

**Youth Council
Thursday, February 15, 2007**

Minutes

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Youth Council chair Paul Paradzinski called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Members present: **Paul Paradzinski**, chair, Craig County; **Harriet Woodward**, Alleghaney/Covington Department of Social Services; **Michele Wells**, VA Department of Rehabilitation Services; **Wanda Anthony**, Goodwill Industries of the Valleys WIA Youth Program; **Laura Elliott**, Junior Achievement, Roanoke; **Bill Zimmerman**, Diversion Program; **Barbara Humphreys**; Franklin County Schools;

Members absent: **Jennifer Unroe**, 4-H Youth Development; **Ron Jones**, Tap This Valley Works; **Marion Vaughn-Howard**, Roanoke Department of Park and Recreation Youth Services Division; **Jodylee Edsall**, Roanoke County Schools; **Lisa Meek**, Old Dominion Job Corp; **Cindy Goldstein**, Roanoke City Schools;

Staff present: **Doloris Vest**, president; **Sherry Dean**, accountant;

Visitors present: **Melanie Younger**, Roanoke Workforce Center; **Tom Deane**, 23rd Court Services Unit; **Rodney Hubbard**, 23A Court Services Unit; **Jan Johnson**, 211 Virginia; **Sharon Lawrence**, Roanoke Valley Juvenile Detention;

A quorum was present.

II. Approval of Minutes

Bill Zimmerman moved that the minutes from the January 16, 2007 meeting be approved. Ms. Elliott seconded the motion. The motion was passed on a voice vote.

III. Program: Youth Regional Forum Meeting

A. Participant Five-Minute Presentations: A representative of each organization in attendance presented a brief description of programs including target audience and preferred referral method.

- **Laura Elliott, Educational Marketing Manager, Junior Achievement:** Junior Achievement (JA) program teaches students about business and economics. Programming is offered for grades K-12. Volunteers, from the community, are trained and sent into the classroom to complete activities with students. Although JA's mission is to educate and involve children in planning their future careers, their most highly used program is one which helps students develop soft skills such as communication, handling conflict, and writing resumes. JA also has programs in after-school programs such as boys & girls clubs, Magic Place and the YMCA/YWCA.
- **Michele Wells, Counselor, Virginia Department of Rehabilitation Services:** The Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) is a state agency which serves individuals from age 14 and up as long as that person is willing to work. To be in a DRS program

an individual must have a barrier to employment, such as communication, mobility, skills, work tolerance, defiant or other behavioral issues, and substance abuse. DRS performs psychological, learning and disability assessments and can pay for equipment, tuition and job coaching services. Referrals are taken from many sources and everyone has the right to be reviewed for DRS services. After completing a DRS program, individuals can return to DRS if further services are needed.

- **Harriet Woodward, Alleghany County/Covington Department of Social Service:** Although Ms. Woodward works for the department of social services she has been involved with the youth council from its beginnings and also serves on the Truancy Council and Career Council for Alleghany County and Covington City. The **Truancy Council** gives students the opportunity to take a service plan or they are turned over to the courts. Goodwill is involved and gives incentives to students for getting their grades up. The **Career Council**, which evolved from Youth Council efforts in Alleghany County and Covington City, works to design school programs which educate students on career possibilities and provides interaction between students and businesses/educational institutions. Dabney S. Lancaster Community College, VA Cooperative Extension and the Kiwanis Club are also involved. On February 23, 2007 the Career Council will hold a career fair, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the armory at Dabney S. Lancaster Community College, for all Alleghany County High School juniors to meet with employers/businesses and learn about careers and practice interview skills. The Career Council is a model that could be used and adapted to other areas of the state.
- **Bill Zimmerman, Alleghany County/Covington City Career Council and Diversion Program:** Mr. Zimmerman also works with Ms. Woodward on the Career Council. He has also done programs in the past on how to get a job and keep a job. Mr. Zimmerman encourages those not already going to college to get a two year technical certificate in order to attain a better job. The **Diversion Program** collaborates with parents on setting up rule contracts with their children who are going through a court related issue. The Diversion Program has a 92 percent success rate for children on the program who don't re-offend.
- **Tom Deane and Rodney Hubbard, Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ):** DJJ is a state agency which works with criminally charged children in the court system process or in a correctional facility. DJJ prepares the family for the child's release and acts as an advocate for the child who is more often the victim rather than the perpetrator. DJJ's mission statement contains the goal of developing and maintaining partnerships with community agencies.
- **Sharon Lawrence, Post Disposition Teacher, Roanoke Valley Juvenile Detention Center (RVJDC):** RVJDC allows children who have committed a crime to remain locally incarcerated while receiving education. Currently the facility is only for boys from the areas of the cities of Salem and Roanoke, and Roanoke, Botetourt, Franklin counties. There is a maximum of 10 children in the post disposition class at a time and, without distractions, most improve two grade levels while in the program.
- **Jan Johnson, 2-1-1 Virginia:** 2-1-1 is a call center which employs trained specialists who take health and human service calls and refers individuals to agencies who can help with a broad array of needs. The Roanoke call center takes calls from 8:15 a.m. to midnight, seven days a week, and after 4:30 p.m. takes calls from all over the state.
- **Wanda Anthony, Goodwill:** Goodwill provides contract services for the youth and adult Workforce Development Board programs. To be on a program the individual must be low income and have a barrier to employment such as basic skills deficient, or be under an Individual Education Plan (IEP). If an individual is a maximum of three percent over the income level they can still obtain assistance. The main goal is they graduate, or receive a GED, obtain a job and become self sufficient. The Goodwill **Work Readiness Program** teaches life skills such as how to shop wisely, checking accounts, dressing for an interview, job shadowing. If an individual is an offender, they automatically have a barrier and are qualified for the program. Ms. Anthony would like to work with RVJDC to help those youth make transition into the workplace.
- **Paul Paradzinski, Youth Council Chair:** Has most recently been involved with the new VOYCE program Roanoke City is sponsoring to help get children off the streets and

out of crime. Four ideas came out of the first meeting: free bus ID cards for children in order to get them to events, programs in youth centers, mentoring programs to see what particular jobs are like and parenting skills.

IV. Reports

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

- A. Ms. Vest will attend the Region 6 school superintendent meeting to discuss the "Other Ways to Win" program to be held in April.
- B. The Board Program Committee will review current contracts and make recommendations for continuing the contracts for next year.
- C. The board is interested in putting more of the incentive grant back into the programs and therefore approved spending \$10,000 for marketing and \$10,000 for programs. At their next meeting they will decide how to spend the remaining \$30,000.
- D. Proposed state changes call for youth councils not being required and merging local workforce areas.
- E. Area III will contact adjoining Areas II and VII to determine if areas can work more closely on any issues.
- F. The state's strategic plan will have a youth council piece that will be due in September 2007.

V. New Business

- A. **TAP Job Fair:** Mr. Paradzinski noted that Western Virginia Workforce Development would be attending the April 3 TAP job fair from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and recruited Wanda Anthony, Laura Elliott and Bill Zimmerman to help. The fair will be at the Roanoke Civic Center in the Exhibit hall. Students will bring their resumes and speak to prospective employers.
- B. **Incentive Grant:** Mr. Paradzinski believes that, by the next youth council meeting, the youth council needs to come up with a pilot program to take to the board for consideration of incentive grant funds.

VI. Announcements

Next Meeting: March 8, 2007 Court Services Unit in Salem.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Doloris E. Vest

Doloris Vest, president

Date