Bluegrass Kentucky
Near Final

Slide 1:
DOL:

Hello and welcome to our dialogue on Summer Opportunities in 2020. In the summer of 2020 local workforce areas around the country experienced changes in service delivery to youth.

Slide 2: Overview
This webcast shares some local programs plans and actual experiences for summer engagement of youth across nation. With the current state of affairs due to the pandemic, local areas made adjustments to provide services to youth.

Slide 3: Intro
DOL:
Today we will be talking with Tiffanie Reeves, Workforce Services Manager, from the Bluegrass Area Development District in Lexington, Kentucky.

DOL: Tiffanie, tell us about your program

Slide 4: What was your Program Focus?
Tiffanie
Our KEY (Kentucky Employs Youth) Program focuses on providing a team based approach to work based learning opportunities that are connected to career interests. These interests are discovered through a variety of assessments. The youth completes these assessments, participates in in-depth LMI discussions, and actively engages in the development of the ISS. We work closely with our referring partners to address any barrier the youth may have in their journey to self-sufficient employment.

The WBL business partners work closely with us to provide a team-based approach to mentor the youth for successful completion of their subsidized work hours. Once the youth has gained a few weeks of experience in the field, we then look at short- term certifications relevant to their position. For example, we have several youth that are interested in the Nursing pathway. We place the youth at one of our healthcare WBL opportunities as a resident aide, receptionist, etc.

While the youth is completing their subsidized hours, they are provided knowledge on all aspects of the Nursing field. If the youth still wants to pursue the Nursing pathway, we assist them with obtaining their CNA and then work closely with the youth to assist them with researching post- secondary options, FAFSA, financial literacy on grants, student loans, etc.

SLIDE 5: Differ in previous years
DOL: How did your program differ from previous years?

SLIDE 6: Differ in previous year?
Tiffanie:
The BGLWA provides year-round 14 program elements opportunities to our youth, however at this current time due to COVID 19 restrictions, our youth program has transitioned most of our services to virtual format.

Our team is providing information through ZOOM meetings offering a variety of workshops ranging from Financial literacy, Networking, Nutrition, and Resume Building just to name a few. With the addition of Career Edge, we have begun incorporating module training into our program that provides another layer of developing the youth's essential skills to increase employment opportunities.

SLIDE 7: What type of innovative activities did you offer youth?

DOL: What type of innovative activities did you offer youth?

Slide 8: What type of innovative activities did you offer youth?

Tiffanie:
We are developing a technology policy for youth seeking telecommuting employment opportunities. This policy would address the financial assistance in providing internet access/ WIFI cards for a limited amount of time. So, the youth can gain a few weeks of income and then purchase their own internet access.

This summer we required Youth DSP staff to attend multiple trainings to assist staff with addressing issues of depression, trauma, etc. and are using NDWG funding to hire a crisis counselor to be available in person/virtual for participants to access if needed.

Slide 9: Describe your Business Partnerships

DOL: Describe your Business Partnerships

Slide 10: Describe your Business Partnerships
Tiffanie:
We currently have 93 business partners that we are working with to develop telecommuting opportunities within their company at the local level for WBL opportunities. We are continuously expanding our business partners to provide meaningful WBL opportunities for the youth in the BG region. We have begun reaching

out to Teleworking companies that maintain long-term contracts to discuss the benefits of partnering with the Kentucky Career Center for WBL opportunities.

As COVID 19 restrictions ease we are setting in place upcoming projects focusing on creating talent pipelines. We are partnering with Berea Community Schools assisting in the development of a Work Ethics Seal, the goal of the partnership is to create a talent pipeline for industry with students participating in course focused education along with job shadowing, internships, facility tours, and mentorship. In another project we are excited to be partnering with Kentucky Jobs for Americas Graduates to provide youth of Scott County and Boyle County in depth labor market information, essential skill development, and paid internships. We will have family workshop sessions with a variety of speakers to assist the whole family in obtaining self-sufficiency.

Slide 11: What changes did you make in your program design?
DOL: Tiffanie what changes did you make in your program design?

Slide 12: Program Design Changes
Due to the COVID 19 restrictions we are discussing with our business partners the "new normal" work environment and how our WBL opportunities best fit into their individual business. Our youth participants involved in WBL receive a text each morning prior to their start time from their talent development specialist with a daily "check in" questions are asked about health status, are you running a fever, have you been coughing, sneezing, etc.

Several companies in our region are requiring staff to complete a health screening prior to entering the facility, we have placed youth obtaining CNA certification in WBL with some of our business partners, the youth completes the health screening, documents collected information, assist with connecting individuals who may be COVID positive with testing facilities and designated contact tracing organizations.

Slide 13:
DOL: You mentioned staff were trained in trauma and depression issues, do you feel this training was useful when staff counselled youth? Explain.

Slide 14:
Absolutely, our Talent Development Specialist are now trained with the knowledge to see the signs of depression and anxiety. This allows them to better assist our participants in connecting them to additional resources. We have also hired a crisis counselor that is available to all of our participants, Youth/Adult/DW.

If the participant exhibits signs of anxiety or depression the TDS immediately reaches out to the crisis counselor to assist the participant with resources and set up a virtual meeting with the crisis counselor.

We have also started working with the Sapling Center, (the Sapling Center is a drop-in center for ages 14-24 that offers Individual counseling, Group Therapy, Life skills training, etc..) to have weekly group counseling sessions for our youth at the America Job Center, in our Georgetown , KY location.

SLIDE 15: Expansion
DOL: Did you expand the virtual opportunities beyond those in your initial plan?

Slide 16: Expanded Opportunities
Tiffanie:

With current COVID restrictions we are providing workshops, job fairs, mentoring, counseling, financial literacy, job clubs into the virtual platform. This has been beneficial to our participants because they can go back and review the information on our workshops as they need to. For example, we partnered with the Cooperative Extension office on a series of Nutritional workshops, several youth participants have stated they went back and reviewed the video for information on purchasing groceries so they can place more money into their “rainy day “ fund.

Slide 17: Closing:
Thank you Bluegrass Area Development District in Lexington, Kentucky for sharing your 2020 Summer Opportunities experience and thank you all for listening to this webcast.