

Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board  
**Youth Council Meeting**

**June 23, 2005**

**Minutes<sup>1</sup>**

**Members Present**

Billy Collins  
Traci Gauer  
Abe Hassan  
Dorothy Heidelberger  
Allen Hester  
Peter Jessen-Howard  
Doug Hubbard  
Sheldon Jensen  
Tim Lynch  
David MacKenzie  
Dale Maristuen  
Rick Polanski  
Dean Shawbold  
Vern Vick  
Jody Yungers

**Members Absent**

Barb Reindl Pjevach EA  
Noke Sivoravong EA  
Jan Webster EA

**Staff/Guests Present**

Mary Jo Gardner, WIB CEO  
Kate Bates, WIB Staff  
Harriet Horwath, Workforce Solutions  
Dwayne Green, Workforce Solutions  
Carol Aharoni, HIRED  
Jan West, HIRED  
Alicia Huckleby, Saint Paul PHA  
Andrea Williams, Ramsey County Parks & Recreation

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**Call to Order**

Doug Hubbard, Chair, called session to order at 3:05 p.m.

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**Approve Minutes from May 26 Meeting**

**Motion** made by Dean Shawbold with second by Sheldon Jensen to approve the meeting minutes from May 26.

**Motion carried**

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**Re-examine Youth Council Priorities**

The group discussed a process for updating the Youth Council priorities in the long range plan. The group reexamined them last summer, and with our new CEO on board, it seems appropriate to reevaluate. Options discussed were breaking into small groups to examine the existing priorities or doing this as a large group, outlining the relative importance of each objective and identifying steps made and steps to be completed. The group felt that it may be more effective to brainstorm on this subject as a large group. Questions to consider were whether or not the goals should focus on the WIA eligible youth, or if they should be expanded for a more “big picture” view of serving youth in our community. Also discussed was the importance of raising funds for Youth Council initiatives. All of these issues will be addressed when the group discusses the priorities.

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**Satisfaction Results from Career Expo**

Traci Gauer presented a brief update on the results from the Career Expo held at Saint Paul College in February. Eight-hundred sixty-eight students, mostly in 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades, attended the Expo, and surveys were collected from 585 participants. Over 100 volunteers assisted at the Expo, making it a very big success. Participants surveyed were asked about what they liked best and worst, as well as how the expo affected their career goals. Suggestions made were to make the presentations less lecture and more interactive and to schedule the workshops differently so that kids are able to get their priority workshops more often. It was suggested that this could be an all-day event. This had been done in the past, though at this time it is too

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<sup>1</sup> This document is available in alternate formats upon request

expensive to consider unless there is corporate sponsor, due to the cost of lunch for all of the participants. In closing, Traci thanked Saint Paul College for hosting the Expo.

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### **Discuss Future Fundraising**

With the anticipation of tax-exempt status for Friends of the WIB, the Youth Council wanted to discuss possible fundraising avenues. Based on the previous item, we may have a role in raising funds for lunch at the career expo. Sheldon Jensen said that his neighbor, who is a professional fundraiser, would be willing to help the Youth Council raise funds, pro bono. It was suggested that the WIB approve the Youth Council's fundraising, and to align our goals more closely with the WIB to urge this approval. Discussion was around the purpose of privately raised funds- should the council focus on the WIA eligible youth, or use this money for implementing eligible-type programs to a wider population? It was determined this issue should be incorporated into the long range plan, and that an ad hoc should be formed to work on this issue. Dean Shawbold said he would be interested, and Sheldon could invite his neighbor to the ad hoc to get his opinion.

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### **Update on HIRED Contract**

An ad hoc committee was formed to discuss the \$100K in incremental funds requested by HIRED to fund work experience for participants. HIRED had asked WorkForce Solutions (WFS) to approve the additional funds, and HIRED staff understood that the funds were approved or would be approved. WFS staff later sought Youth Council (YC) approval, given the size of the request. The ad hoc YC committee considered the request and concluded that WFS had authority to approve it without YC action. At the meeting there were some conflicting statements about the timing of the original request and whether or when the approval had been communicated to HIRED. WFS staff stated that the HIRED contract was being amended to include this \$100K, and that amount would be subtracted from the funds available to HIRED for the next contract year starting July 1, 2005. This issue brought up many discussion items, including the role of the Youth Council on program administration, the status of the youth served by these funds, the formality of the request for funds and the expectations the Youth Council and Workforce Solutions have for HIRED as a program vendor. These are all issues that need further discussion and resolution.

WFS staff stated that the allocation for the HIRED contract for next year was approximately \$287K without MYP funding. Had the \$100K not been spent in this year, that allotment would have been \$387K. Some YC members expressed concern that the approval for the \$100K had not been timely, and that HIRED had not received sufficient information about funds available for their services during the second contract year. If MYP is funded by the MN Legislature, HIRED may receive part of that allocation. HIRED was concerned about the number of clients they would be expected to serve on the reduced allocation, which would average spending about \$800 per client (of the 350 planned to serve) when the WIA average is \$1,500/client. The contract may be modified for more realistic outcomes based on the funding available for HIRED. This should be discussed further at the next YC meeting, in the context of spending for direct service through WFS, Communities of Color and the School Programs.

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### **Other**

CDBG funding is still being discussed between the City and County. The Council urges that this not fall through the cracks, and be resolved no later than December.

There was concern that there is not a Chair-Elect for this committee, and that this position has been vacant for a year. According to the bylaws, the Chair-Elect must be a business member of the WIB, which does not leave much room for candidates. Doug Hubbard will discuss the Youth Council with the WIB and see if anyone is interested in joining this committee.

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### **Open Forum**

None

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### **Adjourn**

**Motion** made by Sheldon Jensen with second by Dean Shawbold to adjourn the meeting at 4:40 pm.

**Motion carried**

**Next Meeting:** July 28, North Saint Paul WorkForce Center