

Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board
Youth Council Meeting

May 27, 2010

Members Present

Billy Collins
Becky Johnson
Kathy Kittel
David MacKenzie
Jody Yungers

Members Absent

Doug Hubbard
Sheldon Jensen
Dale Maristuen
Gwen Peterson
Rick Polanski
Dean Shawbold EA

Staff/Guests Present

Claudia Brewington, Ramsey County
Mary Dahlquist, WIB Member
Mary Jo Gardner, WIB Staff
Kate Raleigh, WIB Staff
Gerald Settles, Boys Totem Town
Terry Zurn, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order

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

Approve April Minutes

Motion made by Becky Johnson with second by Kathy Kittel to approve the April minutes as presented.

Motion carried.

Legislative Update

Claudia Brewington, Intergovernmental Relations Specialist at Ramsey County, updated the Youth Council on local and national legislation. Claudia discussed the big picture of legislation this year, both federally and locally, what is expected in the upcoming session and how to prepare for it and how to retain funding. Below are highlights of this discussion:

- The recovery is slow, with cuts from the state since 2003.
- The governor has blocked revenue raisers, increasing competition for existing funds.
- The state is expecting a \$5.8B deficit next year, putting all discretionary programs in jeopardy.
- The American Jobs, Closing Tax Loopholes, and Preventing Outsourcing Act includes funding for youth summer work experience.
- Claudia stressed making connections with legislators before the session starts, particularly the new members. (Claudia will let the Council know committee memberships after the election.)

Claudia informed the Youth Council of the need to craft a message in support of the Building Lives program. She suggested a meeting with Art Coulson, the County's Public Communication Director, herself and Nick Riley to develop this message. She also recommended the TOPS program as a way to facilitate a brainstorming session on the Building Lives message. If members have questions or an issue they would like brought to the legislature, let Claudia know.

Terry Zurn discussed WIA Reauthorization and informed the Council that the MN Workforce Council Association is working to have the age for "youth" as defined in WIA to go up to 24 years old.

The Youth Council thanked Claudia for her instrumental role in getting the Building Lives funding through the state legislature.

Other

Jody Yungers will send the County's "Youth At Risk" report to the Youth Council.

The state's TANF summer youth funds are primarily for MFIP youth; Ramsey County is looking at how to utilize these funds with current youth and MFIP service providers.

Workforce Solutions received a performance update from the state and, while not final, Ramsey County is meeting or exceeding all youth performance standards.

The Hubert H. Humphrey Job Corps Center is nearing completion of their single parent dormitory, allowing parents to attend Job Corps while their children go to the Center's Head Start program.

Ramsey County Parks and Recreation will have four current Job Corps students working with them this summer, in addition to the two Job Corps graduates that have been hired permanently.

Adjourn

Motion made by Jody Yungers with second by Becky Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 5:02pm.

Motion carried.

Next Meeting: June 24, 2010