

Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board
Youth Council Meeting

September 22, 2011

Members Present

Billy Collins
Trenton Henspeter
Doug Hubbard
Sheldon Jensen
Kathy Kittel
David MacKenzie
Bob Morse

Members Absent

Dale Maristuen
Gerald Settles EA
Jody Yungers EA

Staff/Guests Present

Mary Jo Gardner, WIB Staff
Dwayne Green, Workforce Solutions
Talli Jordan, Workforce Solutions
Kate Raleigh, WIB Staff
Terry Zurn, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order

Bob Morse called the meeting to order at 3:31 pm.

Approve July 28 Minutes

The July 28 Youth Council minutes will be approved at the October meeting.

Youth Council Members and Chair-Elect

All present discussed the current Youth Council membership, with a focus on where to add members. Specific vacancies discussed included a current or former youth participant, a parent of an eligible youth and a representative from law enforcement. Dave MacKenzie said he could bring a youth to the meetings, though the appointment process is cumbersome; it was suggested that the Ramsey County Board approve a position to the Council (e.g. Job Corps Student Council President) rather than a specific representative. Terry shared that Kay Tracy from DEED suggested periodically bringing in youth focus groups to give the Council input rather than appointing a youth member; Mary Jo will confirm this with Kay Tracy. Bob Morse said he may have a contact with a law enforcement representative. Terry and Talli will ask the youth counselors if they have any youth or parents that may be a good fit for the Council. Members expressed interest in having employers who hire youth/entry-level workers represented in the business category; Terry and Talli will look in to this as well. Other suggested groups included representatives from foster care, public health and post-secondary education. Talli will connect with Ramsey County Foster Care, Dave will ask Job Corps' health staff about a contact in Public Health and Kathy will connect with someone at Saint Paul College.

Members discussed the need for a Youth Council Chair-Elect. This position must be filled by a WIB member and recruitment from the WIB was discussed. The Council may show the YouthLEAD presentation at a future WIB meeting and also discussed presenting the Youth Council's career exploration initiative to the WIB once it is identified.

Mary Jo shared that Dean Shawbold has resigned from the Youth Council as he is semi-retired and working in Washington County. Dean had served on the Youth Council from 2003-2011. Youth Council members and staff recognized Dean for his service.

Vern Vick Award

The Youth Council developed the Vern Vick Award several years ago to honor long-standing WIB and Youth Council member Vern Vick on his passing. There is interest in honoring someone with this award in 2011. Members were given the selection criteria and asked to think about possible honorees for discussion at the October meeting.

Other

Terry Zurn distributed the final performance numbers for YouthLEAD Program Year 2010, responding to a member request for the raw numbers of youth served. Members asked how the number of youth served by each

vendor organization is determined; based on an average of \$1,500 spent on each youth, organizational capacity is considered before it is determined how many youth each vendor will serve and how much funding they will get.

The Building Lives program was not funded by the legislature this biennium and Workforce Solutions was asked to submit a final report on the program's outcomes to the state. Dwayne Green distributed this report and reviewed it briefly with members. It was suggested that Jan West, the staff person from HIRED who worked out at Boys Totem Town, come to the December Youth Council meeting to talk about how the program affected the youth at Totem Town. As of the program end, only seven of the one-hundred-one youth have committed a new offense and have been re-incarcerated. Though there may have been more youth who have re-offended, this is a low recidivism rate. Members expressed interest in again finding funding for the program and a subcommittee was formed- Bob Morse, Dave MacKenzie, Doug Hubbard and Terry Zurn volunteered to be a part of this subcommittee. Others interested in joining should email Mary Jo.

Adjourn

Motion made by Doug Hubbard with second by Sheldon Jensen to adjourn the meeting at 4:15 pm.

Motion carried.

Next Meeting: October 27, 2011