

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

June 17, 2009

**Members Present**

Billy Collins  
Doug Hubbard  
Peter Jessen-Howard  
Becky Johnson  
David MacKenzie  
Rick Polanski  
Jody Yungers

**Members Absent**

Abe Hassan  
Sheldon Jensen  
Dale Maristuen EA  
Dean Shawbold

**Staff/Guests Present**

Mary Jo Gardner, WIB Staff  
Kathy Kittel, Saint Paul Public School  
Kate Raleigh, WIB Staff  
Terry Zurn, Workforce Solutions  
Samantha Kormanik, Ramsey County Parks and Recreation

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**Call to Order**

David MacKenzie called the meeting to order at 3:34 pm.

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**Approve Minutes**

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

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**Approve Youth Council Applicant**

Kathy Kittel, Saint Paul Public Schools, has applied to serve on the Youth Council and was present at the meeting to introduce herself. Kathy worked at Boys Totem Town for 16 years and is now the Director of Career and Technical Education for Saint Paul Public Schools. If approved here, Kathy's application will go to the Executive Committee for approval and the County for ratification.

**Motion** made by Billy Collins with second by Becky Johnson to approve Kathy Kittel as a member of the Youth Council.

**Motion carried.**

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**Update on Building Lives**

The state legislature dedicated \$100,000 to support the Building Lives program for each year of the biennium. The ad hoc will be convened shortly to discuss next steps and securing balance funds for the next two years. All members are welcome to attend.

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**Approve Building Lives Proposal**

Terry Zurn gave an update on the Building Lives program and the funding history. His team has developed a proposal to submit to the state for the release of the legislative funding, and Terry presented this proposal to the Youth Council. The following are current projects for the Building Lives population:

- Workforce Solutions has staff working with 18-21 year olds at the workhouse.
- Through the Bremer funding (\$30k), staff is working with about six youth transitioning out of Totem Town.
- Through a special project grant from the state (\$91k), Workforce Solutions has contracted with HIRED to fund a full-time staff person to work at Boys Totem Town. This individual is working with youth in the transition program and preparing them to go back to school, improve their skills and look for a job.

Plans for the legislative funding includes supporting an additional HIRED staff person at Boys Totem Town to work with youth who are detained for 30-45 days and do not go through the transition program prior to leaving the center. The plan is to assist this population with basic skills, academic achievement and career preparation, and stay with the youth as they go back to school.

If approved, the WIB and County Board will need to approve the proposal prior to submission to the state for release of funds. The Council discussed the proposal, noting the primary goal is to transition these youth back to school to complete their education. Workforce Solutions plans to serve 50 youth in the year, maintaining support for them as needed after the legislative funding is spent.

**Motion** made by Jody Yungers with second by Rick Polanski to accept the Building Lives proposal as presented.

**Motion carried.**

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### **Update on WIB Strategic Plan**

Mary Jo updated the Council on the WIB's Strategic Plan and members were thanked for their participation in the planning process. The WIB has approved their new Strategic Plan and it will move on to the County Board for approval. The document includes an executive summary, updated mission and vision statements and a new goal and tactics to be addressed through July 2012. It is important to keep the goals and tactics in mind as the Youth Council determines the efforts on which they will spend their time.

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### **July Meeting**

The July meeting will take place at the Tamarack Nature Center in White Bear Township. The center is currently a workforce site for the Under Construction program with youth from Arlington and Johnson high schools in Saint Paul. Tree Trust will also be on site with youth served through the stimulus funds this summer. Kate will distribute the map and directions for this meeting with the pre-reading.

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### **Other**

Jody Yungers introduced her guest, Sam Kormanik. Sam is currently on a six-month project working in Customer Service with Ramsey County Parks and Recreation and is supervising eight seasonal youth employees. Additionally, Sam is in the process of applying to the Youth Council as a former or current youth program participant.

Terry reminded the Council of the YouthLEAD event this Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00-8:00 at Harriet Island. There will be food served and youth from the program will be providing entertainment throughout the program.

The Department of Labor will be in town the week of July 20<sup>th</sup> to monitor the summer youth program.

Jody thanked David MacKenzie and his staff at HHH Job Corps Center for their partnership in bringing eight Job Corps youth on to work with Ramsey County Parks and Recreation. The youth are working in a variety of jobs including support/maintenance, carpentry, plumbing, and working with the electrician unit.

The Youth Council's September 24<sup>th</sup> meeting will be at the HHH Job Corps Center and will serve as the Industry Council meeting.

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### **Adjourn**

**Motion** made by Jody Yungers with second by Rick Polanski to adjourn the meeting at 4:24pm.

**Motion carried.**

**Next Meeting:** July 23, 2009