

## Youth Council/Forum

Roanoke Higher Education Center, Roanoke, VA  
Thursday, October 11, 2007

### Minutes

#### I. Call to Order

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Board Chair **Paul Paradzinski** called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

#### II. 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  
**Barbara Humphreys**, Franklin County Schools  
**Kim Moore**, Disability Program Navigator  
**Harriet Woodward**, Alleghany/Covington Department of Social Services  
**Bill Zimmerman**, Diversion Program  
**Laura Elliott**, Junior Achievement  
**Bill West for Marion Vaughn-Howard**, Roanoke City Department of Parks and Recreation Youth Services Division

Members absent:

**Jennifer Unroe**, 4-H Youth Development  
**Ron Jones**, TAP This Valley Works  
**Michele Wells**, VA Department of Rehabilitative Services  
**Cindy Goldstein**, Roanoke City Schools  
**Earl Dodrill**, Dabney S. Lancaster Community College  
**Jodylee Edsall**, Roanoke County Schools

Staff present:

**Doloris Vest**, president  
**Sherry Dean**, accountant/office administrator

Visitors present:

**Sharon Lawrence**, Roanoke Valley Juvenile Detention Center  
**Patricia Lewis**, Roanoke Valley Juvenile Detention Center

A quorum was present.

#### III. Approval of Consent Agenda

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**Ms. Anthony** moved to accept the consent agenda (Minutes from the September 13, 2007 meeting). **Mr. Zimmerman** seconded. The motion was passed on a voice vote.

#### IV. Reports

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A. **Youth Programs:** **Ms. Anthony** reported on the following:

1. **Program Performance:** As of the end of September, there are 84 younger and 24 older youth enrolled with a plan of 79 and 23 respectively. The youth program is currently searching for more older youth to enroll.

2. **Dr. Joseph Jennings Event:** Last week internationally known anti-drug/anti-gang motivational speaker Joseph Jennings spoke at the Roanoke Valley Detention Center, Franklin County Middle School, Franklin County High School, Covington High School, Alleghany High School, William Fleming High School, and Hurt Park in Roanoke. Miss Virginia was at Covington High School for his presentation. Many letters came in from students who were inspired by Dr. Jennings message. **Ms. Lawrence** reported that Dr. Jennings had a dramatic effect on the detention center youth as many have expressed an interest in changing their lives. There has also been less violence at the center. Ms. Anthony noted that Dr. Jennings maintains a fund called the Dog Pound which combines donations with local area funding to create a facility in the worst section of a town where youth can safely come to have fun, learn and inform them before they get into trouble. Dr. Jennings believes Roanoke would be a good candidate city to place a Dog Pound in. Ms. Anthony is interested in finding funding to create a Dog Pound in Roanoke. A portion of the board's incentive grant funding was used to pay for this event.

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

1. **Realignment:** Last week Governor Kaine, at the Virginia Economic Development Association meeting announced his plan to have Glen Dubois, Chancellor of the Virginia Community College System, evaluate workforce development and determine what part should or should not stay in their current departments or agencies or move under the community college system. Area III will move forward by updating its strategic plan and working to make a difference in the region while waiting to see what the state decides to do.
2. **Reauthorization of WIA:** A bill has been introduced in congress to reauthorized WIA and does eliminate the requirement to have a youth council. Due to the opportunity the youth council brings to Area III it is believed that Area III would continue to support having a youth council.
3. **Career Readiness Certificate:** The Career Readiness Certificate (CRC), after proper testing can be obtained, by an individual in either a bronze, silver, or gold ranking to prove competency in reading, math, or information retrieval. The CRC can then be provided to employers qualifying credential. A few years ago Area III was used as a pilot project and had funding to provide these certificates to individuals meeting the requirements but neither employees nor employers were interested in this certification. The state council desires that CRCs be used as a credential issued by local boards and would like to know if this is something local boards are interested in. Twenty states use this certificate. Ms. Vest noted that this certificate worked well for the Gatorade company in Wytheville but that it almost seems you must have a company behind it for it to work. The CRC is offered through all community colleges. Ms. Vest will email CRC information to youth council members for review.
4. **Board Meeting Dec. 7:** All council members are invited to the Dec. 7 board meeting for the luncheon to celebrate exceeding 16 and meeting the remaining PY6 performance measures.

