



Humboldt County Workforce Investment Board

YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, February 10, 2009
3:00-5:00 pm

C/R Foster Parent & Kinship Care Education Center
333 Sixth St, Eureka

MINUTES

Members Present: Terry Coltra, Joe Davey, Maura Eastman, Dennis Mullins, Kelly Remington, Jon Sapper and Mark Schaffner.

Members Absent: Peter LaVallee and Doug Rasines

Others Attending: Bruce Alexander, Laura Chancellor, Nicole Morrow and Jo Ann Sapper

1. OPENING

1.1 Call to Order - Meeting came to order at 3:02

1.2 Self-introductions of Youth Council - Introductions were made around the table.

1.3 Adjustments to the Agenda - None

2. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

3. DISCUSSION and ACTION ITEMS

3.1 **Consent Agenda - Motion** made by Maura Eastman to approve minutes from January 13th meeting, second by Terry Coltra. Correction to Item 3.4 on previous minutes; no funds for Youth Transitional Action Team (YTAT) came to Humboldt County. This was a state-funded effort and not funded locally. Social Services did not receive any monies; so carried.

3.2 **StepUp and Digital Pathways Updates** - Premiere on Saturday February 7th very well attended. Digital Pathways youth ran the program and showed all projects and PSAs created by youth from the summer and mini-classes. Still moving forward on helping coordinate the Northcoast Youth Summit. Flyers handed out to YPOs, community. Probation and County Office of Education have offered transportation to the Summit for youth. Building an incentive program for this, very youth-driven conference. Headwaters helped to fund the Summit from a discretionary fund. Working on creating Opportunity Fairs—one for April and one for the fall season.

3.3 **Youth Transition Action Team** - No discussion or updates from the last meeting because YTAT has not met since last YC meeting. 10 Foster Youth went to the SF Bay area to learn "how to tell their story" using some digital media skills. When youth come back they will attend a second level of Digital Pathways training.

3.4 **Regional Business Advisory Group and Targets of Opportunity** - The information identified in the original Targets of Opportunity report has evolved into the Targets of Occupations. The concept is beginning to take hold; \$2,500,000.00 has been awarded, through the Department of Labor, to provide funds for updating and/or creating new certificate programs at the College of the Redwoods that correspond to

the Targets. All Youth Program Operators responded to an RFP that asked bidders to describe a comprehensive youth program, how they would use match resources to build the system, and include how employers would be engaged and Targets incorporated in that community.

In the Eel River Valley, a Targets Employers Advisory Group was set up by the YPO. Jacqueline presented the Targets and Dennis Mullins a Labor Market presentation to this group. The employers suggested the message be brought to the high school. This resulted in Jacqueline and Jon Sapper presenting to the school board and faculty at Fortuna High School. Finally, six classrooms were visited by some of the employers, including Jacqueline presenting Targets to students. *Are these presentations important enough to take to the public at large?* A resounding yes to that. Some of the suggestions that the Eel River Valley group included:

- We need to insure that material included in public presentations is highlighted information, not so many statistics.
- Target your audience.
- If we take to City Council's it will get televised.
- Public meetings, churches, Rotary's and the like would be great places for presentation.

Jon Sapper gave a quick background as to how we got here; the need for Targets of Opportunity and the three training networks (stools) getting together.

1. Education and Training
2. Economic development/business community
3. Workforce services

With fewer resources and greater needs these entities have been able to work together closely, sharing common ground. We've been leveraging resources to reach common goals. *Is it worth our energies to get this information out to areas other than Fortuna?* Each region will more than likely do things their own way, whatever works best for them. Use existing networks and advisory boards. Each area is unique in the county; each Youth Program Operator has a unique situation. This group could be a sounding board, help address some local issues; brainstorm specific needs. *Do you see each area having an Employer Advisory Board?* Possibly. *Could these advisors be Full WIB members? Do you think these people would be willing to be WIB members?* Methodology would be different but the outcome would be the same. We need to train youth. Youth Council can articulate the way the concept can move forward. Kelly Remington made a **motion** to have staff work with Youth Program Operators in all five regions and identify a possible plan on how to engage employers in that community, second by Maura Eastman, so carried.

- 3.5 Inviting Non-WIA Community Groups to Youth Council** - In the Youth Council's strategic plan, the Council aspires to act as a tent for all youth programs in the county. We need to reinvigorate ourselves with what is going on with YTAT and other youth organizations. *What can we do or what kind of event can we hold to invite other players that are involved with youth? Do we know who the other players are?* Some of this information can be found through a YTAT resource guide; it's a good baseline. Resources and names of any agency involved with youth are listed there.

Staff will send this matrix out to YC the week before the March meeting. Information concerning areas, numbers and purpose that these agencies serve is also available.

- 3.6 **Multi-generational facility work in the Eel River Valley** - Feasibility study going on concerning a facility that would serve youth and their families. This is being supported by the McClean Foundation and Humboldt Area Foundation. If the study indicates this is viable, we believe we will be able to find the resources to build the facility. Looking at partners for continuing expenses after building is complete. Hope to have answers within a month. Should have this as a standing agenda item for the next few months.
- 3.7 **Stimulus Package** - This may be signed within the next few days. Current formula allocation available for youth is roughly \$400,000. In addition to that amount, we may get \$550,000.00 from the Stimulus Package. They want to put kids to work as early as this summer. It will probably be WIA money; don't know when it will get here. *How can the counties position themselves to accept these funds?* Discussion could center on how we will position ourselves for this influx of money. The Stimulus Package is a one-time event. Humboldt County is looking at 1.1 million in WIA funds, including dislocated workers and adults. Once there is clarity, there is a piece that the Youth Council can discuss and then forward a recommendation to the Full WIB; timing will be very important. If it comes sooner than later we may want to call a special meeting to deal with that topic. This will be happening within the next 120 days. When the information becomes official, the Youth Council will be notified so we can begin planning.

4. CLOSING

- 4.1 **Next Meeting date and agenda topics** - Next meeting will be Tuesday, March 10, 2009
- 4.2 **Announcements** - None
- 4.3 **Adjournment** - Meeting adjourned at 4:49