

Youth Council/Forum

Roanoke Higher Education Center, Roanoke, VA
Thursday, November 8, 2007

Minutes

I. Call to Order

Board Chair **Paul Paradzinski** called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Sherry Dean called the roll. Members present:

Paul Paradzinski, Craig County
Jennifer Unroe, 4-H Youth Development
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
Marion Vaughn-Howard, Roanoke City Department of Parks and Recreation Youth Services Division
Cindy Goldstein, Roanoke City Schools

Members absent:

Ron Jones, TAP This Valley Works
Michele Wells, VA Department of Rehabilitative Services
Earl Dodrill, Dabney S. Lancaster Community College
Jodylee Edsall, Roanoke County Schools

Staff present:

Doloris Vest, president
Sherry Dean, accountant/office administrator

Visitors present:

Keith Robinson, Goodwill Industries of the Valleys

A quorum was present.

III. Approval of Consent Agenda

Ms. Woodward moved to accept the consent agenda (Minutes from the October 11, 2007 meeting). **Ms. Anthony** seconded. The motion was passed on a voice vote.

IV. Reports

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

1. **Leadership Development Food Drive:** Youth program participants will be collecting donated food items, from various Goodwill and business locations, and redistributing the items to needy families through partner agencies. Heavenly Manor in Franklin County may participate as a partner agency.

2. **Mentoring Need:** There is a great need for mentors to participate in the youth programs and mentors are extremely hard to locate. Suggestions from other youth council members were checking to see if the Kiwanis, Junior Achievement, community service boards, or faith-based organizations could help with the mentoring need. **Ms. Vest** noted that mentoring was one of the 10 required WIA program elements that must be made available to youth participants. Area III is striving to provide this service to youth participants with this need.
3. **Disability Mentoring Day:** This national job shadowing event for the disabled was held on October 12, in Franklin County, and had 15 participants. With no budget, Ms. Anthony and Ms. Moore obtained donations for transportation, lunch, speakers, and job-site instruction for the entire day. Wal-Mart donated \$100, provided job shadowing experiences and brought managers in from other locations to teach participants about career ladders. Ferrum College and Patrick Henry Community College provided information on programs available and Applebee's provided lunch for all participants. Six of the participants job shadowed at Carilion; others went to Kroger and a local pet shop. Ms. Vest noted it would be great to show the board how \$100 started the flow of all these other things happening.
4. **SHARE Pilot Project:** **Mr. Robinson** explained Gov. Kaine's SHARE network goal to provide computer links to the Virginia Workforce Network through at non-profit and faith-based organizations as outreach to those searching for employment or training in outlying areas. The effort is to encourage those who would not normally visit a one-stop center to be guided, by a local non-profit organization they feel comfortable with, to the Virginia Workforce Network. This would assist the one-stop centers in identifying individuals who need assistance. The first Area III site will be at the Craig County extension office. Craig County is one of the poorest county's in the state and has one of the highest unemployment. Craig County High School is also interested in being a location for SHARE. A location in Botetourt County is also being sought. Ms. Vest reported that Craig and Botetourt counties were being targeted as SHARE pilots as there is currently not any workforce outreach in those counties. Ms. Anthony noted that a new YMCA is being built in the Moneta area of Franklin County that would be a great location for a SHARE network. Ms. Vest noted that if the SHARE pilot were successful then there is no reason why the board could not fund the project in the future. Currently the SHARE pilot program has no money in the budget and Mr. Robinson is looking for internet access compatible computers to be donated for the three pilot locations.

