



Humboldt County Workforce Investment Board

YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, April 10, 2007

3:00-5:00 pm

Eureka Adult School • Room 69 • 674 Allard Avenue • Eureka

MINUTES

Members Present: Kim Kellenberg (Vice Chair), Joe Davey, Maura Eastman, Karen L. Jarboe, Peter LaVallee, Doug Rasines, Kelly Remington

Members Absent: Terry Coltra (Chair), Dennis Mullins, Mark Schaffner

Others Attending: Christina Huff, JoAnn Sapper, Jon Sapper, Bruce Alexander, Eric Verprauskus, Mari Arreola, Jose Quezada, Dorre Howard

1. OPENING

1.1 Call to Order: Vice Chair Kim Kellenberg called the meeting to order at 3:10pm 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: The following items are recommended for approval via a single vote of the membership. Members who have questions about any of these items may request that the Chair pull that item off the consent agenda for discussion.

3.1.1 Approve minutes from September 27, 2006 meeting

3.1.2 Approve notes from November 1, 2006 and January 24, 2007 meeting

Motion by Maura Eastman to approve the consent agenda as presented, second by Joe Davey, motion carried unanimously.

3.2 Membership Updates: An application for Youth Council membership was received from Gwen La Pena. Because of a lack of quorum at January and February meetings, WIB Executive Committee recommended application be moved to Board of Supervisors for appointment. This item is on the BOS agenda for April 17, 2007.

3.3 StepUp for Youth Jobs: Good kick-off this year. The breakfast at Samoa Cookhouse was well attended. Many businesses requested summer youth employees. This program is not "owned" by the county and it is not a WIA program. It is a job-matching program for all youth. However, a WIA youth is the first to be matched with a job at Pierson's.

3.4 WIA Youth Program Update for current year (see WIB Report #94YC): Discussed report, considered current structure and budget ratios of youth services to the cost of delivering services. Discussed new youth enrollment numbers (July 2006 to March 2007); did not count number of youth carried into this year from last.

Comments: The current structure is in place because that is what members chose when this was set up, because of a desire to focus on individual youth. Would not like to put all the money into technology training.

Why low enrollment levels? One reason YPOs have given is the cumbersome change to using a state-mandated and different basic skills assessment with youth. Although a year ago YPOs decided on a single test, CASAS, some have decided to use other state-approved options, such as the TABE tool. We are also required to spend 30% on out-of-school youth and it looks like that is not happening if we just look at out-of-school enrollment numbers.

Question: Is the WIA focus to train or to employ out-of-school youth? The primary focus is employment preparation and engagement into the labor market (obtain employment); and/or transfer into post-secondary education. Obtaining employer-validated occupation skills and work experience (training) can act as a strong foundation for reaching these goals.

Staff has concern that diminishing rate of funds coming from WIA over the last five years has made it harder for some YPOs to have enough resources available for direct youth services. YPOs are collaborating with their community resources, and are obtaining non-WIA support from a myriad of sources. Staff suggested that technology training, as per the “evidence-based” Bay Area Video Consortium model can attract youth and gives another option for YPOs to consider referring youth. The two areas being considered are gaming/audio and video. Discussed the optimum number of youth that should be enrolled in these classes.

Other comments: Performance measures are based on percentages, not numbers. When the numbers are small, one failure significantly reduces our success percentages. Something specific, such as a training program, attracts youth. We design programs to meet standards *and* to satisfy the needs of youth. Staff reported there are currently only six out-of-school youth enrolled in program; this can have significant impact if only one of the out-of-school youth exits WIA with non-positive status.

Question: What is the drop-dead date for money to be allocated in order to do this program if Youth Council wants to do it? Staff suggests forming a subcommittee to make final recommendation by May 1.

Other comments: One of the reasons the YC decided to use 5 program operators in 2002-03 was to decentralize and attract youth from all areas of the county. Staff says we have been successful in reaching more kids and getting more funds to all areas, but, WIA funds have been cut almost in half since that decision by YC. Although Humboldt County did not meet our performance goals for 4 years, YPOs were successful in meeting them last year. Good work is being done by YPOs despite funding cuts. Staff says we are not suggesting that this replace YPOs. We must partner with the community for success. We must build linkages with other resources/partners, in order to leverage and maximize funding. One member said she attended conference where concerns were being expressed regarding the ratio of high staffing to remaining available monies for WIA youth—this is happening in a lot of places.

Feeling that the YPOs simply haven’t shared with us the collaboration they currently do. It is difficult to reach and work with out-of-school youth. It is a very narrow age group that is not ready for work. And the ‘underground economy’ has quite an influence on these youth. Discussed the size of this age group (18-21). An operator says they have gotten more picky about enrollees in order to have good outcomes.

No decision has been made. The idea is to be able to say the Youth Council has put in \$40,000 and might put in another \$20,000. That way we can go to outside sources for match. Staff hopes the Youth Council will appoint a sub-committee to keep discussing this and asks for volunteers. There is consensus, enough interest to form a subcommittee and put this on the agenda for a vote at the May meeting. The subcommittee will be: Kelly Remington, Joe Davey and Jon Sapper. Suggestion that the subcommittee look at other ideas.

There is interest in knowing more about the YPO’s programs, what their day-to-day activities are, what they are providing youth. Discussed having YPO presentations at our meetings. Staff reported that YPOs, at YC request, have been providing staff with Quarterly Qualitative Reports that afford the opportunity to discuss individual YPO goals, accomplishments, difficulties, and level of collaboration and resource support raised within each YPO community. Staff will share the qualitative quarterly reports from the operators with YC at June meeting..

Kudos to the cooking class in Southern Humboldt. It is amazing what that kind of opportunity does for kids.

3.5 Youth Council Meeting Schedule for April to June 2007: After canvassing YC members, staff determined that YC meetings be moved from the fourth Wednesday of the month to the *second* Tuesday of the month, same time and place, except in room 69 instead of room 72, as per below:

Date for YC Meeting	Place	Time
Tuesday, April 10	EAS Room 72	3:00-5:00 PM
Tuesday, May 8	EAS Room 72	3:00-5:00 PM
Tuesday, June 12	EAS Room 72	3:00-5:00 PM

4. CLOSING

- 4.1 Next Meeting date and agenda topics:** The next Youth Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 8, 2007, same time and place, in Room 72.
- 4.2 Announcements:** 1) Kelly Remington passed out flyers for the 2007 Spring Conference to be held on April 17 and 18 at Bethel Church in Eureka. For more information call Kelly at 834-5934, 2) Bruce Alexander shared a flyer for a fundraiser for Megan Murray (Sue Murray's daughter), who was diagnosed with leukemia, on May 6 at the Wharfinger from 3-7pm. There will be a live and silent auction. For more information contact Ashley Wahlund at 476-6363 or Jillian Sullivan at 834-6963 or Stephanie Jackson at 441-2526.
- 4.3 Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 4:50pm.