

Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board
Youth Council Meeting

April 23, 2009

Members Present

Billy Collins
Doug Hubbard
Becky Johnson
David MacKenzie
Dale Maristuen
Dean Shawbold
Jody Yungers

Members Absent

Abe Hassan EA
Sheldon Jensen EA
Peter Jessen-Howard
Rick Polanski

Staff/Guests Present

Mary Jo Gardner, WIB Staff
Lee Helgen, WIB Member
Gwen Peterson, City of Saint Paul Youth Job Corps
Kate Raleigh, WIB Staff
Carli Stark, WIB VISTA
Terry Zurn, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order

David MacKenzie called the meeting to order at 3:31 pm.

Approve Minutes

Motion made by Dean Shawbold with second by Dale Maristuen to approve the minutes as presented.
Motion carried.

Elect Chair

Kirk Hayes has resigned from the WIB and Youth Council- as the Chair Elect, David MacKenzie automatically assumes the Chair position. The Council is in need of a new Chair Elect, which needs to be a member of the WIB. At the next WIB meeting, members will be encouraged to join the Youth Council.

Update on WIA Funds

Terry Zurn updated the committee on the incremental WIA funds available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. There are subcontractors in place to administer summer youth employment programs and the partners are close to finalizing the program. The program has reached the goal of having 250 work experience spots for youth from Saint Paul and 250 spots for youth from suburban Ramsey County. The program will divide as follows:

- Guadalupe Alternative Programs will take on 105 youth from across the county to be in their YouthBuild program rehabbing two houses on the West Side of Saint Paul.
- Tree Trust will recruit 96 suburban youth for their program, mainly doing landscaping work.
- Northwest Youth and Family Services will work with the YWCA in the suburbs and will administer programs for 50 youth working at smaller worksites of one or two youth.
- Workforce Solutions will administer summer work experience for 60 suburban youth.
- The City of Saint Paul's Youth Job Corps program will work with 50 suburban youth, in addition to the 140-145 City youth they will serve through the program.

The remainder of the funds will go to adding about 300 youth (up to 24 years old) to Workforce Solutions' year-round program, providing more year-round youth with work experience.

Jody Yungers thanked Terry Zurn, Gwen Peterson and Billy Collins for their work in developing this program in such a short time.

Approve American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Special Youth Project

The MN Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) is using administrative dollars from the ARRA funding for services in local areas. Ramsey County is eligible for up to \$91k of these funds with an accepted project plan. Of these funds, DEED would like at least 30% spent on out of

school youth and up to 70% spent on in-school youth and must be spent by June 30, 2010. Goals are to increase youth services, giving at-risk youth through age 24 meaningful experiences and support. One possibility for these funds could be to increase services to adjudicated youth as the WIB and Youth Council continue to seek sustainable funding for the Building Lives program. Boys Totem Town does not currently have an employment counselor on campus and these funds could support the services of one FTE in this position, serving about 40-50 youth in a year. HIRED had been the subcontractor working there and Workforce Solutions could contract with them again. Jody pointed out it is important to show the Youth Council's commitment to the Building Lives program by utilizing an incremental funding to support the program.

There was discussion on other possibilities for expending these dollars. The funding could be used to serve target populations like young parents, those leaving foster care, homeless youth, etc. The Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) was named as a possible project as well.

Motion made by Jody Yungers with second by Billy Collins to use the extra allocation to expand employment services at Boys Totem Town through a contract with HIRED.

There was further discussion on the JDAI program and the idea of having two options for the Youth Council to review before making a final decision on where these funds should be spent. The discussion included the JDAI program and how the Youth Council and youth programs could fit into the larger structure of JDAI. This program serves youth up to age 18, which may be a concern with the requirement of spending at least 30% of the funds on out-of-school youth.

Terry will meet with Peter Jessen-Howard to identify how there can be a stronger link between JDAI and the YouthLEAD program, though it is important to keep the capacity of YouthLEAD in mind.

Jody Yungers offered a friendly amendment- to approve these funds for increasing employment services at Boys Totem Town, giving Workforce Solutions staff the authority to redirect the funds if another options seems more appropriate for these funds. Billy Collins accepted the amendment.

Amended motion carried.

Update on Youth Council Membership

Mary Jo Gardner reviewed the Youth Council's current membership, identifying positions that need to be filled. These include a parent of an eligible youth, an eligible youth, a law enforcement representative and additional WIB members. Members suggested potential members to fill these openings.

Update on Building Lives

Doug Hubbard discussed the April 1st meeting with DEED Commissioner Dan McElroy, scheduled as a follow-up to the Building Lives bills in the MN House and Senate. The House bill currently provides Building Lives with \$75k from the Workforce Fund, while the Senate provides \$375k/year for four years from the general fund. There is hope that the House will match the Senate proposal and move forward from there.

Other

Dale Maristuen announced that Jody Yungers will be honored with the 2009 Distinguished Leadership Award for outstanding leadership and volunteerism, presented by the North Suburban Gavel Association at a banquet on May 20th.

All were reminded that the annual YouthLEAD recognition event will be on June 18th at the Harriet Island Pavilion from 6-7:30.

The Youth Council's July 23rd meeting will be at the Tamarack Nature Center.

White Bear Lake Schools will be partnering with Merrick Community Services on an RFP to develop innovative ways to employ people with disabilities.

Adjourn

Jody, Dean to adjourn at 4:29 p.m.

Next Meeting: May 28, 2009