

Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board
Youth Council Meeting

December 17, 2009

Members Present

Billy Collins
Doug Hubbard
Becky Johnson
Kathy Kittel
David MacKenzie
Dean Shawbold
Jody Yungers

Members Absent

Abe Hassan
Sheldon Jensen
Peter Jessen-Howard
Dale Maristuen
Rick Polanski

Staff/Guests Present

Mary Jo Gardner, WIB Staff
Lee Helgen, WIB Member, St. Paul City Council
Allan Ige, Workforce Solutions
Dennis Johnson, Rehab Services
Kate Raleigh, WIB Staff
Terry Zurn, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order

David MacKenzie called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm.

Approve Minutes

Motion made by Dean Shawbold with second by Billy Collins to approve the October minutes as presented.

Motion carried.

2010 Youth Plan

Workforce Solutions has received the instructions for the 2010 Youth Plan; this year a full narrative is required. Terry Zurn requested volunteers to meet in January with Terry and his staff to work on the plan. Dave MacKenzie, Dean Shawbold and Jody Yungers volunteered to help with this.

Summer Youth Program Statewide Outcomes

Terry and Allan Ige presented the outcomes of summer youth programs from across the state, as delivered by local workforce service areas. Work Readiness was the only performance indicator associated with this program; Workforce Solutions had 85.5% of youth attaining this goal, which is close to the state average. Additional outcomes showed 96% of youth who started the program at the beginning of the program completed the program; this number is higher than the overall state average.

Update on Future Youth Funding

Jody Yungers asked the group if there were any upcoming funding opportunities for youth projects, such as the summer youth program. The City expects to run their summer program through their \$500,000 legislative allocation. Ramsey County's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding will be spent out by June 30, 2010. It is anticipated that congress will focus on WIA Reauthorization, though this will not be addressed until after the healthcare bill is settled.

Youth Council Response to WIB Strategic Plan

The WIB approved their new strategic plan in June 2009 and is now looking at their 2010 priorities. Youth Council members were provided with the WIB's strategic plan and notes of two planning discussions held at the October and December WIB meetings to facilitate a discussion on priorities for this committee.

The Youth Council reviewed their past efforts and possible future areas of focus. See Attachment I for notes on this discussion. Based on this discussion, Mary Jo will create a first draft of priorities for the Youth Council to respond to before the next meeting. Once the Youth Council's plan is developed, the Council may want to present it to the full WIB.

Other

Dean Shawbold was participating in a fund raiser for Century College.

Jody Yungers showed the group an “Under Construction” calendar with a photo of the program’s work at the Tamarack Nature Center.

Adjourn

Motion made by Dean Shawbold with second by Becky Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 4:51 pm.

Motion carried.

Next Meeting: January 28, 2010

Attachment I

Discussion on Youth Council's Strategic Direction

- Look in to “green” training and job opportunities for youth.
 - o The City has done many things with green industries. There is a push to showcase the power of green energy in the redevelopment of the Central Corridor- it would make sense to have some youth involved in this project. Workforce Solutions will have a staff person in on the bid processes for this development and...? They will ensure youth are involved???? Get youth in to internships for the development??
- Discussion on target audiences- there is concern about youth with disabilities not getting the attention and services they need.
 - o Funding for this population has evaporated.
 - o There is a large discrepancy between the percentage of individuals with disabilities who are employed and the percentage of the general population that is employed.
- The WIB expressed a need to better align with education; the Youth Council could play a part in this goal once it is better defined.
 - o Look in to organizing some sort of information exchange between education and business; this should be ongoing and would allow education to better understand business needs and it would give business a better idea of what is available in training and education.
- The WIB also states a need for decisions to be data-driven; any type of data reporting that goes to the WIB should be presented to the Youth Council as well.
- Members want to look at other models of serving youth- e.g. youth run a business such as a Cookie Cart or Coffee Shop.
 - o Look in to these models before putting out the next RFP for youth service providers.
 - o Look in to the models used and outcomes associated with the current service providers.
 - o Have providers present different models to the Youth Council.
- While it is necessary to find work experience for youth, the Council needs to remain cognizant of the fact that there are many union workers who are laid off currently and that these businesses cannot take on new employees under this circumstance.
- The labor market did not follow the predictions made a few years ago and it is important to get a handle on the current and ongoing labor market situation (i.e. delayed retirements, union members on the bench, layoffs, hundreds of applicants for every job opening, etc.).
- Help youth to focus on career readiness and planning rather than job readiness and planning.
- Jump at opportunities that arise for youth.
- There are still job opportunities but there is a lot more competition for these opportunities. The youth population needs to be supported so they can compete with other qualified job applicants.
- There is a need to work on job development and find employers who will hire youth- excite the employer community at the top level to work with youth.
 - o The WIB could work with the Mayor, the Chambers and Capital City Partnership to market the benefits of working with youth to employers.
 - o Youth come with the advantage of having supportive services and soft skill training through youth programs.
 - o Youth work experience is often subsidized.
 - o Look in to placing more youth in public sector work experience positions- e.g. Parks and Recreation, library systems, etc.