**V. Unfinished Business**

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

1. **Alleghany Area: Ms. Woodward** reported their event entitled "Yes, We Can Do That" will be held November 19 in three parts:
  - **1 p.m. – 3 p.m.:** Round Table Dialogue – selected leaders from public and private schools
  - **3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.:** Peer To Peer Conference – to talk about common problems and eliminate duplication
  - **5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.:** Open To Public – for parents and other community groups to visit agency/group booths to receive information on services available

An information booklet will also be created from the event so that all attendees can have a quick reference to all providers and their services.

2. **Franklin County:** Ms. Anthony reported their event entitled "2007 Franklin County Youth Summit-Building Bridges For Our Youth" will be held November 13 at the Franklin Center and will consist of presentations, keynote speaker and brainstorming between all youth providers attending. From this event Franklin County would like to create a career council such as the one which operates in Alleghany County. An information booklet will also be created, from this event, so that all attendees can have a quick reference to all providers and their services.
3. **Roanoke Area:** Ms. Vest reported this event will include Roanoke City, Roanoke County, Botetourt County and Craig County and will be held December 11 in the Roanoke Civic Center Exhibit Hall. Followed by a networking breakfast, a keynote speaker will discuss how agencies can work with school systems to provide services to youth. This event is also being sponsored by the Roanoke City VOYCE initiative which is trying to deal with issues such as transportation, partnerships, teen centers and apprenticeship training. An information booklet will also be created, from this event, so that all attendees can have a quick reference to all providers and their services. Ms. Vaughn-Howard and Mr. West are heading up the facility planning portion of the event and Ms. Wells will be compiling the information booklets.

Ms. Vest encouraged all youth provider summits to use the Western Virginia Workforce Development Board logo in their summit advertising to promote the board's work in Area III.

- B. **Yellow Pages Project:** Ms. Vest noted that from these youth provider summits the council needs to make sure 211 Virginia (211) has all the providers listed in their system. Youth providers have two options of notifying 211 of contact and service information and that is to either tell 211 and 211 will contact the provider or the provider can complete an on-line 211 information form. Once all providers have been included in the 211 system, regional yellow page brochures can be produced to be used by providers and the public. 211 will pull the desired information from their system and then post it to a website so that it may be printed.

## **V. New Business**

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- A. **VOYCE Initiative:** Mr. West requested that anyone who would be interested in joining the Roanoke City VOYCE initiative please let him or Ms. Vaughn-Howard know. The Roanoke city manager has made available many resources for this project. There is possibly money available to bring Dr. Jennings back to the area.
- B. **New State Computer System:** The new state system to track WIA and Wagner-Peyser participants will go on-line on November 14. This system will also allow employers to post job openings and individuals to post resumes on-line similar to moster.com. This service is free to employers and those searching for jobs. At the partner meeting next Wednesday a demonstration will be given of the system.
- C. **SHARE Initiative:** SHARE has worked with Craig County to place two job search kiosks, one at the high school and another in either the extension office or library to encourage more individuals to use the state system. 211 Virginia is also working with the SHARE project.
- D. **Disability Mentoring Day:** Ms. Moore reported Franklin County will host a disability mentoring day which is a national program offering job shadowing activities for the disabled. Many Franklin County businesses have agreed to participate. Franklin County is the only area south of Charlottesville participating in the event. It is hoped the event, although starting small, can expand in the future.

## **G. Announcements**

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The next meeting will be held November 8, 2007 at 9:00 a.m.

## **H. Adjournment**

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The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

*Doloris E Vest*

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Doloris Vest, president

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Date