

Youth Council/Forum

Roanoke Valley Workforce Center, Roanoke, VA
Thursday, February 10, 2011

Minutes

I. **Call to Order**

Board Chair **Paul Paradzinski** called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

II. **Introductions**

Members present:

Paul Paradzinski, Craig County
Joe Annarino, Community Youth Advocate
Harriet Woodward, Community Youth Advocate
Matthew McGraw, Dabney S. Lancaster Community College
Kim Moore, Goodwill Industries of the Valleys
Wanda Anthony, Goodwill Industries of the Valleys Youth Program
Laura Elliott, Junior Achievement
Keith Robinson, Goodwill Industries
Janel Howery, Job Corp

Members absent:

Ron Jones, TAP This Valley Works
Barbara Humphreys, Franklin County Schools
Michele Wells, Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Service
Cindy Goldstein, Roanoke City Schools
Jodylee Edsall, Roanoke County Schools

Staff present:

Doloris Vest, President
Suzanne Luzier, Program Coordinator
Zenith Hamilton, Program Specialist
Joy Tucker, Grant Writer
Doug Booth, AmeriCorps Member

Visitors present:

Sally Farrell, Craig County 4-H
Beverly Amburgey, Goodwill Industries of the Valleys
Johnny Stone, TAP
Jill Barnett, Covington Department of Social Services
Sara Vaughn, Salem/Roanoke County Libraries
Dee Sheffer, RAYSAC
Mindy Taliaferro, Student - Dabney S. Lancaster

A quorum was present.

III. **Goals of Participation**

- A.** Each person in attendance was asked by Mr. Paradzinski to voice what their personal goals were for being involved with the Youth Council. The general response from the group was to provide resources, and to establish pathways for the youth of today to become productive in the workforce as youth, and as adults. Other goals included: Making the youth of today financially literate, Reduce school drop-out rates, and to provide a caring support system to ensure the youth are able to meet their short-term and long-term goals.

Mr. Paradzinski stated that the diversity of the Youth Council members and visitors can be quite impactful, and he is excited to see how the group can come together and work together to make a difference.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Minutes approval will be voted on at the next meeting to be held on March 10, 2011.

V. Reports

A. Youth Programs: Ms. Amburgey reported on the Youth programs.

- a. Enrollment of youth is steady. 6 new participants were enrolled in January.
- b. There have been 3 new positive exits, with all 3 participants exiting to college.
- c. 8-10 new worksites have been established
 - i. Two individuals, who participated in work experiences at the Walgreens in Rocky Mount, were both hired.
- d. A discussion followed concerning past participants, and where they are now. Unfortunately, one couple that was mentioned did not complete the program due to personal circumstances. **Ms. Vest** suggested if the youth cannot do the program or have circumstances that keep them from being able to complete the program, we should have a list of resources available to refer the youth to.

B. Workforce Development Board Update: Ms. Vest reported

- a. **Ms. Vest** introduced Ms. Joy Tucker as the new grant writer for the board. If anyone sees or knows of grant opportunities that would benefit any existing programs, or to support a new program, please inform the board office. Ms. Tucker is welcoming all grant and project ideas from partners. Ms. Woodward and Ms. Elliott both have ideas that Ms. Tucker can reference in her search.
- b. **Ms. Vest** had the opportunity to attend the Roanoke City Council meeting on Monday, February 7, 2011. At this meeting she was given the opportunity to speak about the Youth Council.
- c. The Board has voted at the most recent board meeting to continue the contract with Goodwill Industries without going through the RFP process this year.
- d. The first year of the board acquiring grant funding, the board's operating budget increased by 35%.
- e. Grant opportunities are being sought. Ms. Vest emphasized the fact the board may be able to gain access to grants and grant funding that other partner organizations do not have the structure to acquire or to administer. The board is open to applying for these grants to partner with other organizations.

VI. Unfinished Business

- A. **Botetourt County Involvement - Ms. Anthony** announced that Botetourt County Schools are inquiring about holding a Reality Store in the school system. Currently there are 2 or 3 students at Botetourt High School that are eligible for the Youth program.
- B. **Alternative Education - Ms. Vest** expressed the need to have participation from other education establishments other than public schools systems only. She further explained that any group environment could benefit from other partner programs and youth programs such as Junior Achievement, Job Readiness, etc. **Ms. Woodward** stated that the Career Council in Alleghany County is currently approaching these alternative education groups, and is getting positive interest and feedback. **Mr. Annarino** has distributed a handout on Reality Stores to a variety of groups, including tutors.
- C. **Ms. Vest** informed the council that Radford University has training and technical assistance, but have been working with Alleghany High School on transition assistance. **Ms. Woodward** stated that Alleghany already has a transition team.

VII. New Business

- A. Mr. Paradzinski** expressed a desire to see the Youth Council develop new ways of energizing and inspiring desire in students. **Ms. Moore** added that a lot of teachers in the public school system are required to continue their training. Part of this training includes seminars and meetings on energizing students.
- B. New Marketing Strategies** – An open discussion was entered into concerning targeting new groups to grow the reach of the Youth Council and its partners. Suggestions included:
 - a. Approaching guidance counselors at the schools – Materials would need to be given to the guidance counselors to educate them, and allow for different information to be available for students.
 - b. Ms. Hamilton stated that the Delta Sorority is working at Patrick Henry High School via the program "Growing & Empowering Myself Successfully". This could be an avenue for more promotional of the council and its programs.
 - c. Several ideas about community events were shared. Concerns were expressed about attendance to targeted events for students and parents. Alternative events and venues are necessary. Suggestions included:
 - i. Flea Markets
 - ii. Car Shows
 - iii. Bike Shows
 - d. Mr. Paradzinski** asked all those involved with the Youth Council to think about what the message should be that we are trying to voice and relay to the public. These ideas should be presented at the next Youth Council meeting.

VIII. Announcements

- A. Youth Council Meeting**, Thursday, March 10, 2011, at 9:00 a.m., Roanoke Valley Workforce Center.
- B. Oversight Committee**, Friday, February 18, 2011, at 10:00 a.m., Roanoke Valley Workforce Center.
- C. Board Meeting**, Friday, April 1, 2011, at 9:00 a.m., Roanoke Higher Education Center, Room 409.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Doloris E Vest

Doloris Vest, president

February 15, 2011

Date