

Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board
Youth Council Meeting

March 23, 2006

Members Present

Billy Collins
Abe Hassan
Kirk Hayes
Sheldon Jensen
Peter Jessen-Howard
Dale Maristuen
Barb Reindl Pjevach
Dean Shawbold
Jody Yungers

Members Absent

Traci Gauer EA
Allen Hester EA
Doug Hubbard EA
David MacKenzie EA
Rick Polanski
Noke Sivoravong
Melissa Woods

Staff/Guests Present

Mary Jo Gardner, WIB CEO
Kate Bates, WIB staff
Terry Zurn, Workforce Solutions
Shauna McDonald, PACER Center

Call to Order

Dean Shawbold, Past Chair, called the Youth Council meeting to order at 3:12 p.m.

There were some announcements that Doug Hubbard wanted to be shared in his absence. The Executive Committee approved the Youth Council plan; thanks to Peter Jessen-Howard, Rick Polanski and Dave MacKenzie for their help developing the plan. The Executive Committee also heard about the Youth Council plans to seek funding for Building Lives and is very pleased we are moving forward with this initiative.

Approve Minutes from February 23 Meeting

Motion made by Jody Yungers and seconded by Peter Jessen-Howard to approve the meeting minutes from February 23 with a few formatting modifications.

Motion carried.

Accept Oversight Quarterly Report

Terry Zurn presented the quarterly report from the Youth Council Oversight committee. They reviewed the performance measures for the youth programs, as well as the budget, participation in WIA elements and program trends. All items reviewed were satisfactory for the program. Terry discussed the budget and clarified that they are only required to spend 80% of the WIA funds in a year (they have spent about 90-95%) and that they are able to carry over all of the MYP funding into next year. This is because MYP is on a biennium budget and the money needs to be spent in two years- there is currently \$145,000 left. There is legislation from Karen Clark, from Minneapolis, to restore the MYP funding to its original level (it would be about \$9 million for the state, versus the current \$6 million). Terry indicated there is no need for council members to write letters of support yet, as it is part of a larger bill.

Motion made by Sheldon Jensen with second by Jody Yungers to accept the Oversight Quarterly Report

Motion carried

Presentation on Project C3

Shauna MacDonald from the PACER Center was at the meeting to present Project C3. This is a pilot project that has an online matrix of organizations in the community that have services related to youth development. The website for this project is www.c3online.org and it is a searchable tool that youth and youth service providers can use to find resources. Services can be found by geographic area, resource type, target group and age group, or any combination of those categories. From there, organizations are listed with details on the services offered. There is also a mapping tool that allows the user to see where in the community the offices are located.

One of the biggest challenges in this project is getting organizations to participate. There is a group of students using this as a work experience opportunity, and are calling organizations and asking them to participate. The Youth Council was very interested in helping by calling organizations they are connected with and encouraging them to contribute their organization's information to this tool. The Council will also reconsider any future updating of their youth resource matrix, as this may be a duplication of services.

Discussion on "Make Time for Youth" Program

A couple of years ago the Youth Council looked at this concept which would attempt to have employers hire youth over the summer, paying them with unsubsidized wages. Workforce Solutions is again looking at this concept and are asking that members take the brochures and bring them to businesses that may be hiring over the summer.

Update on Outreach to Schools

Each WSA has \$10K available to have post-secondary students go to high schools and serve as career counselor interns. Workforce Solutions approached Saint Paul Public Schools, focusing on the schools that have the least amount of students going on to post-secondary education. At this time, they are redesigning their career exploration and are not interested in participating in this project, though some of the alternative schools are- specifically GAP and Unidale. White Bear Lake South is also interested, and Workforce Solutions is trying to find another suburban school to participate. The interns are being recruited from post-secondary schools, such as Century and Saint Paul Colleges, and past YouthLEAD participants will be recruited first. These interns will go on the Workforce Solutions payroll.

Open Forum

Terry Zurn informed the committee that while WIA youth are currently measured against seven performance standards, in the future there will be just three "common measures." This will include a literacy and numeracy test, and will look to improve individual's skills if they are two or more grade levels below their own. The service providers are aware of this change but, for the time being, need to stick with the current seven measures.

Reminder: the Building Lives ad hoc is meeting on March 31 from 8:30-10:00a.m. at the North Saint Paul WorkForce Center.

The Youth Plan passed through the County Board. When this item was discussed, Commissioner Rettman encouraged the City and County attorneys to meeting within the next month to get a resolution on the CDBG funds. Additionally, Commissioner McDonough is going to try and approach the new administration in Saint Paul on this issue.

A group of six school districts in the northern suburbs are going to have a work skills day on April 19 from 8:30-12:30 at Eagle Brook Church in White Bear Lake. There will be 75-80 special needs youth competing on things like interview skills and filling out an application. If anyone would like to volunteer, or would like more information, contact Dean Shawbold.

Adjourn

Motion made by Sheldon Jensen with second by Abe Hassan to adjourn the meeting at 4:31p.m.

Motion carried.

Next Meeting: April 27, North Saint Paul WorkForce Center