

**Western Virginia Workforce
Development Board**

**Youth Council
Minutes
August 16, 2005**

I. Call to Order

Council Chair Paul Paradzinski called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Members present: **Paul Paradzinski**, Chair, Craig County; **Jeri Barnes**, Old Dominion Job Corps Center; **Jodylee Edsall**, Roanoke County Schools; **Xavier Hairston**, Roanoke County Life Skills Mentoring Program; **Ron Jones**, TAP Youth Programs (Retired); **Harriet Woodward**, Alleghany/Covington Department of Social Services; **Marion Vaughn-Howard**, Roanoke Department of Park and Recreation Youth Services Division; **Michele Wells**, Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services; **Bill Zimmerman**, Diversion Program

Members not present: **Becky Johnson**, MeadWestvaco; **Russ Merritt**, Franklin County YMCA; **Jennifer Unroe**, 4-H Youth Development

Staff present: **Doloris Vest**, WDB president; **Anne Cooney**, administrative assistant

Mr. Paradzinski

- noted **Mr. Jones** recently retired from Total Action Against Poverty but continues to serve on the Youth Council.
- announced **Mr. Hairston** has resigned from the Council; he and his family are moving to South Carolina. Mr. Paradzinski thanked him for his work.
- introduced the newest council member, **Michele Wells**, from the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services.

III. Approval of Minutes:

Jeri Barnes moved to approve the May 10 minutes; seconded by Jodylee Edsall. Motion passed on a voice vote. Council members also received copies of notes from June 14 and July 12 meetings, neither of which had a quorum.

IV. Reports

Ms. Vest reported the following:

- A. Members who have not completed a Nomination Form are asked to do so to reaffirm Council membership and update any changes to contact information. Ms. Wells' appointment will be taken to the CLEO for its approval.
- B. Board of Directors' member Roger Dalton has resigned, effective immediately; she asked that anyone having nominations for that board seat or for the Youth Council notify the staff.
- C. The Workforce Board's RFP Committee will meet later this week. The board hopes to have RFPs out in September, ready for review in late October, with the board voting on the RFPs at its December meeting.

- D. The state VWN MIS system will be replaced; selection of a new system and training will be announced later this year.
- E. The U.S. Congress has not yet finalized WIA reauthorization, which includes a change in performance measures. Reauthorization will replace its 17 measures with eight "common measures," to be applied to all federally funded workforce development initiatives. The Commonwealth of Virginia has also devised its own eight measures, some of which overlap the federal measures. The new state measures are not yet active.
- F. Area III's CLEO Consortium and Board of Directors will meet jointly September 13 for introductions and to review each group's roles and responsibilities.
- G. More than \$250 million was used in Virginia in 2004 for workforce development. A "Funding Summary 2004, State-Administered Workforce Training Programs," commissioned by the Virginia Workforce Council, illustrates roles, funding, and target audiences for each organization. The Council has discussed plotting out a similar flowchart for each workforce area; Area III has already expressed a willingness to be the pilot workforce area for this effort.

V. Unfinished Business

- **Continuation of discussion** from the July 12th meeting: After lengthy discussion, members agreed to initiate a pilot program based on Alleghany County's Ninth-Grader Job Exploration Event last May. Ms. Woodward will invite Michelle Elmore of the Alleghany County Schools System to attend the Council's September 13 meeting, to present details about the Job Fair and discuss with Council members how to build upon the initial success of the Job Fair.
- Mrs. Vaughn-Howard announced RFPs are going out very soon for the City of **Roanoke's Youth Comprehensive Plan**. Public involvement is encouraged, and there will be several meetings. Mrs. Vaughn-Howard encouraged Council members to attend as many of these meetings as possible, an excellent opportunity to learn and to get the Workforce Development Board's Youth Council known to the public.
- Ms. Vest announced **Laura Elliott of Junior Achievement** in Roanoke will make a brief presentation at the September 13 Council meeting.

(Notes from today's brainstorming session are attached to these minutes.)

VI. Announcements

The next Youth Council meeting will be Tuesday, September 13, 2005, at 9 a.m. at the Roanoke Higher Education Center, Room 810.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Anne M. Cooney
Anne M. Cooney, administrative assistant

8/29/05
Date

Attachment

BRAINSTORMING NOTES #2:

- Paul: Risk Assessment Survey Results from Alleghany County are excellent resource for ideas of where this Council can put its efforts. (Paul's list of ideas is included with these notes.) Last month, the Council talked about an education series for parents. Go into the school system to do so?

In the spirit of what the Area III workforce board is doing, identify those organizations that offer the services noted on Paul's list and act as a clearinghouse of information, a resource.

These are age-old problems that we are not able to solve.

What limits does the Council face? Would we be the medium for information?

Youth Council fills the gaps – we could offer services ourselves, OR find those who will.

A lot of problems are being addressed, but people don't know where to go.

How to get to parents who have the need → a "traveling program", send programs out with Youth Council assisting, facilitating.

Our funds mostly leveraged to get other groups to work together.

Harriet: Parents may not come to something that says "Social Services" or "parenting info"

Ron: stigma on "Social Services"

Enlist help from churches: Cool Club in Covington is run by church – a small-town thing

Doloris: Salem (School district?) is doing a roadshow targeting guidance counselors, one-hour show (with videos & presentations) emphasizing career & tech education, and that the choices aren't just Either College or Just Something to Do.

Youth Council needs to focus on doing one or two things really well instead of many things only all right. What is the greatest need that the Y.C. is capable of providing?

