

## Youth Council/Forum

Roanoke Higher Education Center, Roanoke, VA  
Thursday, September 13, 2007

### Minutes

#### A. Call to Order

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

#### B. Roll Call

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**Sherry Dean** called the roll. Members present:

**Paul Paradzinski**, Craig County  
**Wanda Anthony**, Goodwill Industries of the Valleys Youth Program  
**Ron Jones**, TAP This Valley Works  
**Barbara Humphreys**, Franklin County Schools  
**Earl Dodrill**, Dabney S. Lancaster Community College  
**Kim Moore**, Disability Program Navigator  
**Harriet Woodward**, Alleghany/Covington Department of Social Services  
**Michele Wells**, VA Department of Rehabilitative Services  
**Cindy Goldstein**, Roanoke City Schools  
**Marion Vaughn-Howard**, Roanoke City Department of Parks and Recreation Youth Services Division

Members absent:

**Jennifer Unroe**, 4-H Youth Development  
**Bill Zimmerman**, Diversion Program  
**Jodylee Edsall**, Roanoke County Schools  
**Laura Elliott**, Junior Achievement

Staff present:

**Doloris Vest**, president  
**Sherry Dean**, accountant

Visitors present:

**Sandra King**, Council of Community Service  
**Martha Pinard**, Roanoke Valley YMCA  
**Samantha Higgins**, 23<sup>rd</sup> Court Service Unit

A quorum was present.

#### C. Approval of Consent Agenda

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No action was taken.

#### D. Reports

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**Ms. Anthony** reported on the following:

1. **Youth Programs:** As of the end of July, there are 81 younger and 23 older youth enrolled with a plan of 63 and 15 respectively. **Mr. Jones** noted that TAP is not getting any referrals from WIA for their GED program. **Ms. Vest** requested that Mr. Jones see her after the meeting

to discuss a solution to this issue. Ms. Vest also noted that Franklin County received 15% of WIA Area III funding this year due their aggressive recruiting practices.

2. **Youth Events:** On October 12<sup>th</sup> a Disability Mentoring Day will be held in Franklin County. Thirteen WIA participants will attend the event which will involve job shadowing at various local employers for youth to experience different careers. Transportation for the event has been difficult to obtain but is still being sought.

October 1-4 well known former gang member, drug user, seller, and now motivational speaker Joseph Jennings will speak at the Roanoke Valley Detention Center, Franklin County Middle School, Franklin County High School, William Fleming High School and Hurt Park in Roanoke and in the Covington/Alleghany area. Mr. Jennings has served on President Bush's youth advisory board. Ms. Anthony will send dates and times of event to Ms. Vest. A portion of the board's incentive grant funding will be used to pay for this event.

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

- **Performance Measures:** Area III exceeded 16 and met 1 measure which was also raised by 10 points from the previous year. This qualifies Area III to be eligible for incentive grant funding again. As compared to all other areas in Virginia, Area III is only behind one other area in exceeding goals and tied with two others on performance results. The board will hold a lunch meeting on Friday, December 7, 2007 for case managers to celebrate this excellent accomplishment.
- **Realignment:** A brainstorming session was held last week in Charlottesville and there will be another meeting next week. As expected, some areas want to merge and some do not. Area III is still working with the areas to the east and west on regional cooperation. Members were asked to let the board know what council member organizations may be doing with regional cooperation in their locality.
- **Open Houses:** Franklin County held an open house last month with the ribbon cutting ceremony, at the new workforce center, in Rocky Mount. The Roanoke center will host an open house October 4<sup>th</sup> from 2 pm until 7 pm. Please encourage young people to come, especially to the resource room. A flyer will be sent out about the event.
- **Workforce Center Move:** Richmond is focusing on the old Goody's store location at Crossroads Mall. Richmond has been told that the workforce center needs to have a storefront location. The location will need build-out and that could cause the building to cost more than partners would be willing to pay. Because many local partners own facilities, build-out costs need to be reasonable in order for them to relocate. The new center would also include other state agencies such as the Department of Rehabilitative Services, Blind & Visually Impaired and Commonwealth Social Services.
- **Apprenticeships:** In November, a committee will be forming to look into the use of apprenticeships. The focus will be on those who do not want to go to college or those wishing to switch careers. There are 400 occupations in Virginia an individual can apprentice in. There is a DOL grant which provides funding for starting up a service which matches those looking for apprenticeships with those searching for apprenticeships and the funds are awarded in January of each year. The deadline for applying has passed for this year but the board is looking into applying for this in 2008 for the 2009 year. It is hoped that businesses will get involved, see the worth, and fund the position once the grant funding period is over. Apprenticeships are wonderful for people because they can work while learning.
- **SHARE:** Is a state pilot program which provides networking between WIBs and faith based institutions to train individuals within churches to feed candidates into the WIA system. Many who are looking for work first turn to their local church as a point of reference. Area III is looking to identify two or three local churches to participate in this project. **Ms. King** noted that VA 211 is also working on a project similar to SHARE.

- **State Workforce Development Professional Certification:** There are two certifications, one which focuses on working with individuals and one that focuses on working with businesses. In Area III, three partner employees participated in the pilot program whereby they completed and passed the 90-day program in only 45 days. The training is on-line, free, paid for by the state, until October 2008. Any partner agency staff are eligible for this training and more will be offered. **Mr. Dodrill** noted he is interested in this training. The next session will start the first week of October. Ms. Vest will send information to the group on this training.

