

Youth Committee

Agenda

130 Kelly Square, Ste. 1, Lewisburg, PA 17837

Wednesday, March 6, 2024 1:00 p.m.

Welcome & Call to Order	S. White
Public Comment	
Review & Approval of Meeting Minutes	S. White
Advance Central PA Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Business Education Partnership• In-School Youth Eligibility Policy• In-School Youth Program Model/Background• Apprenticeship Building America Grant	K. Lucas
In-School Youth Provider Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bridges to the Future – Overview	M. Bair/ J. Walter
Committee Priorities	S. White
Executive Session	
Out-of-School Youth (OSY) Contract <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Action Needed: OSY Pre-Work Experience Policy- Action Needed: OSY Contract Recommendation	
In-School Youth (ISY) Contract <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Action Needed: ISY Contract Recommendation	
Open Discussion	S. White
Date of Next Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To be determined	S. White
Adjournment	S. White

Youth Committee

Meeting Notes November 29, 2023

The Youth Committee of Advance Central PA held an in-person meeting on Wednesday, November 29, 2023, at the Advance Central PA office, 130 Kelly Square Suite 1, Lewisburg, PA.

The following members attended:

Jon Ritter
Suzanne White
Jenna Witherite

The following members were excused:

N/A

The following staff attended:

Patrick Ginther
Alexa Hann
Korrie Lucas
Erica Mulberger
Kelly Walter

The following guests attended:

Paula Dicky
Katherine Vastine

Welcome & Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:14 p.m. by Suzanne White, Youth Committee Chair.

Suzanne provided welcoming remarks and thanked guests from Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit (CSIU) for attending. She welcomed Patrick Ginther, Advance Central PA Mentor Coordinator to his new position.

Public Comment

None.

Review & Approval of Meeting Minutes

- ▲ Jenna Witherite made a motion to approve the August 23, 2023, Youth Committee meeting minutes. Jon Ritter seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved with no abstentions.

Advance Central PA Updates

Business Education Partnership

Alexa Hann, Advance Central PA Operations Manager, presented an overview of the work underway via the Business Education Partnership (BEP) grant. She highlighted Dinner & Dessert events designed to allow parents and students to explore careers and network with industry experts.

Suzanne shared her enthusiasm for the events; Kish Bank will be participating in January. An event is scheduled at Playworld later in December thanks to Jon Ritter's partnership.

Out-of-School Youth (OSY) Eligibility Policy

Alexa provided an in-depth review of Out-of-School Youth (OSY) eligibility requirements including a compare and contrast of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and TANF Youth Development (TANF YD). In general, WIOA is most stringent and TANF YD helps fill gaps allowing Advance Central PA to enroll young people who need services but otherwise would not be eligible.

Potential Changes to TANF YDP Eligibility

The US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Family Assistance has released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM). Alexa and Korrie Lucas, Advance Central PA Assistant Director, provided an overview of the most concerning proposed changes and the impact to service delivery and eligibility for TANF YD as well as other Commonwealth programs.

The proposed rule creates an eligibility ceiling at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines (FPIG). Currently, Pennsylvania's eligibility operates at or below 235% of FPIG, therefore the proposed rule will exclude individuals who need services. The change would create a service gap detrimental to families and the community.

Further, the proposed rule limits service delivery to that which will directly close cash assistance. In the case of TANF YD programming, the target is the child of the parent who receives cash assistance and the goal is to help end the cycle of generational poverty. Tying program delivery only to a parent's receipt of cash assistance will cause dangerous gaps in service delivery and limit how Pennsylvania and local areas can use funds.

The Committee members discussed and asked a number of questions about the data behind the proposed changes. The NPRM acknowledges a lack of data in regard to the impact on families and individuals served which members agreed is concerning considering the significant changes put forth.

The public comment period closes December 1, 2023; Advance Central PA staff will be submitting formal comments.

Out-of-School Youth (OSY) Provider Presentation

YES to the Future Overview

Paula Dickey, YES to the Future Program Manager and Katherine Vastine, CARES Leadership Coordinator presented an overview of the OSY program, YES to the Future, on behalf of Advance Central PA's procured provider, Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit (CSIU). Paula and Katherine shared information about the team of front-line career counselor staff and provided a snapshot of the program design in addition to highlighting success stories. They reviewed the individualized services available to young people enrolled in the program and the holistic approach they take with each case to help participants set and achieve their goals. Benefits of hallmark services that include On-the Job Training (OJT), Paid Internship (PI), Restaurant Ready, and connection to pre-apprenticeship in coordination with Advance Central PA were discussed.

Performance data was presented including WIOA enrollments, TANF YD enrollments, Common Measures, and expenditures related to the WIOA requirement that 20% of the budget is spent on allowable "work experience" expenses such as OJT and PI. The number of OJTs and PIs are below expected targets. The Common Measure performance presented for PY22 Quarter 3 showed that the Average Program Score, which indicates the overall health of the program was meeting expectations at 90.1%.

A robust conversation ensued about performance and Common Measure calculations. Advance Central PA staff is aware that by definition, Measurable Skills Gain sometimes cannot be met. For example, if a participant begins a training for which no Measurable Skill Gain is possible in the quarter being measured, it does look negative for that quarter. Common Measures are cumulative and in most cases, the positive outcome can occur in the program year. Members discussed the importance of relevant and impactful measures in their businesses and the importance of Advance Central PA staff remaining diligent about how federal definitions may result in data that is skewed. Erica Mulberger, Advance Central PA Executive Director discussed that WIOA reauthorization is being discussed federally so now is an important time to discuss issues like this and advocate for change.

Committee Priorities

Suzanne invited conversation and input regarding Committee priorities and agendas for upcoming meetings. Members readily agreed to an agenda for the next meeting focused on In-School Youth (ISY) programming. In the long term, members want to continue to focus on Common Measures and performance metrics in addition reviewing locally determined eligibility definitions.

