

**Western Virginia Workforce
Development Board**

**Youth Council
Minutes
December 9, 2004**

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; **Annette Lewis** (for Ron Jones), TAP Youth Programs; **Harriet Woodward**, Alleghany/Covington Department of Social Services; **Bill Zimmerman**, Diversion Program; **Wayne Flippen**, Vice-Chair/WDB, John C. Nordt Co.; **Jodylee Edsall**, Roanoke County Schools

Members not present: **Lethia Hammond** - Alleghany County; **Alan Huffman**, Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services; **Russ Merritt**, Franklin County YMCA; **Jennifer Unroe**, 4-H Youth Development; **Joann Hayden** - Roanoke City Schools; **Stephen Aukward**, Virginia Department for the Blind and Visually Impaired; **Jeri Barnes** - Old Dominion Job Corps Center; **Marion Vaughn-Howard**, Roanoke Department of Park and Recreation Youth Services Division; **Ron Jones**, TAP Youth Programs; **Xavier Hairston**; Roanoke County Life Skills Mentoring Program

Guests present: **N/A**

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

III. Approval of Minutes: November 16, 2004

As there was not a quorum present, approval of minutes of the November 16, 2004, meeting was deferred until the next meeting.

IV. Contractor Reports

- A. WDB Coordinator Doloris Vest reported the following:
1. New reports are not in yet. Reports are due by the 25th of each month and are posted to the website on that date.
 2. 386 participants are in the various programs across the board.
 3. Everyone can check the Reports page on the WDB web page to get reports, posted by organization.

V. Unfinished Business

- A. Mr. Paradzinski suggested that **RFPs** might be streamlined by combining different groups in different areas sharing common needs going with one contract – an “umbrella” approach. Advantage: eliminating administrative duplication. Questions that arise with this suggestion: (1) Does the umbrella group get to change subcontractors? (2) Who are disputes appealed to in such an approach? Concerns: differences in areas within Area III are not just geographic but also philosophical, different areas have their own personalities; also, concern about diluting or losing services already in place. Youth Council members are supposed to give input for RFPs; need input from other Council members, then these questions and concerns can be passed on to the RFP Committee.

- B. **Changes in Area III**, with the resignation of the executive director and now having a coordinator in place – how will Area III handle things overall now? One of the meetings next week (Dec. 15 & 16) will address this concern.
- C. **Summer Youth Program and other plans:** Mr. Paradzinski presented his ideas about establishing a “Year of the Youth” for 2006. His idea: identify ALL youth groups in Area III, work the threads from each group into a common cloth to create “Year of the Youth.” Goals: to get the groups and related agencies to know each other and work together, find their common goals; and to promote youth self-esteem. Ideas:
- Establish a “What’s A . . . ?” week – have professionals from assorted jobs describe what their work involves – e.g., plumber, building contractor, medical technician. Find out what types of work environment youths like – outdoors, office setting – and what kind of work they like – working with their hands, on computers, dealing with public. Maybe promote this week during the school year.
 - Run ads, one per month, for 12 phases of child’s development; topics covered could be better health, fitness, learning is fun, etc.
 - Combine all youth organizations to show youth employment. Instead of several organizations reporting “We have 5 hires here,” “we have a few hires here,” get a combined number and show “We have 150 youths working!”

Ideas/Concerns/Questions about “Year of the Youth”:

- Where will we get the manpower to plan these events, organize them, schedule them, pull people together? Possibilities: Americorps, Lions Club, Kiwanis, Jaycees, etc. Establish a funnel point for manpower.
- Important to find gaps among many organizations – what youth is being missed?
- Have a Youth Congress – motivational speaker meeting, various workshops, present ideas from workshops at the end of Congress. Get a sponsor for meeting site; ask members of Chamber of Commerce, BBB, etc., to facilitate workshops.
- Keep strategic goals in sight. Goals include getting people into demand jobs.
- Encourage local government people participation. For Richmond summer program, Richmond’s mayor was very involved.
- Make use of School Health Advisory Boards – great sources of information.
- Include in presentations work force awareness, let these kids know what to be prepared for, what to expect realistically.

VI. New Business

Ms. Vest gave everyone copies of the 12/7 e-mail from Raymond Cousins, Youth Program Coordinator, VEC. Mr. Cousins will visit all 17 WIA Areas to review the design and implementation of youth programs; he wants to increase knowledge of what we offer around the state, and see where the quality of service delivered can be improved. The Council asked Ms. Vest to see if Mr. Cousins could visit in January and combine his review with the January Council meeting.

VII. Announcements

The next Youth Council meeting will be Tuesday, January 11, 2005, at 9 a.m. at the Roanoke Higher Education Center. The Youth Council will resume its standing meeting date of the second Tuesday of each month.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Anne M. Cooney

Anne M. Cooney, administrative assistant

DRAFT: December 9, 2004

Date

