



Agenda

Youth Committee Meeting

July 29, 2026

10:00 AM

Virtual (via Zoom)

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81065940246?pwd=eeYLE6cUMFNbaKI9RxGOhmblU9ARyi.1>
Meeting ID: 810 6594 0246
Passcode: 035565

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Approval of Minutes**
 - 2.1. May 27, 2026 Youth Committee Minutes
3. **Reports**
 - 3.1. Performance (*Karen Dowdy*)
 - 3.2. Monitoring (*Karen Dowdy*)
 - 3.3. Aspire Updates (*Cindi Koenneker*)
4. **Adjournment**

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Call to Order			
	The Ozark Region Workforce Development Board’s Youth Committee regularly met via Zoom on Wednesday, May 27, 2026. The meeting convened at 10:00 a.m., with Committee Chair Sarah Wyman presiding.		
Attendance			
☑ Notes in attendance			
Board Members	☑ Sarah Wyman, Chair	☑ Jennifer Olson	☐ Barbara Williams
	☑ Kevin McGill	☑ Saul O’Dell	☐
	☐	☐	☐
Guests in Attendance	Cindi Koenneker, Karen Dowdy, Carmen May, Maddy MacNeill, Robert Hansen, Bill Skains, Marvin Williams, Ebonie Davis, Kim Paige, Ericka Schmeeckle		
Approval of Minutes			
January 21, 2026, Youth Committee Meeting Minutes	Ms. Wyman asked for any adjustments to the minutes. Motion to Approve: Ms. Olson Seconded: Mr. McGill Outcome: Motion carried		
Reports			
Aspire Program Report	Staffing & Operational Changes: - Cindi Koenneker provided an overview of recent department restructurings since taking over supervision of Youth Services in January 2026. - The current youth team includes three case managers (Kim and Ebonie working directly with participants; an additional case manager transitioned) and an Intake Specialist, Marvin. - Work Experience (WEP) site coordination continues in partnership with Jennifer and PennMAC (Employer of Record). Intake & Outreach Metrics (Mid-January 2026 – Mid-May 2026): - Marvin (Intake Specialist) presented detailed activity metrics: - Total Initial Inquiries: 83 individuals (averaging ~20/month) via walk-ins, online applications, and partner referrals. - Discontinued/Non-Responsive: 15 individuals. - Net Interested Candidates: 68 individuals (18% exploring eligibility). - Actively Engaged in Intake: 13 individuals (~15–16%). - Determined Ineligible/Abandoned: ~55 individuals (~66%) due to age/barrier requirements, income parameters, or non-completion of prerequisites.		

	○ Approved for Enrollment/Submitted to Leadership: 9 individuals (~10% of total applicants), with additional candidates pending documentation. ○ Pending Eligibility Documents: 3 candidates currently being assisted with securing required documentation (photo ID, Social Security cards, birth certificates). Selective Service & Partner Resources: • Selective Service registration verification remains manageable with minimal compliance issues noted. • Discussion ensued regarding the financial barrier participants face when obtaining vital identity documentation (\$75–\$80 cost). Partner agencies, including OACAC (emergency funds) and Catholic Charities, were noted as potential referral avenues to cover these costs prior to WIOA enrollment. Success Story Kim (Case Manager) presented a comprehensive participant success story: • Participant: [REDACTED] (Enrolled September 2025; age 19, unhoused/couch-surfing at intake). • Services & Training: Co-enrolled in WIOA Youth (Aspire Program) and UMOS. Completed a 14-week Master Pipe Welding Program at Iron Eagle in Stockton, MO, earning three national welding certifications (MIG, TIG, STIG). • Funding Allocation: ○ UMOS Grant: \$6,250 (Tuition & Housing) ○ WIOA Aspire Program: \$10,000 (Tuition Assistance) ○ Private Community Sponsor: Covered remaining ~\$1,600 balance (avoiding student loan debt). • Employment Outcomes & Advancement: ○ Initial placement: Hired as a Welding Assistant by Skinner Tank (Texas) at \$28.00/hour. ○ Relocated back to Springfield in late April 2026; placed with Poindexter Mechanical LLC at \$28.00/hour. Earned prevailing wage on union contracts up to \$38.00/hour. ○ Completed financial literacy instruction, repaid personal debts, acquired transportation, secured an independent apartment, and restored family relationships. Received a \$250 program completion incentive.
<i>Performance</i>	Ms. Dowdy presented the Q3 PY 25-26 Performance Report (Negotiated WIOA Youth Measures): • Employment Q2: 90% (Meeting negotiated goal). • Employment Q4: Exceeding goal.

	• Credential Rate: Exceeding goal. • Measurable Skill Gains (MSG): Exceeding goal. • Median Earnings: Currently tracked below target, heavily influenced by part-time/entry-level youth employment status. Earnings will reflect higher wage placements (such as recent welding graduates) upon formal program exit matching with UI quarterly data. Training & Work Experience Summary (PY 25-26 Year-to-Date): • Training Participants: 15 youth participated in occupational skills training (9 funded through WIOA core funds since July 1, average cost ~\$8,000 due to specialized welding exceptions over the standard \$5,000 cap). • Work Experience (WEP): 28 youth participants (4 with multiple placements). • Supportive Services & Incentives: 29 total participants received supportive services (transportation, work attire); 16 youth received milestone achievement incentives.
<i>Monitoring Report</i>	Ms. Dowdy presented the Q3 Internal Monitoring Review: • Reviewed files for 5 new enrollments (Case Manager: Kim Page). • Findings: No questioned costs or major compliance breaches identified. • Minor Administrative Items Noted for Technical Assistance: ◦ Need for proper WIOA-to-WIOA referral documentation from Wagner-Peyser. ◦ Ensuring complete employment history input in MoJobs. ◦ Ensuring all ISS objective assessment items are fully addressed. ◦ Updating one expired worksite agreement. ◦ Enhancing case notes to consistently reflect qualitative participant progress. WIOA Youth Funding Update: ◦ Brief discussion regarding upcoming PY 26 allocations based on recent financial reporting. ◦ It was noted that Youth formula funding is anticipated to see an approximate increase of ~\$200,000 for the upcoming program year.
<i>Adjournment</i>	
	The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Notes taken by: Robertr Hansen, Executive Assistant

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 29, 2026