

YOUTH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

11:30 a.m.

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In attendance: Linda Peirgeorge; Ed Warnshuis; Christine Blum, Christine (Tina) Bradshaw; Lisa Coy; Brad Howell; Linda Cote; Marianne Vesey; Barbara Richards; Williams. Staff: Deborah Andrews, Zakia Francis – intern.

Introductions:

People Cal and Deborah have approached to join the Youth Council: Howard Flagler, Spector Textile Products; Mike Strem, Strem Chemicals; Kim Abare, New England Die Cutting; Megan Shea. We will let the YC know how they respond.

January 14, 2009 minutes approved – Howell/Cote

Program and funding updates:

We have three programs with LARE that serves Out of School Youth: Education and Medical

Assisting; Education and CAN/CHHA; and in March the Education and Medical Billing course will begin.

We have 11 In School Youth – seniors at Lawrence High School studying electronics with LARE.

P21 – We are working on finishing the Strategic Planning grant with Merrimack College. The

grant was modified to provide a mid-term strategic analysis to dove-tail with the high performing WIB application. The final plan is due in May.

P21 – We have a grant with Merrimack College to explore youth homelessness in the area.

Students at MC are conducting interviews with youth service providers and are conducting focus groups

with youth to gather information. Originally, youth were to be interviewed individually, but they are

more forthcoming in peer groups. Russ Mayer, the professor in charge of the grant will present a white

paper on the results on April 30 at Merrimack College. Please feel free to attend.

Connecting Activities – We are serving more youth than anticipated at four high schools in the

area. Also, 45 youth participated in Job Shadow Day.

We have been told that the Stimulus Funding will be sent to the states 30 days after the bill is

signed. The state will have 30 days to disburse and we have 90 days to obligate it.

We looked at the Support Services Police. Changes need to be made in order to be in compliance with the state. Amy explained potential changes. The biggest change is that we will follow

up for one year after youth have finished programs with us and we will be able to pay for things like

tests, licenses, different expenses required in order to pursue employment. The YC suggested she go back to Chili to choose the wording, bring it to the YC next month and then to the Planning Committee.

Both bodies must approve by vote.

Deborah will be attending the National Association of Workforce Boards Forum in DC from

March 7 – 10. She will bring back information from the Forum to present at the next YC meeting.

Reminder – the Youth Summit will be held at Merrimack College on March 19. It is a collaboration between CommCorp, DESE, and the Lowell, MV and North Shore WIBS.

Andy Sum from

Northeastern will present new area dropout information and we will meet in small groups by WIB to

discuss strategies.

Youth Council membership. We are still looking for youth and parents to join the YC. Job Corps has

volunteered to bring youth from their programs each month. We still need a parent.

High Performing WIB – YC reviewed HPW youth piece, which encompasses the updated Blueprint, 2007

annual plan, information from business, and other new LMI. Due date is March 3.

We set aside some time to hear about programs and initiatives that YC members would like to share. Ed

Warnsuis of Stand and Deliver talked about his dropout program. They hold workshops once a month

and we are invited to attend. The Youth Council is very concerned about the dropout rates in our

districts, especially in Lawrence. We want to work with partners in the area to address and mitigate this

epidemic.

We are switching our meeting in March to Tuesday, March 17 because of the NAWB Forum the week

before. Meeting schedules and venues will be set for 2009 and will be sent to the YC.

Adjourn Richards/Cote