Partner with other agencies; let them know Y.C. is there to work with them, not against them.

Jeri: facilitate session in areas. She sees Y.C.'s mission as unifying the area (Area III)

Harriet: Survey conducted covered Alleghany Co. School Systems only.

Marion: City of Roanoke's Prevention Planning Team also has done survey (results out in October probably) → 4 basic categories; prevention programs are designed around it. Slightly different focus than Alleghany's.

What hole can Y.C. help to fill?

Marion: you're up against a generation of parents who were not parented themselves.

Guidance counselors – SOLs focus → g.counselors' focus mandated by their superintendents

Michele: students don't have social skills to know how to ask.

Superintendents need to hear message, then guidance counselors will get that message.

Paul: One-stop shop?

Harriet –find system to make personal contact

WHO is our audience? WHAT is our message? HOW do we get message to audience?

(Cont'd. next page)

Marion – Do pilot program

Doloris – combination of superintendents + parents + students

Ron – new Roanoke superintendent (Marvin Thompson) → teachers being evaluated by how kids are helped, not focusing on SOLs. Mr. Thompson is very open to all ideas.

Students who are . . . not going to college
. . . latch-key kids
. . . “parentless” children
. . . GRANDMOTHER is likely source to pull on

	Message	Where	Tool
Churches			
Grandparents	• Responsible themselves		
Superintendents		• One-on-one	
Guidance counselors			
Young people	• \$\$	• One-on-one • Fun	• Other students • “Cool people”

Michele: buy-in needed → therefore, data needed, like what jobs are out there

PTAs as good connection – Jodylee says yes, Marion says no

Marion: RFP going out for City of RKE’s Youth Comprehensive Plan (master plan) – Public involvement encouraged; there will be many meetings, which will be announced in the paper. She says everyone here should get to some/all meetings – chance to learn, chance to get Y.C. & workforce board names in public.

Guidance counselors – ID at-risk kids.
Kiwanis involved in Alleghany job fair.
Marion: mix of mainly at-risk kids + small group college-bound, small group future-not-looking-good.

Ron: what kind of results on Alleghany Job Fair?
Harriet: guidance counselors supposed to be tracking results
Ron: what kind of FOLLOW-UP? Maybe Y.C. can follow up on that plan
Harriet: guidance counselors came up with names of 9th-graders (not necessarily college-bound)
Michele: follow-up with same group in 11th grade!
Harriet: Kiwanis service project; that’s how job fair was started – kids “table-hopped” from employer to employer at special lunch, made by folks from culinary arts school

Paul: 1. How to increase resources
2. How we can help enhance Alleghany program, how we can replicate it

Doloris: maybe Jr. Achievement lady here in Sept., too.

Anne: pull out “MY FUTURE ROCKS”/Job Fair hand-outs to send everyone

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Attached here:
Paul’s ideas +
Brainstorming session notes from 7/12/05

Paul's Ideas List:

- Parent Education Programs ideas as a jumping off point for discussions
- Goal: To give tips, ideas and suggestions to parents to help their offspring become better children.
- Monthly learning socials, meeting where childcare service is provided. These meetings could include a meal of hot dogs, chips and drinks to promote community.
- Here are some monthly topic suggestions:
 - Tips to make your child a better student
 - How and when to say NO
 - What are the "stages of life" a child passes through? And how to deal with them?
 - What are the latest fashions and/or crazes, and what do they mean?
 - Tips for latch-key dis. What rules should you enforce?
 - What is a parent's responsibility and what is a school's responsibility for your child?
 - Tips for becoming a better parent
 - What are the warning signs for drug use or changes in social behavior?
 - When and where to call for help when problems start to arise
 - "Nip in the bud" – a parent/teacher relationship to keep your child on track
 - How to deal with unruly behavior of your child and other people's children.
- Partnership suggestions:
 - PTA
 - School superintendents or administration
 - Valley Character
 - Fathers at Work Program
 - Court programs
 - Social Services
 - Food industry
 - News media

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BRAINSTORMING NOTES:

- Wanda A → parents' awareness of what youths are involved with:
 - Parents doing it with them
 - Parents working too much
 - Parents not wanting to know
 - Parents who don't know what to do

 - Getting everyone together -- need incentives to come together
 - Fear of jail/pull of money – truly ARE incentives
 - Face-to-face important
 - Open to ALL parents
 - What about using non-public TV to get word out?
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- Paul P: -> Yellow Pages to get to the parents
- Becky J: Maybe write a grant to establish an EAP-like set-up (similar to one at MeadWestvaco)
- In-home family counseling, and mentoring for kids (Tom B: For CET at TAP, successfully placed alumni serve as mentors)
- Mentoring is expensive
- Colleges as resource, toward degree
- Paul P: could we be a connector between colleges and kids?
- Working as mentors: High-school kids to look after lower-school kids
- Look to LOCAL CHURCHES for what youth programs they have
- Contact center for mentoring
- Bill Z: idea from his area → the "Cool Club," run by Pete & Wanda Moore
- Jeri B: Get grassroots talk going and Youth Council be instigator
- Social Services does not have enough training and support

- 4-H has a "Character Counts" program – Jennifer Unroe familiar with it – Paul to contact Jennifer and ask her to keep August 9/morning open so she can attend Council and tell the members about this program.
- Also, Jennifer is on extension council in Alleghany County; ask her for ideas they have.
- Becky J – list 4-H groups, Bible Schools → discussion is back to Yellow Pages idea, which seems a winner
- Seminars: what types of programs? Of incentives? Who can Council get to help?

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