

Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board  
**Youth Council Meeting**

February 28, 2008

**Members Present**

Billy Collins  
Kirk Hayes  
Lee Helgen  
Sheldon Jensen  
Becky Johnson  
David MacKenzie  
Dale Maristuen  
Rick Polanski  
Dean Shawbold  
Jody Yungers

**Members Absent**

Andrew Freeberg  
Abe Hassan EA  
Bernie Hesse  
Doug Hubbard EA  
Peter Jessen-Howard EA  
Rick Vazquez

**Staff/Guests Present**

Patricia Brady, Workforce Solutions  
Mary Jo Gardner, WIB Staff  
Allan Ige, Workforce Solutions  
Cheryl Kempe, Workforce Solutions  
Kate Raleigh, WIB Staff  
Terry Zurn, Workforce Solutions

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**Call to Order**

Kirk Hayes, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

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**Approve Minutes**

**Motion** made by Dave MacKenzie with second by Dean Shawbold to approve the December 20<sup>th</sup> minutes as presented.

**Motion carried.**

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**Approve Youth WIA Plan**

The WIA Youth Plan required an update of the full plan submitted two years ago. An ad hoc of Youth Council members and staff went through the 2007 plan and looked for areas that needed updating. Most answers were still relevant, and there were no significant changes in the youth programs to report. Changes include adding the work on PACER's resource map, increased efforts for Building Lives and homeless youth. The budget was not set as Workforce Solutions has not yet received their WIA allocation, though a decrease of \$20k is expected due to the rescission of WIA dollars. Once the plan is approved by the Youth Council, it will continue to the Executive Committee, full WIB, County Board and state.

**Motion** made by Rick Polanski with second by Jody Yungers to approve the Youth WIA Plan.

The motion was amended to state that this plan is subject to change due to a change in resources, and to state that future modifications may occur as the program develops.

**Motion carried as amended.**

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**Update on Building Lives**

The County Board approved an earmark grant to go to Congressman Ellison and Representative McCollum. Patricia Brady was recently in Washington D.C. and met with Rep. McCollum's aide, informing her about the Building Lives program and leaving a proposal from Chris Crutchfield to give to Rep. McCollum. Rep. McCollum's aide said to follow-up in a week.

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**Update on Oversight**

Terry Zurn gave an update on the outcomes and budget of the County's youth programs. The Oversight committee reviewed this information and it was discussed in length at that meeting. Terry gave a broader overview of the outcomes and answered questions.

Terry reviewed the programs' outcomes in light of the state goals; the state considers meeting 80% of the established goal as meeting the goal. At this time, Workforce Solutions is exceeding all goals with the exception of one. This goal is the attainment of a credential by older youth. All youth who exit the program are counted in this outcome, and youth who exit the program, attain unsubsidized employment, but do not

receive a credential are counted as a negative towards this goal. Additionally, the parameters for earning credentials are getting more stringent. The council was asked for short term credentialing opportunities that youth can take part in; Dave expressed that his students at Job Corps attain some credentials that fit this and he will share this information with Workforce Solutions. The Youth Council also plans to review this issue more closely. An additional concern is finding the money to pay for credentials.

Terry also reviewed the WIA Youth and MN Youth Program budgets; there are no concerns about spending the funding out by the end of the fiscal year, with a cushion to carry into the next fiscal year. The projected carryover figure for the next budget year is about \$86k which is expected to be spent out quickly as there will be a decrease in funds for the next fiscal year.

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### **City County Youth Meeting**

The City, County and WIB are meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup> to share youth initiatives with each other and look for opportunities to collaborate and connect to each others' programs. The meeting will be at 10:00a.m. at the Ramsey County WorkForce Center in Saint Paul.

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### **Update from Subcommittees**

The group working on Goal 1 of the Youth Council's Long Range Plan had an update, presented by Jody Yungers. This goal's objectives are to partner with the community, encourage planning and assessments for youth career paths and assist in the PACER Center's Resource Mapping project. While most of their work is focused on the last objective, they have made progress on the others. The group recommends developing a partnership with the Best Prep organization's Classroom Plus program to connect the community with the classroom. Additionally, they also discussed having a business champion to begin a program similar to Minneapolis' Step Up program, which provides youth with unsubsidized work experience. In order to address youth career planning, the group suggests surveying what each school does for their students in this arena, and to raise awareness of the MN Career Information System, ISEEK and IDEAS databases to librarians and career centers. Councilmember Helgen has a similar project he would like the Youth Council to work on. He would like the WIB and Youth Council to develop their relationship with the library system to provide assistance to job seekers using the library's resources. Melanie Huggins, Saint Paul Library Director, will draft a process for this and submit it to the Communication, Advocacy and Oversight Committee.

Jody updated the Council on the work that has been done for the resource map. PACER, with help from DEED and the MN Dept of Ed, has funds to work with youth interns to develop their career map by adding more organizations to the map. Jody asked members to ensure that their organizations are listed on PACER's resource map, as well as assist in providing any other community resource lists that members may know about. If anyone comes across something they feel should be included in PACER's list, please send it to Kate.

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### **Adjourn**

Adjourn 4:51

**Next Meeting:** April 24, Ramsey County Workforce Center- Saint Paul