

Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board
Youth Council Meeting

October 23, 2008

Members Present

Billy Collins
Abe Hassan
Kirk Hayes
Becky Johnson
David MacKenzie
Dale Maristuen
Rick Polanski
Dean Shawbold
Jody Yungers

Members Absent

Bernie Hesse
Doug Hubbard
Sheldon Jensen
Peter Jessen-Howard
Matt Reinartz EA

Staff/Guests Present

Mary Jo Gardner, WIB Staff
Dwayne Green, Workforce Solutions
Kate Raleigh, WIB Staff
Carli Stark, WIB VISTA
Jeff Schmedeke, HHH Job Corps
Terry Zurn, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order

Kirk Hayes, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

Two items were added to the agenda- Chair Elect Nominations and Discuss Next Meeting Schedule.

Approve Minutes

Motion made by Jody Yungers with second by Rick Polanski to approve the August 28 minutes as presented.
Motion carried.

There was a follow-up requested to presentation on the City's Youth Job Corps program. The Council wanted to know how many YouthLEAD participants were in the City's program as well- Terry Zurn indicated it was about 55 youth.

Update on Building Lives

A meeting was held on October 20th to provide a tour and explanation of the Building Lives program to legislators and other interested parties. The meeting took place at Boys Totem Town and approximately 30 people attended. Representative Betty McCollum's aide was in attendance, as well as Representative Sheldon Johnson, County Commissioners Carter and McDonough, Commissioner Reinhardt's aide, the acting Ramsey County Manager, three youth participants and Workforce Solutions, HIRED and Corrections staff, WIB members Doug Hubbard and Kirk Hayes, Youth Council member Peter Jessen-Howard and WIB staff Mary Jo Gardner and Kate Raleigh.

Pete Jessen-Howard and Kirk Hayes lead the meeting. The Building Lives ad hoc is hoping to set up another meeting after the election for additional legislators can attend.

Approve WIA Youth Incentive Plan

Terry Zurn presented the WIA Youth Incentive Plan. 2007 was the first year that youth performance was separated from Dislocated Worker performance under WIA. Meeting spending and performance goals allowed for Workforce Service Areas to earn WIA Incentive funds. Workforce Solutions met all goals for the youth program and earned a \$26,044 incentive award. There are guidelines for how this award may be spent, and staff met to discuss options:

- Expand the Outreach to Schools program, currently running in Johnson High School and Guadalupe Alternative Programs. Como High School is interested in having this program in their school. (\$15,000)
- Contract with a training vendor to offer training to all youth in the YouthLEAD program. In the past this has been done with customer service training. If the training is presented by a MnSCU institution, older youth would be able to earn a credential for the training, which is one of their goals under WIA. (\$6,044)

- Dedicate \$5,000 for youth to attend a youth conference with their counselor. Leadership development is one of the ten WIA elements, and this would fit well in that element. The youth would attend the conference and then report back to the youth and counselors on what they learned.

These funds are available from November 1, 2008 through December 31, 2009. A motion is needed from the Youth Council to send in the plan of how to spend these funds.

Motion made by Jody Yungers with second by Billy Collins to accept the proposed plan as presented.

Motion carried

There was further discussion on the Outreach to Schools project. The plan is to provide 20 hours of service to each school each week, through May 31st. The interns who staff this program in the high schools were found through local colleges and universities. The individual is an employee of Ramsey County working in the schools.

Chair Elect Nominations

David MacKenzie was nominated as Chair Elect of the Youth Council.

Motion made by Billy Collins with second by Rick Polanski to nominate David MacKenzie for Chair Elect of the Youth Council.

Unanimous approval of David MacKenzie to serve as Chair Elect of the Youth Council.

Discuss Next Meeting Date

It was suggested that the next even month meeting take place as Boys Totem Town. Members agreed to cancel the December 20th meeting and meet at Boys Totem Town for the February meeting.

Other

Jody Yungers is Chair of the County's Youth At Risk Committee which serves to take an introspective look at how the County serves youth. Saint Paul Foundation provided a \$50,000 and \$75,000 grant to support this work. Consultants are being brought in to accomplish this task. There may be reporting back to this Council on how services are being provided to youth throughout the county.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned upon completion of the agenda at 4:03 p.m.

Next Meeting: November 20, Ramsey County Workforce Center- Saint Paul