Open Discussion

None.

Date of Next Meeting

The Committee would like to meet once a quarter and discussed late February before the Workforce Development Board meeting. A poll will be sent to determine the best date.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Suzanne adjourned the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kelly Walter, Office/Board Coordinator

ISY Eligibility Overview

Summary of WIOA Title I ISY Eligibility Requirements

1. US Citizen or Eligible to Work
2. Registered for Selective Service
3. Attending school
4. Age 14-21
5. Low Income
6. One or more of the following barriers:
 - a. Basic Skills Deficient
 - b. Offender
 - c. Homeless or runaway
 - d. Foster care, or aged out of foster care
 - e. Pregnant or Parenting
 - f. English Language Learner
 - g. Disability
 - h. Requires Additional Assistance to complete an educational program or to secure/hold employment.
(Only 5% of ISY enrolled may be those made eligible according to Requires Additional Assistance barrier)
Currently defined locally as:
 - Youth at risk of dropping out of school (as certified by school counselor); or
 - Part of a family who has received medical assistance, LIHEAP assistance, or public housing/rent subsidy within the past 6 months; or
 - Lacks a significant work history

Definition of Low Income

Low Income is defined as meeting one or more of the following:

- Self or family receives, or in the past 6 months has received, SNAP, TANF, or supplemental security income
- Total family income does not exceed the poverty income level or 70% of the lower living standard*
- Homeless
- Receives or is eligible to receive a free or reduced price lunch
- Foster child
- Individual with a disability whose own income meets the requirement, but who is a member of a family whose income does not meet this requirement

*70% of the Lower Living Standard Income Level (LLSIL) – Effective 05-08-2023

Family Size	Metropolitan Area	Non-Metropolitan Area
1	\$12,691	\$12,523
2	\$20,799	\$20,527
3	\$28,546	\$28,179
4	\$35,238	\$34,778

Exception to Low Income Requirement

Up to 5% of ISY served in a program year who meet eligibility requirements other than Low Income may be registered as ISY if they do not meet the criteria for Low Income.

Eligibility Determination

Program staff review of validating documentation following strict requirements and filing processes.

TANF Youth Development Program ISY Eligibility Requirements

1. Age 12 and 24
2. Have proof of Social Security Number
3. Have proof of identity
4. U.S. citizen or TANF-eligible non-citizen
5. PA resident
6. Have personal monthly gross earned income that does not exceed 235% of the FPIG

Prioritization of Services to those with Barriers

- At risk of dropping out of school
- Basic skills deficient
- English language learner
- Disability
- Court-involved or at risk of involvement
- Children of an incarcerated parent(s)
- In foster care or aging out of foster care
- Homeless or a runaway
- Pregnant or parenting
- Migrant
- In need of additional assistance to enter or complete an educational program or to secure and hold employment

Eligibility Determination

- Program staff complete preliminary screening tool and DHS income qualification if needed in regard to the individual's income.

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For students who want the highest level of support and guidance in developing and achieving their goals. Services begin in 10th grade and continue for twelve months after graduation.

- Individual Goal Planning
- Personalized Guidance and Activities
- Support Services
- Specialized Services (shown below)

Specialized Services

A menu of services for students who want a short-term experience. The customizable activities are designed to help students in grades 9 through 12 explore career options.

- Paid Internships
- Camp STEAM
- Business Challenge
- Job Shadowing
- Guidance Finding Employment

Outreach Services

In support of schools to provide career exploration activities to a broad range of students. Services are customizable to meet the needs of an individual school and fulfill Chapter 339 requirements.

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- Employer Speakers
- Business Tours
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Ten workshops designed to introduce students to career pathways, labor market information, job searching skills, and job readiness. Presentations are tailored to your specific district with subject matter most relevant to your students. We will work with your schedule to present to large or small groups in person and virtually.

AVAILABLE WORKSHOPS

SUCCESS IN THE NEW ECONOMY

Explore which jobs will be in demand in the future and the level of education needed for them. We'll explore how the economy has changed and will continue to change.

INTRODUCTION TO PA CAREERLINK®

Learn about the PA CareerLink® and how you can benefit from utilizing their many services.

RESUME BUILDERS

Learn what a resume is and why it is essential in your job search. We will discuss what to include and why, and view examples of resume templates.

FINANCIAL LITERACY BASICS

Designed to help students think responsibly about managing money, we'll cover all the basics such as how to read a paystub, what is taken out of a paycheck and why, and why it's important to "pay yourself". A group project on budgeting is available as well.

WHAT EMPLOYERS WANT (SOFT SKILLS MATTER)

What are Soft Skills? Why are they so important? How can you identify your Soft Skills and best convey them on your resume and in an interview to stand out from the crowd?

CAREER PATHWAYS

This course will discuss education and training options along with entry points to careers. Also learn about benefits such as tuition assistance available through specific careers including the military.

INTERVIEWING TECHNIQUES

Learn how you should prepare for an interview and what to expect. We'll go over some of the questions employers typically ask and how to respond to some of the toughest questions! Learn more about what employers are looking for in job candidates.

ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS

Do you dream of owning your own business someday or being your own boss? How should you get started? What resources are available to help you? This course will cover all of your questions and provide information on the types of skills you will need to be successful.

LABOR MARKET INFORMATION/CAREER CLUSTERS

Learn about industries and careers in demand in Central Pennsylvania and how you can best prepare for them.

EXPERT PANEL

This can be done as a large group assembly or in a classroom. PA CareerLink® staff will assist you in organizing local, relevant company representatives to speak with students about specific industries or careers. Panel discussions will be tailored to best meet your expectations for the group.

To request a workshop:

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