

Youth Council/Forum

Roanoke Higher Education Center, Roanoke, VA
Thursday, June 14, 2007

Minutes

A. Call to Order

Board Vice Chair **Harriet Woodward** called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

B. Roll Call

Sherry Dean called the roll. Members present:

Harriet Woodward, Alleghany/Covington Department of Social Services
Jodylee Edsall, Roanoke County Schools
Michele Wells, VA Department of Rehabilitative Services
Wanda Anthony, Goodwill Industries of the Valleys Youth Program
Cindy Goldstein, Roanoke City Schools
Lisa Meek, Old Dominion Job Corp
Earl Dodrill, Dabney S. Lancaster Community College

Members absent:

Ron Jones, TAP This Valley Works
Jennifer Unroe, 4-H Youth Development
Marion Vaughn-Howard, Roanoke City Department of Parks and Recreation Youth Services Division
Bill Zimmerman, Diversion Program
Laura Elliott, Junior Achievement
Paul Paradzinski, Craig County
Barbara Humphreys, Franklin County Schools

Staff present:

Doloris Vest, president
Sherry Dean, accountant

Visitors present:

Melanie Younger, Workforce System Coordinator
Kim Moore, Disability Program Navigator
Rodney Hubbard, 23rd Juvenile Court Services
Rebecca Moore, 23rd Juvenile Court Services
Sharon Lawrence, Roanoke Valley Juvenile Detention Center

A quorum was present.

C. Approval of Consent Agenda

Ms. Wells moved to accept the consent agenda (Minutes from the May 10, 2007 meeting). **Ms. Goldstein** seconded. The motion was passed on a voice vote.

D. Reports

1. **Youth Programs:** **Ms. Anthony** reported, as of the end of May, there are 73 younger and 36 older youth enrolled with a plan of 91 and 39 respectively. This summer a remedial math and reading class will be offered at Dabney S. Lancaster Community College and in Rocky Mount. A Leadership program will be offered August 13-15 at the Smith Mountain

Lake 4-H center. Between 30 to 40 youth will be taken to this three-day camp where they will experience team building scenarios at a cost of \$132 per attendee including meals.

2. **WDB Board Update: Ms. Vest** reported on the following:

- **Relocation of Workforce Center:** The state has decided not to relocate the Roanoke workforce center to the route 419 location previously considered but instead are looking at a site at Crossroads Mall. The site is vacant but will take some build-out which will inflate the square footage cost and may not be acceptable to partners. The state has also mentioned looking into space at the Civic Mall where Roanoke City social services department is located.
- **Program Monitor:** Clay Stein will be spending extra time on center monitoring to look into what the centers are doing to serve youth.
- **Appointments:** Earl Dodrill was appointed by the Board of directors to the Youth Council; Melanie Stovall, Joe Brinley, and Rob Ledger have been appointed by the CLEO Consortium as board members.
- **Youth Council Parent:** Ms. Woodward has located a parent that may be willing to serve on the youth council.
- **Workforce Area Realignment:** The state Workforce Council will meet June 26 to determine workforce areas. Area III may end up with a larger area to cover but it is desired local youth councils be kept. From an area merger, youth councils would have access to each other and could share best practice information. It is believed an area merger would take a year to phase in.
- **Youth Contracts & Budget Allocation:** Goodwill was awarded the youth and adult contracts for FY08 and the VEC was awarded the dislocated worker contract. Overall WIA allocation for Area III dropped again this year and came in at \$920,000. The adult program received the most significant drop. Goodwill is committed to working more efficiently in order to serve just as many youth as in the past even with reduced funding. Ms. Anthony noted that work experience is such a big part of the learning process that possibly businesses that hire WIA youth participants could pay for some of their training.
- **August Board Meeting-Christiansburg Institute:** Reminders will be sent to the youth council about the board meetings. At the August board meeting, an individual from the Christiansburg Institute will speak on their new training center that is to open in the fall of 2008. Until the 1960s Christiansburg Institute trained young people in the trades; taking from their alumni history the institute will reopen, for the public, to train individuals in carpentry, masonry and plumbing.

E. Unfinished Business

1. **Youth Program Provider Professional Development Summit:** Ms. Vest presented the planning timeline document for the youth professional summit and recapped the previously determined schedule for the event (setup 8 - 9 am; networking 9 - 11:30 a.m.; Lunch, speaker and success stories of youth programs 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.). **Ms. Woodward** noted the following items need to be decided upon:

- Locations
- Volunteers to take pieces of planning timeline
- Event name
- Success stories and/or displays for event

Ms. Vest noted that the board award of \$5,000 will be used to fund the event and it needs to be decided if additional donations should be sought or an exhibit fee should be charged to cover any additional costs. The WDB is a nonprofit with 501c (3) status therefore donations are tax deductible. Ms. Anthony noted that Wal-Mart will match funding for community service projects.

Additionally, the council has concentrated on inviting agencies and nonprofits and hasn't focused on government entities such as departments of social services and the court services units. Due to targeting professionals instead of the general public, media use should also be determined. Everyone needs to take the list of agencies provided and make note of any that need to be added.

Mr. Dodrill stated that the "aspect of inclusiveness as a team to emerging workforce idea" could be used to get state and federal level speakers to come and bring examples of best practices to the event.

2. **Yellow Pages Project:** Ms. Vest noted Ms. Humphries has agreed to help with the yellow pages as she has completed a project of this nature in the past.

F. New Business

1. **Transportation As Issue for Fall:** Mr. Dodrill reported that he has been involved in a new focus group which is made up of the transportation industry and is interested in hosting job shadowing as a way of educating the public on the shortage of employees in the transportation industry. In the state of Virginia an 18 year old can get a CDL and drive in state until age 21 at which time they can obtain a national license. Two local companies Lawrence and Burns are very interested in offering the job shadowing. Ms. Vest noted that the City of Roanoke VOYCE initiative wishes to focus on apprenticeship fairs in which youth can be exposed to various careers. Ms. Anthony has transportation issues for individuals who reside in the outlying county areas and would like to see transportation as an issue for the fall. **Ms. Moore** noted there is a state transportation initiative for older Americans currently underway also. **Ms. Woodward** reported that RADAR is looking into extending services to Alleghany County and the President recently signed a bill for rural transportation. Ms. Vest noted the Ride Share program through the Regional Commission is a carpool service but you don't have to have a car to participate and in the City of Roanoke youth can ride the bus for free with a city ID. The group decided that transportation and job shadowing would be an issue for the fall.

G. Announcements

The next meeting will be held August 9, 2007.

H. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10 a.m.

Doloris E Vest

Doloris Vest, president

August 2, 2007

Date