

Youth Council/Forum

Roanoke Valley Workforce Center, Roanoke, VA
Thursday, August 11, 2011

Minutes

I. Call to Order

Board Chair **Paul Paradzinski** called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

II. Introductions

Members present:

Paul Paradzinski, Craig County
Harriet Woodward, Community Youth Advocate
Laura Elliott, Junior Achievement
Barbara Humphreys, Franklin County Schools
Kim Moore, Goodwill Industries of the Valleys
Joe Annarino, Community Youth Advocate
Matthew McGraw, Dabney S. Lancaster Community College
Jill Barnett, Covington Department of Social Services

Members absent:

Ron Jones, TAP This Valley Works
Michele Wells, Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Service
Cindy Goldstein, Roanoke City Schools
Janel Howery, Job Corp
Jodylee Edsall, Roanoke County Schools
Wanda Anthony, Goodwill Industries of the Valleys Youth Program
Keith Robinson, Goodwill Industries of the Valleys

Staff present:

Doloris Vest, President
Suzanne Luzier, Program Coordinator

Visitors present:

Mary Ann Gilmer, Goodwill Industries of the Valleys
Jenny Wright, Goodwill Industries of the Valleys

A quorum was present.

III. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Annarino moved to accept the minutes from the May 12, 2011 meeting. Ms. Elliott seconded. The motion was passed on a voice vote.

IV. Reports

A. Youth Programs:

- a. **Ms. Gilmer** presented year end program numbers to the council.
 1. **In-School** – There should be a large number of exits in August and September. A good number of the youth wanted a summer work experience prior to exiting to post-secondary education. There were several non-positive exits due to change in location or living situation, and a few participants quit the program.
 - **157** In-School Youth served
 - **43** total exits, with **35** positive exits to work or post-secondary education
 - **114** carryover participants

2. Out-of-School:

- 76 participants served
- 40 exits, with 21 unsubsidized employment, 8 received a credential, 3 exited to education, and 8 non-positive exits

Ms. Gilmer discussed the cost per participant, and explained the cost for In-School Youth is higher due to the time services are received, and the program is very labor intensive. **Ms. Vest** explained the economic impact from the WIA programs has an estimated positive economic impact of \$1.2 million (based off of a 20% tax bracket), indicating WIA is not welfare, but an investment.

- 3. Numeracy / Literacy:** **Ms. Gilmer** reported that efforts are being made to increase numeracy/literacy numbers. Online skills tutoring is being used, and currently monitored by the case managers. There were a certain number of licensed spots purchased for this. **Ms. Vest** indicated that the state's free software can also be used for this. Ms. Vest also inquired about methods outside of the online tutoring. **Ms. Gilmer** explained that the youths' love material items and are willing to work for gift cards. In addition to gift cards, trips are a useful tool. Trips and other incentives will be awarded to the youth based on their performance and participation. There has been a new tool introduced to the staff last week, and Ms. Gilmer should be able to report on this in a couple of months.
- 4. Performance Numbers – Ms. Gilmer** indicated that performance numbers are on target, but they will need to provide the state with the actual numbers.
- 5. Graduation Ceremonies:** **Mr. Paradzinski** attended the graduation ceremony in Roanoke, and thoroughly enjoyed the speaker. He was also very excited to see the youth talking of their future plans.

B. Board Update: Ms. Vest reported

- a. Youth Funding:** Funding is at 100%. These funds were awarded back in April 2011. Currently the Board is looking at a strategic plan, and Ms. Vest is certain this will contain a youth initiative.
- b. Grant Funding:** Currently the board is looking at Foundation grants. These grants tend to be less restrictive. Ms. Luzier is looking at all local businesses for grant and donation arms.
- c. Grant Writers Group:** The board staff has organized a grant writers group, consisting of grant writers from area non-profits. This group will meet to share ideas, tips and leads. This will allow for more opportunities, and collaboration.
- d. HITE:** Ms. Zenith Hamilton continues to recruit and enroll for the HITE program. This grant funding is through 2013.
- e. Moving On:** The application was made in December 2010, for 2011 funding. Waiting to hear from the US Department of Transportation as to whether the board will receive this funding for the upcoming year. Last year's award was announced in September 2010.
- f. Office Resources:** Currently there are two available computers at the board office that can be used for tutoring or job search.
- g. Youth Summit:** Ms. Luzier is looking for foundation grant funding to possibly support this project.