**E. Unfinished Business**

**1. Youth Program Provider Professional Development Summit Local Team Updates:**

- a. **Allegheny County:** Mr. Dodrill provided a handout of the plan for the event in which northern Botetourt County and Allegheny agencies will be invited. The event entitled Helping Our Community, Serving Our Youth will be held at Dabney S. Lancaster Community College on either November 19 or 20. Nine agencies, offering a wide range of services, have agreed to participate. The concept is to meet with three parts of the population as follows:
- **Schools** – to meet in the early afternoon to determine what is needed
  - **Peer To Peer** – to meet in the late afternoon for service providers to share with one another and possibly have a motivational speaker to share success stories
  - **Public** – to meet in the evening with general public, parents and government with a trade show type of event

**Ms. Woodward** has gotten the local Leisure publication to feature this event on their cover for that week. Mr. Dodrill has also contacted individuals and organizations in Bath and Rockbridge counties to attend the event. Ms. Vest noted this is allowed because incentive grant funds are not restricted to WIA alone and if it helps the local communities then they can all participate. Ms. Vest will get Mr. Dodrill the workforce logo to put on his event flyers.

- b. **Franklin County:** Ms. Anthony provided a handout of the event in which 40 to 50 agencies will be participating. The event entitled 2007 Franklin County Youth Summit will be held at the Franklin Workforce Center on November 13 from 8:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. From this event, the Franklin County area is hoping to form a Career Council like the one Allegheny County has. Per **Ms. Wells** request, Ms. Woodward explained that the Allegheny Career Council develops activities for grades kindergarten through 12 (including having an elementary career fair) to look at all types of careers and help students set goals for themselves and learn about financial aid that is available. It has taken three years to get the entire K-12 program fully developed. This career council is also trying to change the perception that you have to go to college to have a good career. Per Ms. Vest, the career council also provides a network for whatever youth program is planned in the Allegheny/Highlands area. Franklin County has also planned to create an information booklet, from this event, which includes information on all agencies and will be handed out to all agencies attending the event. If an agency can't attend the event, their information will still be collected from them for inclusion in the booklet.
- c. **Roanoke Area:** No one has taken on the task to organize a Roanoke event therefore there is not a plan for Roanoke at this time. Mr. Jones noted that Roanoke City is already doing something similar to these events and possibly the youth council can tag onto that program. **Ms. Vaughn-Howard** made note of Roanoke's VOYCE initiative and that Roanoke City has been selected to work with the National League of Cities on transportation issues for youth and parents not only in the city but into other local counties as well. Roanoke City is also working with apprenticeships through VOYCE. Ms. Vest asked that another meeting be set to discuss Roanoke's needs. A meeting was scheduled at DRS on September 14 at 3 pm.

2. **Yellow Pages Project:** Ms. Vest reported that much of the agency information that would be derived, from the youth provider summits, is already listed in the VA 211 system

therefore it seems best to add, to the 211, system any provider information that may be missing and have the 211 system print a youth section, from their database, which can be region specific. Ms. Vest handed out a key words sheet, from the 211 system, which shows how information can be searched upon using specific keywords. Keywords can be added to further enhance searches. Ms. King noted that 211 needs about two weeks in order to produce a directory.

**F. New Business**

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1. **Craig County Candidates Forum:** Mr. Paradzinski announced this dinner event, hosted by the FFA, will be held October 5, 2007 in Craig County. The event will allow students to have face-to-face contact with public office candidates in an open forum without any negative discussion allowed. Government and history students will be asking questions of the prospective candidates. This event was designed help students learn about public office and possibly get involved with public office.
2. **Youth Commission Back-To-School Dance:** Ms. Vaughn-Howard reported that Roanoke City will be hosting a dance, at the Roanoke Civic Center, on September 22, 2007, at 8 p.m. to raise money for a youth conference in New Orleans. With a student ID, the admission donation to the dance is \$5.
3. **Council of Community Services Event Notification:** Ms. Vest reported that, if notified, the Council of Community Services will email event announcements using their database.
4. **Western Virginia Education State Classic:** Mr. Jones reported that a college football game will be held September 22, 2007, at the Salem football stadium, to raise money for Project Recovery. Student tickets are \$5 and adult tickets are \$12 for the event.
5. **SSI and SSDI Recipient Information Session:** Ms Moore reported this session will be held September 25, 2007 at 2 pm at the Roanoke Workforce Center. This event will provide information to SSI and SSDI recipients on working full-time and part-time and effects on their benefit checks. Ms. Moore will send out a flyer on this event.
6. **Roanoke Valley YMCA:** Ms. Pinard reported that the YMCA's motto is "Everyone Deserves A Y" and they do not turn anyone away. Fees can be very low, financial assistance is available and membership is good at all four YMCAs in the area. The YMCA now has a teen coordinator who will be holding a youth and government program which will take a group of youth to a general assembly meeting in Richmond. The YMCA also works with court services to provide community service work to youth involved in court proceedings and has hired some of these youth permanently. The YMCA is having trouble getting kids into their programs because the school systems in Roanoke and Salem do not want to work with them.

**G. Announcements**

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Ms. Vest will send everyone a summary of today's meeting. The next meeting will be held October 11, 2007 at 9 a.m.

**H. Adjournment**

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The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

*Doloris E Vest*

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Doloris Vest, president

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Date