



YOUTH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Wednesday, September 9, 2009

11:30 a.m.

Northern Essex Community College

Technology Center Room 103B

100 Elliott Street

Haverhill, MA 01830

Youth Council MEMBERS PRESENT:

Howard Allen, Christine Bradshaw, Tom Casey, Lisa Coy, Megan Shea, Steven Noroian, Linda Piergeorge, Vinnie Ouellette, Tricia Snow, Michael Strem, Cal Williams

MVWIB Youth Council MEMBERS ABSENT:

Janet Allison, Brad Howell, Ed Fitzgerald, Kristine Blum, Linda Cote, Howard Flagler, Jason Pimentel, Bill Blanchette, Irene Chalek, Gina Bozek, Bob Mazzone, Steve O'Brien, Barbara Richards, Marianne Vesey, Ed Warnshuis

GUESTS PRESENT:

Amy Weatherbee, Odanis Hernandez, Lane Glenn, Ph.D.

MVWIB STAFF PRESENT:

Mary Kivell, Fred Carberry

I. Call to Order and Approval of August 12, 2009 Minutes

Youth Council Chairman Cal Williams called the meeting to order at 11:38 a.m. thanking Dr. Lane Glenn of Northern Essex Community College for hosting today's meeting. Introductions were made around the table.

Dr. Glenn, Vice President of Academic Affairs at Northern Essex Community College (NECC) said that he was pleased to welcome the MVWIB Youth Council as we have a lot of shared interests. He stated the NECC has 7,000 students enrolled in 16 different degree and certificate programs. He also said that the school is reaching out to area high schools whether students are interested in college, a community college, or a career.

II. Approval of August 12, 2009 Minutes

Cal then called for a motion on the minutes of the August 12, 2009 meeting.

Motion by Megan Shea seconded by Linda Piergeorge to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2009 Youth Council meeting as submitted. Motion passed.

III. Program Updates

a. ARRA

Amy Weatherbee explained the latest ARRA statistics which were distributed to Youth Council members. Amy said that we have been sending this out weekly to make sure that everyone understands the summer program. These figures are as of 8/28/09. She noted that she believes that we are the only region that is reporting out this way.

This report shows 543 youth enrolled in ARRA and 201 in YouthWorks for a total of 744 with wages over \$700,000. There are 165 unique employers.

Amy explained that YouthWorks ended 9/4/09 and ARRA in school youth can work part-time until 9/30/09 and out of school youth until 3/31/10. She said that 130 worksites have requested extensions and 136 have been extended.

Cal Williams wondered if any of the youth have been picked up by employers. Amy said that we would be getting documentation of youth that have been picked up and would have a better idea after 9/30 when we get completion information.

She talked about the need for 80% expenditure by the deadline and the issue of allowability with swapping slots. We may have to return some money in YouthWorks because of distinct enrollments. There is also a Byrne grant for Methuen with ARRA money that will run through 12/31/09 and Amy said we will be utilizing current worksites.

Amy finished her remarks stating that we receive 6% of the youth funding and serve 7% while maintaining well below the state average of cost per.

Cal Williams said that those are excellent numbers and he commended DGA, ValleyWorks and the staff.

b. Connecting Activities

Fred Carberry, MVWIB Executive Director reported in the absence of Deborah Andrews. He said that we received \$75,000 which is slightly less than last year. Now that schools are starting, he asked Lisa Coy, ValleyWorks Youth Program Director, to speak about the plans for Connecting Activities.

Lisa said that Deborah, Chili and she met with LHS staff and the connection with Lawrence High School is strong. We are working with Greater Lawrence Technical High School. We will be providing career counseling and services right in the school as well as workshops and internships.

Lisa also talked about a transition program that was initiated with Dr. Sharkey of LHS for 69 at risk eighth graders chosen based on behavior, school attendance, and/or grades. This was provided through a contract utilizing ARRA funds and students received awards for attendance, good behavior and finishing work. There was also a monetary award for finishing the program. These students have been registered for Connecting Activities.

It was asked and noted that eighth grade dropouts are not counted in the dropout rate.

Megan Shea asked about the Annual Plan and Fred Carberry said that it was submitted on time electronically and we are currently in a 30 day public comment period.

Amy said that we took the largest funding hit in WIA dislocated workers of 16%.