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

1. **New State Computer System:** The new Virginia Workforce Connection (VWC) system that will replace the Automated Labor Exchange (ALEX) system currently used by the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) will go live on November 13. VWC can be used by individuals to create resumes, search and apply for jobs online. The VEC and Workforce Investment Act (WIA) case managers will use the VWC to store and maintain client files under Wagner-Peyser and WIA. VWC will allow case managers to see what job search activities clients have undergone before enrolling in WIA. Individuals and employers searching for jobs/employees will no longer have to use VEC staff for employment search through the VEC but will still be able to contact VEC staff if desired. Unemployment insurance management has not yet been added to VWC but it could be in the future.
2. **Workforce Center Relocation:** The governor's workforce office wants to relocate the Roanoke workforce center, Department of Rehabilitative Services, Virginia Employment Commission, Blind & Visually Impaired, and the state health department to the old Goody's location at Crossroads Mall. Danny Leblanc's office has asked the board to endorse the concept as a true workforce center with independent management. The Goody's location will take extensive build-out and the state has been told that this build-out cannot make the location too expensive to occupy or partners will not relocate there. In Charlottesville, the project took 18 months to complete and square footage costs quadrupled from \$6 a square foot to \$24 dollars a square foot. Ms. Vest will address the atmosphere so that everyone feels welcome and would like to see a youth room at the new location.

3. **Board Meeting December 7:** Youth Council members were invited to mark their calendars to attend a luncheon at the Roanoke Higher Education Center, to recognize case managers and operators and celebrate exceeding and meeting all performance measures for PY06. Youth council/forum members are also invited to stay for the board meeting to hear discussions on programming for next year and the request for proposal process that will commence in the spring.

V. Unfinished Business

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

1. **Alleghany Area: Ms. Woodward** reported she has sent letters to local politicians to get as many people as possible involved. The speaker will be the chief of police who is a Dabney S. Lancaster Community College graduate and he will speak on the abundance of training available in the local community.
2. **Franklin County: Ms. Moore** passed around a list of all the organizations that will be attending their event. Ms. Woodward will be the guest speaker who will speak on the Alleghany Highlands career council. A notebook which includes information on all youth providers was also passed around and will be given out at the event. Electronic copies of the notebook information can also be emailed.
3. **Roanoke Area: Ms. Vaughn-Howard** reported the Roanoke event will be held December 11 in the exhibition hall at the Roanoke Civic Center. The event entitled "Looking In & Reaching Out" is being held in conjunction with the city's VOYCE initiative apprenticeship piece and the City of Roanoke will be covering the rent of the exhibition hall. The event schedule will be as follows:
 - **7:30 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.** – networking breakfast with organization exhibits
 - **8:15 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.** - guest speaker Nathaniel Bishop, Vice President, Administration, Carilion Community Hospital. **Mr. Jones** is working on getting two success stories (one from a young person currently in a youth provider program and another from an older youth who has been through a provider program).

All of the youth council is invited to attend. The event is free but reservations need to be made. Ms. Vest is making a quick reference guide of all event attendees.

- B. Yellow Pages Project:** Ms. Vest noted that she does not believe this needs to be a separate project from the youth summit events as it does not accomplish anything more than the information booklets being provided at the events. Event coordinators need to make sure that all event attendees know about 211 Virginia so they can get their organizational information listed there if they have not already done so. 211 Virginia can make regional lists, if given parameters, and create PDF and email listings. A sponsor such as Anthem could be located to cover the cost of printing and/or mailing the lists.

V. New Business

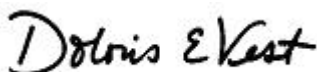
A. New Projects for 2008: Mr. Paradzinski invited discussion on items the youth council would like to work on in 2008. Ms. Moore reported the Department for Rail & Public Transportation recently had an initial meeting which turned into a brainstorming session on public transportation. Ms. Moore learned there is funding available and that nothing has been done to date. Ms. Vaughn-Howard noted that Roanoke City has been chosen by the National League of Cities to receive a grant to look into transportation for underserved youth. Ms. Vest noted there appears to be funding there but no one really knows what the solution should be.

G. Announcements

The next meeting will be held December 13, 2007 8:30 a.m. at Shoney's in Daleville, Virginia.

H. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:22 a.m.



Doloris Vest, president

December 18, 2007

Date