

Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board
Youth Council Meeting

February 23, 2006

Members Present

Doug Hubbard, Chair
Billy Collins
Kirk Hayes
Allen Hester
Sheldon Jensen
Peter Jessen-Howard
Rick Polanski
Dean Shawbold
Noke Sivoravong
Jody Yungers

Members Absent

Traci Gauer
Abe Hassan
David MacKenzie
Dale Maristuen
Barb Reindl Pjevach EA
Melissa Woods

Staff/Guests Present

Mary Jo Gardner, WIB CEO
Patricia Brady, Workforce Solutions
Allan Ige, Workforce Solutions
Terry Zurn, Workforce Solutions
Alicia Huckleby, St. Paul PHA

Call to Order

Doug Hubbard, Chair, called the Youth Council meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.

Approve Minutes from January 12 Meeting

Motion made by Dean Shawbold and seconded by Sheldon Jensen to approve the meeting minutes from January 12 as presented.

Motion carried.

Update on Youth Providers

Doug Hubbard thanked all members and staff who worked diligently on the selection process for the new YouthLEAD service providers. The four organizations recommended by the Youth Council: HIRED, GAP, EAC, and YWCA, were approved unanimously by the WIB General Membership and County Board.

\$650,000 of WIA dollars has been negotiated to the four vendors to serve 450 youth. Workforce Solutions reserved some of the funding to provide additional services across the board. Services will be continued without interruption to the new program year beginning April 1. Discussions with the new service providers have been completed, and contracts are being prepared. The contracts are for a three-year period with the option of two one-year renewals.

Staff will be mapping out all of the vendor services to determine what additional services the new vendors will provide, what services should be enhanced, and what services are not being offered. Priorities of service to adjudicated youth, youth in foster care, and youth with disabilities are in line with the objectives of the Youth Council. There is a gap in the suburban area; Workforce Solutions will make a more concerted effort to serve suburban youth.

Introduction to Outreach to Schools Program

Terry Zurn announced that up to \$10,000 is available through Minnesota DEED to implement an internship-type program for youth enrolled in post-secondary education. An equal amount of matching funds is required and may either be in-kind or cash. The application is due March 31. The interns would provide career counseling in area high schools and work with school counselors in career labs. Saint Cloud has a similar program.

If Workforce Solutions were to administer the program, it would like to work with a couple of Youth Council members and high schools. Dean Shawbold volunteered to assist with White Bear Lake schools. It was recommended that Traci Gauer from Saint Paul Public Schools be contacted about Saint Paul high schools. College students would be recruited first from YouthLEAD and Building Lives program graduates. The

youth interns would be hired and supervised by Workforce Solutions and paid about \$8.50 an hour. Training would be conducted by WorkForce Center counseling staff. Counselor's time could be used as in-kind, and work experience dollars could be used if the youth enrolled are eligible.

Motion made by Billy Collins and seconded by Rick Polanski for Workforce Solutions staff to identify schools with the lowest rates for going on to college, select two schools in the City and two schools in the suburbs, and contact them about their willingness to participate.

Motion carried

Doug Hubbard thanked Rick Polanski, Peter Jessen-Howard, and David MacKenzie for assisting with the 2006 Program Year Youth Plan.

Update on Youth Local Plan

Terry Zurn reviewed summary information on the YouthLEAD Plan Update to serve 800 to 900 youth. The update is due to MN DEED by April 7. The Plan needs approval from the Youth Council, WIB General Membership, and County Board. The YouthLEAD service delivery system will move from a prime contractor method of service delivery to a more inclusive community-based service delivery system. Services to homeless youth are included in this year's plan. WIA Department of Labor monitors have been pleased with the direction set by the Youth Council, which targets the County's hardest to serve youth.

Motion made by Sheldon Jenson and seconded by Al Hester to approve the plan as written.

Motion carried.

Update on Youth Council Long-Range Plan

Mary Jo Gardner reviewed summary information on the goals and objectives for the long-range plan. It was suggested that the language under High School Initiatives be changed from "Establish" to "Use" standard tests and classes for math competencies for jobs such as carpenters, healthcare, etc. Mary Jo asked members to review the summary information and provide other feedback to her at mgardner@rcwib.org.

Fundraising

Doug Hubbard spoke with the Executive Committee about fundraising for the Youth Council, and the Executive Committee suggested that the Youth Council determine a process and goals for fundraising. Friends of the WIB could be used as the funding mechanism. Suggestions: 1) Bridge the gap between suburban employers looking for employees and youth who do not have transportation to suburban jobs by purchasing cars for youth; 2) A step program to learn about engineering careers for girls in grade's 7 to 12.

Seeking Grants for Building Lives

Mary Jo Gardner suggested forming an ad hoc committee to look at the possibility of a fundraising effort for the Building Lives Program. The program targets adjudicated youth six months prior to release. The results from this program have been outstanding, a 90% success rate. The program funding is running out. Any money received through fundraising efforts would be turned over to Workforce Solutions. The Joyce and Bremer foundations were suggested as possible foundations to target. The committee might also want to work through the Congressional delegation.

Motion was made by Kirk Hayes and seconded by Jody Yungers to create an ad hoc committee to write a grant proposal for funding to support continuation of the Building Lives Program.

Motion carried

Jody Yungers, Peter Jessen-Howard, Kirk Hayes, Dean Shawbold, Sheldon Jensen, and Billy Collins volunteered to form an ad hoc committee.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 23, North Saint Paul WorkForce Center