

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

June 24, 2010

**Members Present**

Billy Collins  
Doug Hubbard  
David MacKenzie  
Dale Maristuen  
Gwen Peterson  
Gerald Settles  
Jody Yungers

**Members Absent**

Sheldon Jensen  
Kathy Kittel  
Rick Polanski  
Dean Shawbold

**Staff/Guests Present**

Patricia Brady, Workforce Solutions  
Mary Jo Gardner, WIB Staff  
Dwayne Green, Workforce Solutions  
Kate Raleigh, WIB Staff  
Rita Rodriguez, Central Corridor  
Roderic Southall, Central Corridor  
Terry Zurn, Workforce Solutions

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**Call to Order**

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

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**Approve May Minutes**

**Motion** made by Jody Yungers with second by Dale Maristuen to approve the May minutes as presented.

**Motion carried.**

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**Central Corridor- Youth Component**

Two Metropolitan Council staff members were at the Youth Council meeting to discuss the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit project and its workforce impact- staff members were Rita Rodriguez, Community Outreach, and Roderic Southall, who works with the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program (DBE). Rita works with 840 businesses in the Central Corridor area to help them understand the project and its impact. Rita outlined the construction project with the Council from what has already been completed up to the beginning of LRT service in 2014. Council members' discussion included the concerns of the U of MN in regards to their science buildings and what biking/parking accommodations will be made, including the use of Park and Rides.

Roderic went through the workforce aspects of the project, including the inclusion of women- and minority-owned contractors and employees. The Met Council has separate goals for construction business and construction workforce-

- Business goals-
  - o 15% of construction work done by women- and minority-owned businesses.
  - o 17% of professional services done by women- and minority-owned businesses.
- Employment goals
  - o 6% women in all trades.
  - o 18% minority in all trades.

The Met Council does not do the hiring for these projects but they do refer people who call about employment to the contractors who are carrying out the work. The Met Council has identified where they fell short on women and minority workforce goals for the Hiawatha line and put information on these occupations out early so job seekers could prepare for a job in the trades that are in-demand and of interest to them. About 800 construction jobs will be created through this project and there are eight contracts for completing this work, as opposed to only one contract used to complete the Hiawatha Light Rail line. The Civil East contract was recently awarded to Walsh and Roderic can send the number of positions required for each occupation. While contractors are aware of the desire to have local residents employed by these projects, because the Central Corridor project has federal funding, there cannot be a geographic preference for who is hired by the contractors.

Roderic explained the broad-based employment access program, which aims to help fill job openings with qualified candidates while being mindful of the employment goals. Using the Job Connect website, the contractors can receive information on qualified candidates to interview. After the contractor interviews and hires, they let Met Council know why they did not hire the recommended individuals who did not get the job.

This method of candidate referral is voluntary and the contractors do not have to put a request for workers through this system. Employment organizations will have equal access to put their clients into the system, which aims to avoid contractors only utilizing candidates from those organizations they have a pre-existing relationship with.

Roderic and Rita discussed the youth component of the Central Corridor project. All of the Outreach Coordinators are certified safety trainers and spend some of their time teaching youth about the safety issues associated with trains. There is a program called CCLRTWorks that provides career exploration opportunities for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders who are interested in construction trades. The program works with 150 students in a year and shows the practical application of academics aspects of the construction trades. Individuals interested in working on the completed Central Corridor Light Rail Transit system should contact Metro Transit in the near future to connect with these jobs when they are available.

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### **Request for Proposal Timeline and Process**

Terry Zurn distributed a draft timeline for the YouthLEAD provider RFP (Request for Proposals) process for the programs beginning in April of 2011. Workforce Solutions would like to have a strategy session at the next Youth Council meeting, looking at where the programs are now, how they have evolved, what the current vendors have been doing, what is going on nationally, what demographics have been served, etc. From this discussion, Terry would like to have two to four people work with youth staff to draft an RFP to bring back to the Youth Council for approval before releasing the RFP to the public. It is important to begin work on this soon to give lead-time to new youth providers and allow current providers time to wind down.

Patricia Brady distributed reports on how the recession has impacted young workers, who are experiencing an unemployment rate of close to 20%. The reports Patricia distributed included specific unemployment rates for African-American, Hispanic, and white communities. These reports suggest targeted job creation as a remedy to this high unemployment rate. Patricia urged members to take a look at these reports before the RFP discussion next month.

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### **Legislative Update Follow-Up**

This item was tabled until a future meeting date.

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### **Other**

The next Youth Council meeting on July 22 will focus on the RFP process.

Workforce Solutions' Tenth Anniversary is July 29<sup>th</sup>.

Congratulations to Workforce Solutions on a great YouthLEAD Recognition event on June 23.

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### **Adjourn**

**Meeting adjourned** upon completion of the agenda at 4:57pm.

**Next Meeting:** July 22, 2010