

Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board
Youth Council Meeting

February 25, 2010

Members Present

Billy Collins
Peter Jessen-Howard
Becky Johnson
Kathy Kittel
David MacKenzie
Gwen Peterson
Dean Shawbold

Members Absent

Doug Hubbard EA
Sheldon Jensen
Dale Maristuen
Rick Polanski
Jody Yungers EA

Staff/Guests Present

Julie Baker, Workforce Solutions
Mary Dahlquist, WIB Member
Mary Jo Gardner, WIB Staff
Lee Helgen, WIB Member
Kelly Higgins, Workforce Solutions
Allan Ige, Workforce Solutions
Kate Raleigh, WIB Staff
Gerald Settles, Boys Totem Town
Terry Zurn, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order

David MacKenzie called the meeting to order at 3:37 pm.

New Youth Council member Gwen Peterson was introduced. Peter Jessen-Howard announced his resignation from the Youth Council and introduced his guest, Gerald Settles, Boys Totem Town, and nominated Gerald as his replacement on the Youth Council, representing Juvenile Justice. Staff will work with Gerald on his appointment.

Approve January Minutes

Motion made by Dean Shawbold with second by Peter Jessen-Howard to approve the January minutes as presented.

Motion carried.

Approve 2010 Youth Plan

Motion made by Billy Collins with second by Dean Shawbold to approve the 2010 Youth Plan.

Discussion was held on the Youth Plan. Terry Zurn thanked the following individuals for their work on the Youth Plan: Youth Council members Dean Shawbold, Jody Yungers and Billy Collins, as well as Workforce Solutions staff Allan Ige, Dwayne Green and Annette Johnson. The 2010 Youth Plan required full narrative responses as opposed to previous plans that have required a narrative response only to plan aspects that had changed. The plan includes how Ramsey County will utilize the youth funding for 2010. The budget for the year is the same as last year, for planning purposes. This is \$1.3M in WIA funding and \$375k in MN Youth Program funding. The plan also includes outcomes from the last youth program year.

Motion carried.

Bremer Building Lives Grant Outcomes

The Ramsey County WIB, Youth Council and Workforce Solutions sought funds to support the Building Lives program at the legislature, and the Friends of the WIB sought and received bridge funding for the program through the Otto Bremer Foundation in the meantime. The \$30k from Bremer was used to serve younger youth at Boys Totem Town, through Workforce Solutions' youth counselor Julie Baker, who worked with five youth. Kelly Higgins, another counselor at Workforce Solutions, worked with another funding source and assisted 64 individuals at the County's work house. Terry Zurn reviewed the details of the FWIB's final Bremer report and Julie Baker and Kelly Higgins discussed the personal successes they experienced with their clients.

Members discussed the importance of serving this population, focusing on re-entry. Youth counselors echoed this statement emphasizing how important it was to connect with youth before they left Boys Totem Town or the work house. Members also discussed employer's perception of hiring ex-offenders- it was suggested the Youth Council explore ways to market these youth employers and advocate for laws banning ex-offenders from working in certain public departments. Kelly Higgins let the Council know there is a Certificate of Rehabilitation in discussion that could give offenders proof of the changes they have made.

Approve Youth Council Work Plan

Staff incorporated changes made to the work plan at the last Youth Council meeting. While the work plan is called a "2010 Work Plan," it is expected that efforts will continue in to 2011.

Motion made by Billy Collins with second by Becky Johnson to approve the Youth Council Work Plan as presented.

Motion carried.

Other

The Senate passed a \$15B jobs bill, though it does not currently include summer youth employment dollars- there is hope that they will be added in the future. There are workforce organizations advocating for those funds at the federal level including the MN Workforce Council Association.

The April Youth Council meeting will also serve as the Job Corps Industry Council meeting and will be held at HHH Job Corps Center.

Adjourn

Motion made by Dean Shawbold with second by Becky Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 4:30pm.

Motion carried.

Next Meeting: March 25, 2010