

Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board
Youth Council Meeting

August 23, 2007

Members Present

Sheldon Jensen
David MacKenzie
Dale Maristuen
Rick Polanski
Dean Shawbold

Members Absent

Billy Collins EA
Andrew Freeberg EA
Abe Hassan
Kirk Hayes EA
Doug Hubbard EA
Peter Jessen-Howard EA
Jody Yungers EA

Staff/Guests Present

Mary Jo Gardner, WIB Staff
Lee Helgen, WIB Member, City of St. Paul
Kathy Kittel, Saint Paul Public Schools
Kate Raleigh, WIB Staff
Terry Zurn, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order

Dean Shawbold, acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:37 p.m.

Approve Minutes

Motion made by David MacKenzie with second by Sheldon Jensen to approve the June 28 minutes as presented.

Motion carried.

Approve Youth Council Applicant

Motion made by Dean Shawbold with second by David MacKenzie to approve Becky Johnson as a Youth Council member.

Motion carried.

Helping America's Youth Conference

Terry Zurn gave information on the "Helping America's Youth Conference" that he attended, along with Peter Jessen-Howard and Jody Yungers, on August 2nd and 3rd. The conference was at the Saint Paul Campus of the University of Minnesota and was attended by about 200 people from the Midwest region. This conference was one in a series of sessions initiated by Laura Bush to address the issue of at-risk youth across the country. The time was spent reviewing information about at-risk youth and ways to help. There was a presentation on a new resource mapping project, called "Map It" that would map federally funded programs across the country. Local areas could then add their own information to the map. This may be something the Youth Council wants to tap into, as it looks like a valuable tool, and will be available at no cost. There is also a GIS mapping system built in, and the ability to overlay other maps on top of the resource map, such as a bus map. Our area will be informed when we are able to access the map, and when we can add our local information, such as the organizations listed on Project C3 and United Way's 211. More information from the conference can be found at www.helpingamericasyouth.gov.

YouthLEAD Event

The Second Annual YouthLEAD Recognition Event was held on August 22nd at Harriet Island. Eighty-nine youth were recognized for their achievements in the past year, and each counselor was able to specially recognize up to ten of their clients. Accomplishments were things like attaining a GED or diploma, getting a job, increasing attendance and participation in school, going on to post-secondary education, etc. Many community and WIB members donated items and money to recognize the youth, and six youth were honored for their outstanding performance. It was a great event, with a meal provided by HIRED participants, and all are encouraged to attend next year.

2007 MN Afterschool Grants

The MN Dept. of Education put out an RFP for after school activity grants, with up to \$300k available for each grantee to spend over two years. The state's goal is to work with youth and keep them involved after the school day is over, to prevent problems such as crime and drug use.

Workforce Solutions partnered with Saint Paul Public Schools and the Dept. of Corrections to apply for a grant to work with youth at Boys Totem Town who are close to transitioning out of Totem Town and into their regular school. The goal of the proposal is to work with more youth during this transition period and help them with their academic shortcomings to better prepare them for integration back into their school. The program plans to work with 282 youth over two years, and to continue the connection with the youth and Workforce Solutions after they return to their regular school. The grant announcement is expected in late September, and if awarded, this program is set to begin on October 1st.

Preliminary 2006 WIA Performance Data

Terry Zurn presented performance data for the program year-end, though the final numbers were not available. Terry expects the outcomes to come in near those presented to the Council. There are three performance measures for younger youth (aged 14-18) and four performance measures for older youth (aged 19-21). Workforce Solutions are exceeding all goals set, including attainment of GED or diploma, attainment of basic skills, and attainment of employment. Also included are common measures, which is a new number that all WIA programs are requested to track- these measures are currently not counted towards a goal, but will be in the future.

Sub-Committee Reports

Sub-committees did not meet in July, mostly due to the difficulty of coordinating summer schedules. WIB staff will send out reminders for September, and offer the regular meeting time/location for groups to meet next month. The Council will reevaluate this set-up at a later meeting.

Other

Terry Zurn indicated that DEED Commissioner McElroy was interested in setting performance measures for the Minnesota Youth Program (MYP) funding. There is hope that if Comm. McElroy is interested in the MYP funding, it will be reinstated in the department budget for 2009.

Terry also distributed a handout discussing the change in youth population and change in economically disadvantaged youth in MN. Ramsey County has seen an increase in both of these areas. The group discussed where the growing population of economically disadvantaged youth is coming from.

The Council is interested in outcomes on the youth program that the City of Saint Paul ran this summer. **Motion** made by Rick Polanski with second by Sheldon Jensen to make a formal request to the City of Saint Paul to send a representative to a Youth Council meeting to update the Council on outcomes from the Saint Paul summer youth program, with information to include how many youth were served, what the activities were, and what the youth were paid.

Motion carried.

Kathy Kittel, Saint Paul Public Schools, was present to introduce the result of a new partnership between Saint Paul Public Schools and Saint Paul College. Eleventh- and twelfth-graders from Saint Paul high schools will be able to attend Saint Paul College for part of their school day, and earn college and high school credits. This program is in the planning stages, and a pilot will start this year with an after-school program. There will be programs available for construction, engineering, medical careers and computer graphics when the program officially kicks off in 2008.

Dunwoody is starting a vocational high school, focusing on machine trades and carpentry, among others. The high school will be open to 200 students.

Adjourn

Motion made by Dale Maristuen with second by Sheldon Jensen to adjourn the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

Motion carried.

Next Meeting: October 25, HHH Job Corps