



Humboldt County Workforce Investment Board

YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, June 12, 2007

3:00-5:00 pm

Eureka Adult School • Room 72 • 674 Allard Avenue • Eureka

MINUTES

Members Present: Terry Coltra (Chair), Joe Davey, Maura Eastman, Karen L. Jarboe, Peter LaVallee, Dennis Mullins, Doug Rasines, Mark Schaffner

Members Absent: Kim Kellenberg (Vice Chair), Kelly Remington

Others Attending: Bruce Alexander, Janet DePace, Christina Huff, JoAnn Sapper, Jon Sapper, José Quezada, Dorre Howard

1. OPENING

- 1.1 Call to Order: Chair Terry Coltra called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm with a quorum.
- 1.2 Self-introductions of Youth Council members, staff and public: Everyone introduced themselves.
- 1.3 Adjustments to the Agenda: None

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

3. DISCUSSION and ACTION ITEMS

3.1 Consent Agenda

- 3.1.1 Approve minutes from May 18, 2007 YC meeting: **Motion** by Joe Davey to approve the minutes as submitted, second by Maura Eastman, motion carried unanimously.

3.2 Youth Council Meeting Schedule for PY 2007-2008:

- 3.1.2 Reviewed schedule, August meeting will be held. Staff will contact all members prior to the meeting to be sure we will achieve quorum. Consensus that this schedule will work

3.3 Future considerations, direction for WIA youth programs in Humboldt County

Christina says she likes decentralization of youth services. It is why the YPO's are here—It just did not work when they tried to work from Eureka.

AmeriCorps people really help facilitate youth success by providing staffing in running program. We need a way to articulate the data (caseload size, hours worked, cost, etc) so we know what works, need to show the AmeriCorps mentoring is a success, "because it is." This is kind of information that is discussed at YPO meetings.

Restaurant skills internship program coordinated by our YPO in Shum is very successful, and plans are underway to make this year a repeat of last year. It is a summer program, and they set goals with the kids. Last year 11 kids took part and 6 of them were WIA. The chef is instrumental in recruiting kids because of his passion. Mark Schaffner was also part of the team.

We need to reach out to passionate people in other fields perhaps for other programs that will interest youth and draw them in. YC member

Is there collaboration between the YPOs? Yes.

Does anyone on the youth council know what other programs are out there?

The YTAT group has a very good YC presence. YC Chair Coltra reminded group that WIA was an early leader in developing the philosophy of "All Youth-One System"—the same focus as YTAT. Others feel there is not enough collaboration between YC and YTAT. Multiple people are spending time attending various meetings that do the same thing. Also, across the county, the same kind or level of programs are not available to "all youth."

YC “needs more structure and direction.” YC has had goals of being a “big tent” helping convene youth programs and advocates. WIB Chair DePace is hopeful of this strategy; “it is what has happened with economic development.” There were various entities doing similar things and being territorial, now they collaborate. The youth council has attempted to bring various programs together (Larry Robbin trainings, StepUp Jobs for Youth) but hasn’t succeeded completely yet.

YTAT is a partner that the YC should work with because we are trying to do the same things. How do we make a better connection? In some ways we are connected, there are YC members that attend YTAT. For instance, a member of YTAT brought forward the issue of assisting transitional age foster youth, and that is now a working concept of the YC. Staff have written grants that have had specific focus on youth “aging out” out of foster care system (as well as the probation system—sometimes a youth is in both).

Getting this issue “from a meeting room to work in real life, running on the ground” needs to be a high priority. The lack of collaboration is partly due to staff turnover—keeping people abreast of networks made is hard when people keep leaving. How do you give on-going training so decisions made about youth keep going? CWS, Public Health, and Family Resource Center are working together with team case management. How do we all work together to bring together our resources and not duplicate services?

StepUp was an idea that came from the Youth Council, through Terry Coltra. He is also a member of YTAT. StepUp might be more successful this year than last.

What is in other youth organization strategic plans? What are the strategic priorities of all entities in a specific area? Once we know, then we can collaborate, we can meld our goals for more funding. Collaboration can leverage millions of dollars, especially if we can tie work experience and occupational training to real jobs in our economy.

Need to identify what the program is and what are the program components that work with youth, especially older youth. There is advantage to localized planning due to different needs, can’t do one size fits all. Different areas of our county are vastly different.

In WIA, it does come down to “we have to perform, we have to meet our numbers.” How do we maintain performance throughout the system? Everyone across nation and state must meet DOL-set performance standards and we must design programs with that in mind. There also needs to be a carrot and a stick—having a program for the youth to be motivated to be a part of is essential for successful WIA youth programs. Suggestion that specific performance requirements be included in the next RFP process for WIA youth services. A review process needs to be built in. Right now staff is looking at under-performing YPOs and developing corrective action plans.

Where do we go from here? Will be on agenda for next meeting. Suggestion to keep discussion going at a subcommittee level. These notes and the subcommittee notes will be combined and shared with members prior to the August meeting in order to get member input. Staff would like to get an RFP out by December for awards to be made in March 2008. The old RFP will be shared via email, and is available at the WIB website. Copies will be made for members of the subcommittee meeting that will meet before August.

4. CLOSING

- 4.1 Next Meeting date and agenda topics: The next meeting will be August 14, 2007.
- 4.2 Announcements: None
- 4.3 Adjournment: the meeting adjourned at 4:57