Fred said that there is a chart on the MVWIB website included in the annual plan that shows the comparison between last year and this year.

Amy Weatherbee said that we are meeting weekly on the RFP for WIA youth. There is \$150,000 for ITAs and the challenge is the ARRA adult and dislocated worker funds which must be 60% for training. The board endorsed group training for adult and dislocated workers as well as customized and on the job training. The dilemma is that we don't want to compete with the youth RFP. She said that we are trying to see what is the best strategy to get new vendors in occupational areas where there will be jobs. She also said that youth require more layered support.

c. Green Jobs

Fred Carberry said that we convened a meeting of the Green Jobs Advisory Council that included employers, educators and vocational training providers. Employers talked about their future needs. With the exception of one biofuel company, most may have a need for only 3, 4, or 5 jobs.

Fred said that the state is putting together a Green Jobs Grant (by region) to DOL and we are participating with North Shore and Lowell WIBs. We will be working with an advisory council in a larger area.

Howard Allen referred to grants that cross borders and regions. Fred said that is not part of this grant. Tricia Snow said that high school seniors could perhaps

benefit with a course that a science teacher would receive a stipend for and felt that this where awareness will start.

Howard Allen talked about John and Amy Warner who will speak at the next green jobs meeting and said that interest in green jobs is increasing. He has been approached by a number of students this semester. He said that the problem is that there is no money being made yet. He said that he has a student at UNH who is interested in coming to a meeting. Howard said that there is great potential in green jobs and it is only in its infancy. He also said that biofuels, wind and thermal jobs appear to be extension of electrical and plumbing trades.

IV. Where the Boys Aren't

Cal Williams then called on Dr. Lane Glenn for his presentation title "Where the Boys Aren't."

Dr. Glenn said that this was a joint effort with Suzanne Van Wert, English Professor at Northern Essex, who is not here today because she is teaching. He noted that 80% of high school dropouts are male and only 65% of males graduate from high school versus 72% of females. He said that half the young men who enroll in college never finish. Dr. Glenn said that things that contribute to the failure of some males are video games, teaching methods, prescription drugs, endocrine disruptors, and the devaluation of masculinity. He continued stating that 40% of boys are raised without their biological fathers, 80% of suicides were male and 90% of murderers were male.

There are losses in the sectors that historically employ males such as construction, transportation and warehousing, manufacturing, investment, education and healthcare. With only 65% of males graduating from high school only 42% of males are college students and 58% of bachelor's degrees are earned by women. There is a failure to launch with boys.

There is a definite difference between male and female students for a number of reasons and Dr. Glenn said that Northern Essex is trying to do something about this.

Some things we can do as a parent, an employer, an educator, and citizen are to encourage and demand college prep curriculum at high school, encourage and support enrollment in college immediately after high school, provide real alternatives to video games such as sports and outdoor activities. We can also mentor and build community, be explicit, set goals and keep them active.

Steve Noroian said that there is more prestige in being an athlete than in achieving academic success.

Howard Allen said that what is frustrating to those in education is that 75% of students require developmental courses.

Dr. Glenn also said that 70% of dropout and 2/3 of the SPED students are males.

Dr. Glenn said that educators need to be aware of the student success differences between males and females at school, work with area high schools to increase the number of students in college prep curriculum, encourage and support enrollment in college immediately after high school, find out more about the way boys and girls learn differently, find ways to appeal to both boys' and girls' learning styles, and consider support services such as tutoring, peer groups and co-curricular for boys.

Parents should not listen to 'conventional wisdom', encourage and demand a college prep curriculum, encourage and support enrollment immediately after high school, be a role model and find ways to expose young men to other male role models, provide alternatives to video games, consider starting boys one year later than girls and consider single-sex classrooms and schools.

Cal Williams then thanked Dr. Glenn for his presentation.

V. Other Business

Christine Bradshaw, Job Corps, said that September 23rd is the 45th anniversary of Job Corps and that she is looking for sites for a moving wall with the history of Job Corps.

Fred Carberry also said that the Mass WIB Association quarterly meeting will be held on October 5th at Salem State College with Congressman John Tierney speaking on WIA reauthorization.

VI. Adjournment

Having no further business Howard Allen made a motion to adjourn seconded by Christine Bradshaw. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kivell

Mary Kivell
Recorder