

Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board
Youth Council Meeting

June 28, 2007

Members Present

Andrew Freeberg
Kirk Hayes
Doug Hubbard
David MacKenzie
Dale Maristuen
Rick Polanski
Dean Shawbold
Jody Yungers

Members Absent

Billy Collins EA
Peter Jessen-Howard EA
Abe Hassan

Staff/Guests Present

Mary Jo Gardner, WIB Staff
Kate Bates, WIB Staff
Allan Ige, Workforce Solutions
Terry Zurn, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order

Kirk Hayes called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

There is an addition to the agenda- Terry Zurn will speak about an upcoming youth conference/training session.

Approve Minutes

Motion made by Dean Shawbold with second by David MacKenzie to approve the April 26 minutes as presented.

Motion carried.

Approve Youth Council Applicant

Former member Sheldon Jensen is requesting appointment to the Youth Council. If approved by the Council, his appointment will be sent to the Executive Committee for approval and to the County Board for ratification.

Motion made by Doug Hubbard with second by Jody Yungers to approve Sheldon Jensen as a Youth Council member.

Motion carried.

Update on Building Lives

There was no update.

Update on Youth Resource Mapping

Jody Yungers gave an update on the youth resource mapping project, which also served as the update from the subcommittee working on Goal I.

Jody gave some background information on the Council's past efforts with resource mapping. The Council has continually found this to be an important project, and the group working on Goal I have taken this on as their major project. The main goals in creating a resource map, or in supporting an existing map, is to ensure it is easily accessible by diverse segments of the community (e.g. youth, parents, educators, youth service providers), is technology based, and is easily updated by participating organizations. This project is also taking on a collaborative nature, as it is important that our committee does not try to "reinvent the wheel," but rather work on projects that have been established.

Jody, and her group, has been in contact with United Way 211, PACER Center's Project C3, and Saint Paul's Second Shift Initiative. Currently, it seems there are opportunities for partnership with Project C3, and possibly United Way's 211 in the future. Project C3 was set up as a website to locate resources for youth with disabilities, but has recently begun the transition to locating services for all youth. The website utilizes software that allows for searching the database using multiple criteria, and has a system to ensure updated

information is periodically collected from the participating organizations. There are three options the Youth Council has for working with Project C3; 1) all Council members providing youth services can register their organizations with the site, 2) our members can outreach to other organizations to ensure they are registered on the site, 3) the Council can run a pilot program, using youth in workforce programs to update the map and gain work experience.

There was discussion on the participation of the Second Shift initiative. It seems that they are interested in creating a map to show where Saint Paul sponsored youth recreation activities are, as opposed to a larger community map, and partnership may not be practical for them.

The Council is also concerned with the sustainability of any project they put their time in to. In light of this, Project C3 may be the most promising as it is currently being supported by the Dept. of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) and the Dept. of Education. At the least, the Council would like to stay involved in this program in an advocacy role, ensuring continued funding for the project. It is important to make the right contacts to help with the longevity of this program, and Dave MacKenzie has agreed to set up a meeting with DEED.

Further questions are on the role of United Way 211 and who else would be partners in this project. 211 is currently without an IT department, which is hindering their ability to fully participate in these discussions. There was also an issue of combining the databases of the two systems (211 and C3), as their defining categories don't match up, though this barrier may be overcome through use of a grant. Another possible partner mentioned was Ramsey County Health and Human Services.

Sub-Committee Reports

The subcommittee discussing Goal II didn't have the opportunity to meet in May, but will have an update at the August Youth Council meeting.

The subcommittee working on Goal III chose to focus on getting youth hands-on job experience. Currently there is not funding for a program to provide all program participants with work experience. The group discussed some of the programs that exist in other areas, like the STEP-UP and Achieve! programs in Minneapolis. There was discussion on the issues that could arise if the program just focused on getting youth a summer job, and didn't treat the rest of the person, like the YouthLEAD program does.

Workforce Solutions has been able to provide summer work experience to some participants by finding opportunities within County departments through the "Make Time for Youth" program. In attempts to expand this program, Terry handed out brochures at the last WIB meeting about the "Make Time for Youth" program, as was done last year. The goal is to have private employers hire youth for work experience, while youth are being supported by being in the YouthLEAD program.

The subcommittee for Goal I discussed the importance of having the trade unions at the table. There is one union that has a program at Johnson High School building floating board walks for the Tamarack Nature Center- other unions could create programs like this.

Added Agenda Item- Youth Conference/Training Session

Terry Zurn was made aware of a regional training session/conference to be held in Saint Paul on August 2 and 3 called "Helping America's Youth." The session is based on other efforts throughout the country under this same name, with more information found on www.helpingamericasyouth.gov. The MN Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) has invited Ramsey County to submit a working youth team to attend the conference, such as a group of individuals from the Youth Council. This opportunity is by invitation only and requests four adult partners from cross-section of agencies, with one to two youth participants, if applicable. The agenda and site for this session have not been finalized, but the agenda will be similar to the agenda from the Nashville session, and there will be an emphasis on Native American youth. The Council selected members to forward to the Department of Labor (DOL), and if selected, the invitations are not transferable to other individuals, though the group may select a few alternates. The Council selected

Terry Zurn, Jody Yungers, Dean Shawbold and Peter Jessen-Howard as the team to forward to the DOL, with Andrew Freeberg and Rick Polanski as alternates.

Workforce Service Area Re-designation

Mary Jo informed the group that DEED indicated they are considering re-designation of the state's Workforce Service Areas (WSAs) this year. They're holding listening sessions, called "Competitive Forums" this summer. These sessions are open meetings to discuss the efficiency and effectiveness of each WSA. The agenda includes reviewing labor market information, small group discussion, and videos on DEED and one entitled "Did You Know?" which focuses on global competition and the labor market forecast for today's youth. All are encouraged to attend one of these sessions to understand this process and possible outcomes. There is a session on August 8th at Saint Paul College and another on August 22nd at the Brooklyn Park Community Center. Local elected officials, legislators, WIBs, and individuals from economic development, higher education, school boards, business, media and "others" are all invited to these sessions. The Council discussed possible outcomes of these meetings.

Other

The Second Annual YouthLEAD Recognition Program will be August 22nd from 5:30-7:30. This event allows Youth Council members the opportunity to see the youth they are serving, as well as the people that are serving them. The Friends of the WIB is requesting any items, or monetary gifts, that can be used to create gift baskets for all of the youth participants; members who have donations should talk to WIB staff about giving to the Friends of the WIB.

The October Youth Council meeting will take place at HHH Job Corps, and will also serve as the Job Corps Industry Council.

Dean Shawbold announced his students sold pop and popcorn on June 27th at the White Bear Marina's Family Night. The youth earned about \$100 and gained work experience.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. upon completion of the agenda.

Next Meeting: August 23, Ramsey County WorkForce Center- Saint Paul