

Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board
Youth Council Meeting

March 22, 2007

Members Present

Billy Collins
Andrew Freeberg
Kirk Hayes
Sheldon Jensen
Peter Jessen-Howard
Peg Killen
Dale Maristuen
Rick Polanski
Dean Shawbold

Members Absent

Abe Hassan EA
Courtney Henry
Doug Hubbard
David MacKenzie
Jody Yungers EA

Staff/Guests Present

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

Call to Order

Kirk Hayes called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

Approve Minutes

Motion made by Peg Killen with second by Sheldon Jensen to approve the minutes from February 22 as presented.

Motion carried.

Update on Building Lives

Building Lives had a hearing at the Higher Education and Work Force Development Policy and Finance Division Committee of the House on Monday, March 19th. Peter Jessen-Howard testified on behalf of the program and was thanked for the excellent job he did. The House committee asked what matching funds were available for this program, and Workforce Solutions has indicated they are willing to use some in-kind and program funds from the County as matching funds for this program. Anyone who has a contact with the legislature was encouraged to advocate for Building Lives funding. The City, County and MYP bills are also still moving through the legislature. The MYP funds were cut down from \$10million to \$2.5million in the senate and members are encouraged to call their senator and advocate for the full \$10million requested.

Update on Youth Resource Mapping

There is a Resource Mapping meeting scheduled for March 28th at 1 pm.

Oversight

Terry Zurn presented the current outcomes of the YouthLEAD program by Workforce Solutions and its partners. The Oversight committee went through all data in depth prior to the Youth Council meeting. Terry gave an overview of how the program was doing compared to the goals set by the state for younger youth and older youth- meeting 80% of the state goal is considered meeting the goal. It appears that the YouthLEAD program will meet at least 80% of all goals set. The committee also reviewed client participation in the 10 WIA elements, offered to all youth in the program, trends the counselors are seeing in training, the types of jobs the kids are getting and what support services they are utilizing.

The budget was also reviewed; it is split into administrative funds, funds to serve out-of-school youth and funds to serve in-school youth, as a certain amount must be spent on out-of-school youth. It appears that all partners will spend out their budgets for the year and Workforce Solutions will have little of the allowed carry over for the next program year.

The group discussed the type of information collected and how it is presented. It was suggested that Workforce Solutions could sort youth by zip codes so the Council can tell how many youth are served from the City and County- and possibly tell which youth are performing better. This lead to a discussion on how

the youth are recruited. There are several different referral sources, including: probation officers, schools, ALCs, community-based organizations, and the foster care system. Target populations are also considered when recruiting, like adjudicated youth, those behind in school, those with disabilities and youth aging out of foster care. Terry also acknowledged that there is always going to be more need than can be served, and often times the hardest part of referrals is finding a spot for the youth in the program.

Other

Councilmember Helgen suggested the committee look into the Achieve Minneapolis program for possible replication in Ramsey County. It is designed to help prepare kids for the workplace and give them real world experience. The person who runs this program is currently out of the office but may be able to present on this program in the future..

Abe Hassan and Pete Jessen-Howard attended the Guardian Project's final celebration. Both were impressed with the project which focused on empowering at-risk youth and involving them in their communities.

Work Plan Strategy

Mary Jo discussed the goals agreed upon in 2006, and the idea to have members select a goal to work on as a subcommittee. The Youth Council would meet every other month, and the subcommittees would meet in the off-months. Each subcommittee would be asked to select one initiative within their goal to work on and bring back to the Youth Council. For example, Goal I could focus on the resource mapping, Goal II could focus on Building Lives and Goal III could start a new initiative fitting into the objective- possibly a program based on Achieve Minneapolis.

Emails have been sent to the group, with little response from Council members- staff will resend this email out requesting committee preferences and Kirk Hayes will assign subcommittees to those who have not responded. There was further discussion on the target population of these initiatives- it is the goal of the Youth Council to serve youth not eligible for WIA and MYP funding, and to reach out to the greater population.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting adjourned at 5:08p.m.

Next Meeting: April 26, Saint Paul WorkForce Center