



YOUTH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Wednesday, February 28, 2007

@ 11:30 a.m.

Northern Essex Community College

Behrakis Student Center, Room 213

100 Elliott Street

Haverhill, MA 01830

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cal Williams, Tom Casey, Tom Cuddy, Megan Shea, Linda Piergeorge, Brad Howell, Janet Allison, Vinnie Ouellette, Melissa Hogan, Ed Warnshuis

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Erin Kelly, Jeff Marcoux, Cindy Mejia, Steve O'Brien, Jenny Pickett, Sr. Gwynette Proctor, Fred Shaheen, Joanne Sullivan, Gina Bozek, Sharon Marshall, Ed Fitzgerald, Dorothy Smith, Joy Sabolevski

GUESTS PRESENT:

Amy Weatherbee, Rose Dittmer, Jim Carlson and Susan Ferraro

STAFF PRESENT:

Marjorie Betances, Joane Joseph

Approval of Minutes

Cal Williams called the meeting to order and introduced Rose Dittmer from Northern Essex Community College who he said would be presenting today. Before moving forward with the presentation, Cal informed the members that we don't have minutes with us today to approve.

Northern Essex Community College

Rose Dittmer is the Assistant Dean of Career Planning and Advising Center. She began by providing information on the Beharkis Student Center also known as the One Stop Center. This building is a one stop center with the convenience for students to find all the information they need in one stop. Students can find Career Counseling, Career Planning, the Bursar's office, Academic Advising, Financial Aid information, co-op/work study information, etc. Students are able to do one or two co-op programs and they are able to receive three academic credits when they are done. . Rose said that they work together with the employer and the students. The work-study location is based on the students' career area and majors. If the students are on financial aid, they receive 7% of their work-study towards their employment.

Also, NECC works together with UPS and Raytheon to help students learn how to speak properly and eat and act in public while in their co-op programs. NECC also has an affiliation with a Disney World program where students are able to work for Disney World during the spring and summer or summer and fall.

Introductions

Cal Williams introduced the following new council members that were added to the Youth Council, Joanne Sullivan from TD BankNorth, Gina Bozek from Methuen Public Schools, Sharon Marshall from United Parcel Service, Ed Fitzgerald from the Department of Mental Retardation, Dorothy Smith from Department of Mental Health, Brad Howell from Career Resources Corporation and Joy Sabolevski from Class Inc.. All of them have been appointed by Pedro Arce, Chairman of the Workforce Investment Board.

Update on P21/MVHUB

Amy Weatherbee said that the P21 activities that we are trying to coordinate were funded by the state. The Board was funded \$20,000 to work on the MVHUB website. She said that if you want additional information, please visit the www.mvhub.org or.com. The \$20,000 is going to be used to expand the MVHUB throughout agencies in Merrimack Valley area and possibly make a connection with the 211 system.

P21 members are constantly looking for new people to be added to the membership. On March 5th Cal Williams and Amy Weatherbee will be attending the P21 graduation Rate Summit conference in Worcester, MA. Cal and Amy will co-facilitate the meeting in the afternoon and will bring information back to the next Youth Council meeting.

Update from the Career Center

Amy gave an update on the youth that have been served through our programming in the ValleyWorks Career Center. She mentioned that we had

some difficulty with Little Sprouts last year. She stated that in 2006 out of 369 WIA enrollments 75% were Hispanic or Latino, 75% were in the age range of 14 to 18 years old, 55% were high school students, and 35% were high school dropouts. Amy also mentioned that 18% of the youth were on welfare, 76% tested at a 9th grade math or reading level, but still graduate, 2% were runaways, 16% were youth with disabilities, 19% were pregnant or parenting, 84% required additional assistance, and 42% were out-of-school youth. Our goal is to target low income youth. 95% were low income or economically disadvantage. She stated that this information is from last year.

Update on Massachusetts Case Base Learning Plan

Amy provided copy of MA Case Base Learning Plan to the members. She stated that this document is about work readiness skills and is used for our baseline when we ask programs to incorporate readiness skills. This document is a guide to provide review for activities on the job. This document was created by the Department of Education.

CA Externship Program

Rose Dittmer is also working with us on the CA externship program providing support and training to the teachers. This program is funded through Connecting Activities and TD BankNorth. They are able to support teachers during vacation week.

Review of Little Sprouts

Amy reported that when they conducted the RFP, Little Sprouts was the only program that needed to be reviewed again due to low performance. When Amy met with Little Sprouts back in January, they found out that they were having issues with the program and how the program was designed. Also, they found out that the enrollment was difficult. Amy also reported that out of 23 enrollments only 14 youth completed the program, 9 obtained GED and 15 got jobs but only 7 were training related. The program did not perform up to expectations.

Recommendation - The Career Center, Technical Person and Little Sprouts staff recommended to the Youth Council that Little Spouts can be funded for the second year within the same RFP. Amy stated that the performance is important to us in every program and that we need to be working hard to keep up the good performance.

A motion was made by Ed Warnhuis seconded by Tom Casey for Little Sprouts to continue with the funding. Motion passed.

Overview of the REP

Amy provided an overview of the ISY rfp. She also reviewed with the members a chart showing them how staff review different programs and how they make recommendations on how to approve new and old vendors.

MCAS

Meghan and Janet commented how they were sure if the MCAS test was going to be available for the students in summer. Amy reported that she should get an answer at the March 5th meeting.

Adjourn

Having no further business a motion was made by Tom Casey seconded by Megan Shea to adjourn and motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Betances
Recorder