

Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board
Youth Council Meeting

March 26, 2009

Members Present

Billy Collins
Kirk Hayes
Doug Hubbard
Peter Jessen-Howard
David MacKenzie
Dale Maristuen
Rick Polanski
Dean Shawbold
Jody Yungers

Members Absent

Abe Hassan EA
Sheldon Jensen EA
Becky Johnson

Staff/Guests Present

Mary Jo Gardner, WIB Staff
Lee Helgen, WIB Member
Kathy Kittel, Saint Paul Public Schools
Kate Raleigh, WIB Staff
Carli Stark, WIB VISTA
Terry Zurn, Workforce Solutions
John Bruner, Boys Totem Town
Ramone Aylers, Boys Totem Town
Lee Angelo Foster, Boys Totem Town
Anthony Hanson, Boys Totem Town
Frankie Padilla, Boys Totem Town

Call to Order

Kirk Hayes called the meeting to order at 3:36 pm.

Approve March 10 Minutes

Motion made by Dean Shawbold with second by Dave MacKenzie to approve the March 10 minutes as presented.

Motion carried.

Stimulus Package Plan

Terry Zurn gave an update on how the youth portion of stimulus funding will be spent. He provided comprehensive definitions of “work experience” and “work readiness” as requested at the last Youth Council meeting.

Ramsey County will receive \$1.7 million in stimulus funding for youth services in addition to the regular WIA allocation, to be spent or obligated by June 30, 2010. These funds will be used to expand the year round program and add a summer work experience program for the summer of 2009. Services for the summer programs will be subcontracted to local organizations, with half of the 500 total youth coming from the suburban area of the county and the other half coming from the city. Workforce Solutions is looking at existing organizations with the capacity to provide payroll services to youth and have the capacity to take on large numbers of youth, rather than just one or two. With payroll and administration systems in place, almost all of the stimulus funding will go to paying the youth’s wages at \$7.25/hour with the youth working 20 hours per week for six to ten weeks. It is also important that youth are placed in meaningful work, ideally connecting with industries that students may be interested in pursuing as a career. To determine how meaningful the work was, and if work readiness expectations were met, the youth are evaluated by their on-site supervisors. There was a question on the possibility of paying crew supervisors more- this may be a possibility but it may affect the number of youth placed in work experience.

There was discussion on the possibility of stimulus funding affecting other youth funding streams. Terry explained that other funding streams would most likely not be affected, and that the MN Youth Program funding is in the Governor’s budget at \$3.5 million, the same funding level as the last biennium. Other discussion focused on the summer program- the Youth Council would like to see the work the vendors

do. It was suggested that contracted organizations present to the Youth Council and Jody Yungers has volunteered to host the July meeting at the Tamarack Nature Center. Terry will further update the Youth Council on the stimulus plan at the May meeting.

Annual YouthLEAD Recognition Event

The fourth annual YouthLEAD Recognition Event will be June 18, 2009 from 6:00-7:30 pm at the Harriet Island Pavilion. Members who have attended in the past recommend all members attend the event.

Update on Building Lives

There was a Building Lives hearing at the House Higher Education and Workforce Development Finance and Policy Division on Thursday, March 19. Representative Sheldon Johnson introduced the bill (H.F.0315), Mary Jo and Peter Jessen-Howard testified in support of the bill, and Doug Hubbard was there to show his support. There is a follow-up meeting with DEED Commissioner McElroy on April 1. There is a companion bill in the Senate, introduced by Senator Moua (S.F.0411).

Other

None.

Boys Totem Town

John Bruner of Boys Totem Town (BTT) gave a presentation on BTT, a treatment facility for 12-18 year old adjudicated youth at high risk of further court involvement. Treatment programs range from seven days to ten months depending on sentencing, with a 90-day transition program for all offenders after they leave the facility. The average age of youth at BTT is 16.7 years old, which means many of the boys are particularly interested in job training and work readiness skills.

The Youth Council heard from four of the participants from the program who talked more about the program and answered questions. All presenters were thanked for their time.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned upon completion of the agenda at 5:37 p.m.

Next Meeting: April 23, 2009