V. Unfinished Business

A. New Projects/Events:

- a. Discussion on working with youth outside the public school system: Alternative Education, Home School/Bound, Home Bound Students**

This discussion will be revisited later. **Mr. Annarino** expressed the need for a one page brochure on the Youth Council. **Ms. Vest** explained the board received a \$10,000 Incentive Grant from the state for Outreach & Marketing. It is possible to allocate these funds for this, as long as there is a defined target for how it will be used.

b. Youth Council Membership:

1. **Ms. Vest** explained that we still need a parent of a participant (can be either in-school or out of school youth parent) to sit on Youth Council. The board got hit on the state audit because of this lack of representation. Concerns were expressed over the parent of a participant because they tend to face the same barriers as the youth participant; ie: transportation issues, etc. Ms. Vest stated that if we can find a parent that agrees to serve on the Youth Council, then they could secure a ride from another Council member, if transportation is an issue.

c. Youth Summit:

1. It was decided in May, that the Youth Summit target date would be moved to Spring 2013. **Ms. Luzier** indicated that now is the time to be discussing this with area businesses to ensure the financial support is available from the community. This will also allow time to solicit volunteers for this event.
2. **Mr. Paradzinski** would like to review the seminars to be held at this event. Ms. Luzier added that another reason for postponing the summit to 2013 is to allow for representatives from the Youth Council to attend the summit held by VCU in 2012.
3. **Ms. Luzier** will send out a doodle poll to Youth Council Summit Sub Committee to meet and establish an outline and timeline for this event. This meeting would preferably be held prior to the September Youth Council meeting.

d. "Youth" Youth Council:

1. **Ms. Luzier** expressed the need to appoint someone to organize this and to solicit youth participation.
2. **Mr. Annarino** has discussed this at RAYSAC, and the chair over the RAYSAC Youth Advisory has offered to advise this youth ran council.
3. **Ms. Vest** stated the meeting in Covington with adults and youth went very well. There was a lot of active youth participation. **Ms. Elliott** suggested that maybe there should be 3 area meetings (Roanoke, Franklin, Alleghany) where parents, other adults, and the youth attend, to see who is interested in participating in this "Youth" Youth Council, before facilitating this. **Mr. Paradzinski** suggested moving the Youth Council meetings around to other areas, and invite youth to participate, and this would allow easier access for their participation. **Ms. Gilmer** suggested work readiness could be coupled with this effort. **Mr. Paradzinski** requested at the next meeting, the Youth Council members come to the meeting with suggestions on how to facilitate this.

VI. New Business

- A. **Mr. Paradzinski** announced the Second Annual Workforce Development Awards, and reviewed the nomination categories. This event is to recognize others within workforce of their contributions and hard work. Everyone's participation in nominations is encouraged. **Ms. Luzier** will send out a Microsoft Word version of the nomination form to all Youth Council members.

- B. Mr. Annarino** distributed two handouts: Community Problems checklist and Contributing Factors to Substance Abuse. He requested that each person complete the forms and bring to the next Youth Council meeting. Mr. Annarino will compile the results. **Ms. Vest** would like to re-do the forms to reflect more on youth issues than just alcohol and drug use.
- C. Ms. Vest** announced the VCCS is looking for presentations for this year's Hire Education Conference to be held in December. These are due by September 1st. Ms. Vest will send out this information to the council members.

VII. Announcements

- A. Oversight Meeting:** August 19, 2011, 10:00 a.m., Roanoke Higher Education Center
- B. Executive Committee:** September 15, 2011, 8:30 a.m., Roanoke Higher Education Center
- C. Finance Committee:** September 20, 2011, 9:30 a.m., Roanoke Higher Education Center
- D. Board Meeting:** September 28, 2011 3:30 p.m. ***Sheraton Roanoke Hotel & Conference Center***
- E. Workforce Awards Event:** September 28, 2011, 5:30 p.m., ***Sheraton Roanoke Hotel & Conference Center***

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Doloris E Vest

Doloris Vest, president

August 30, 2011

Date