attendance:**

- **WDB Staff:** Carissa Pinkard
- **Members:** Michael Ford, Francis Miliano, Diane Tyson, John Robbins, Susan Richeson, Gina Guatta, Jean Martin, Victor DeSantis
- **CareerLink® Staff:** Zane Walizer, Liz Swirniuk, Willow Peluso, An'Dionne Smith

**Not in attendance:** Andrew Garner, Michelle Wagner, Cheri Modene, Cindi Moses, Kimberly Patrick, Emily Blackwell, Valdijah Brown, Mike Moeller, Jessica Crosby

**I. Welcome and Call to Order**

- Fran called the meeting to order at 9:01am

**II. Approved meeting minutes from 10-12-2021**

- Diane made a motion to approve minutes. Jean 2<sup>nd</sup>, **ALL** in favor.

**III. Program Updates**

**A. OSY PY21 RFP:**

- Carissa advised that Equus received the highest average score from the review team. She advised that letters going out to notify the bidders, calls and emails have already been made by her.
- Diane moved to approve Equus as the next provider. John 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. **ALL** in favor.
- Some of the proposal reviewers shared their experience and that extended time was needed due to the length and importance of the proposals.
- Reviewers from the committee shared a couple of reasons that Equus's proposal impressed them.
  - More money to participants vs staffing salaries
  - Creative approach to outreach and service delivery

**B. Youth Council Member Updates:**

- Susan (OVR) advised Commonwealth running Summer Internship Program. Those that self-identify with a disability may apply. It is a 6-week program in Harrisburg, Philadelphia, and Pittsburg. College and trade students who have completed their first year are eligible. She will send flyer for us to share.
- Susan also advised of Early Reach Academy at Penn State Harrisburg. An on-campus college experience for students. First priority is HS grad class 2023. Second priority is HS grad class of 2022.

#### IV. Discussion

##### A. Upcoming RFP

- Carissa advised that would like to change the RFP process for PY22 to reflect the type of work we want moving forward for our students and young adults. Noted that all programs, TANF YDP and WIOA ISY/OSY need proposal updates.
- Youth Council members shared their hope for local entities to apply and more diversity in providers. Want to see the changes we are discussing in our programs.
- Carissa shared that want the input from all youth council members reflected in the proposal drafts and the process to make the review of each proposal and experience. Next month we will begin to outline more details of what should be included in the next RFP process. Advised that Cathy made it clear that we do not need to use Foundant this year if it means rushing the creation of the drafts. Quality is more important.

##### B. Rebranding

- Carissa shared logo and name ideas with members to receive feedback. Explained and discussed with members the importance of providing a name for the young people in our community to identify with and draw them into our programming. Also make it easier to share with educators and community members without always using grant fund names.
- Key points made by members and youth staff present:
  - Words matter
  - Identify that the program name is an acronym
  - Need to engage employers so that can have their buy-in
  - A good steppingstone/model that lays the programs out nicely
  - *Carissa will discuss more with co-chairs after the meeting*

##### C. January 2022 Meeting

- Members would like hybrid meetings indefinitely. Carissa will add teams link to meetings for those that wish to attend virtually.

#### V. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 10:00am

#### **2022 Future Meeting Dates:**

- January 11, 2022
- February 8, 2022
- March 8, 2022
- April 12, 2022
- May 10, 2022
- June 14, 2022
- July 12, 2022
- August 9, 2022
- September 13, 2022
- October 11, 2022
- November 8, 2022
- December 13, 2022