

**Youth Council  
Thursday, March 8, 2007**

**Minutes**

**I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Youth Council chair Paul Paradzinski called the meeting to order at 9:00 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; **Bill Zimmerman**, Diversion Program; **Marion Vaughn-Howard**, Roanoke Department of Park and Recreation Youth Services Division; **Cindy Goldstein**, Roanoke City Schools;

Members absent: **Jennifer Unroe**, 4-H Youth Development; **Ron Jones**, Tap This Valley Works; **Jodylee Edsall**, Roanoke County Schools; **Lisa Meek**, Old Dominion Job Corp; **Laura Elliott**, Junior Achievement, Roanoke; **Barbara Humphreys**; Franklin County Schools;

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

Visitors present: **Wayne Flippen**, Board President; **Melanie Younger**, Roanoke Workforce Center; **Tom Deane**, 23<sup>rd</sup> Court Services Unit; **Rodney Hubbard**, 23A Court Services Unit; **Sharon Lawrence**, Roanoke Valley Juvenile Detention; **Carolyn Minix**, 23<sup>rd</sup> Court Service Unit; **Patrick Lewis**, Roanoke Valley Juvenile Detention; **Tiffany Mills**, 23<sup>rd</sup> Court Service Unit; **Tracey Buzzo**, 23<sup>rd</sup> Court Service Unit; **Rebecca Moore**, 23<sup>rd</sup> Court Service Unit; **Rebecca Crosswhite**, 23<sup>rd</sup> Court Service Unit; **Samantha Higgins**, 23<sup>rd</sup> Court Service Unit;

A quorum was present.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

**Bill Zimmerman** moved that the minutes from the February 15, 2007 meeting be approved. **Ms. Anthony** seconded the motion. The motion was passed on a voice vote.

**III. Program: Youth Regional Forum Meeting**

**A. Participant Five-Minute Presentations:**

- **Tracy Buzzo, Life Skills Mentor, 23<sup>rd</sup> Court Service Unit:** The Life Skills division of the Roanoke County and Salem courts provides alternative detention to juveniles and anger management, drug screens and includes the positions of truancy officer, community service officer, restitution officer and intensive supervision worker.
- **Marion Vaughn-Howard, Youth Services Division, Roanoke City Parks and Recreation:** The City of Roanoke has a new youth initiative VOYCE tied the city's

Youth Comprehensive Plan and focusing on areas such as transportation, youth activity centers, and apprenticeship training. An apprenticeship fair, to be held at the Roanoke Civic Center, has the support of the city. She invited the group to the next meeting of VOYCE March 15, 2007 at the Preston Center. Ms. Wells, of DRS, noted federally funded program dealing with transportation for the elderly and low income individuals, would be holding local hearings; she will provide information to the group.

- **Rebecca Crosswhite, Life Skills Mentor, 23<sup>rd</sup> Court Services Unit:** There is a need for work sites for young people, in the court system process, to complete their community service work. Because of youth offenses, such as larceny, many companies do not want to take on the risk associated with these youth, although participants sign a liability waiver. Youth like the program because many do find permanent employment through this process. Ms. Crosswhite noted the need for revisions of employment rules to allow youth to work in places such as nursing homes for community service.
- **Harriet Woodward, Alleghany County/Covington Department of Social Service:** The Covington Alleghany Highlands **Career Council** works to design school programs which educate students on career possibilities and provides interaction between students and businesses/educational institutions. The Career Council has branched into offering mock interviews for students and introducing students to nontraditional occupations.

A discussion after these presentations noted the following:

- Ms. Vest noted that community service could introduce the court system youth to jobs.
- Mr. Paradzinski will provide an Appalachian Trail contact to the court services unit as a possible community service provider and the League of Older Americans CSEP program could possibly help out.
- Ms. Anthony will find out if Goodwill can use court system youth for community service.
- Mr. Zimmerman noted the local law enforcement could possibly provide community service for the court system youth through the street law programs.

B. **Goals and Future Meetings:** Mr. Paradzinski noted that the goal, of the youth forum, was to provide a connection between all agencies providing services to youth and for all to be aware of services available in order to foster cooperation among the various groups to serve youth better. At the next meeting ideas should be presented, from the youth council, for expenditure of the incentive grant funds granted to the youth council by the board.

#### **IV. Reports**

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A. **Youth Program:** Ms. Anthony reported, for Goodwill, that as of February 28, 2007 older youth actual participation was at 31 with a planned of 39 and younger youth participation was at 52 with a planned of 91. The older youth is a group that is hard to find. April and May are recruitment months and the participation numbers are expected to increase after recruitment. Goodwill is currently involved in the following activities:

- Working with Roanoke Valley Juvenile Detention Center to obtain youth for youth program.
- Franklin County would like to have a career type job fair at Franklin County High School.
- Goodwill provides a career readiness workshop which teaches life skills, check writing, stress management, and job shadowing and also hosts a 3 day program which teaches resume writing, interview dress, and visiting job sites.

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

- Ms. Vest attended a federal WIA workshop in February and learned about intellectual property. The youth council could create a program and the money raised, from sale of the program, could be put back into the youth programs. A Norfolk workforce board has created a curriculum on 13 job readiness skills and sells this program to Virginia schools.
- The board is in the process of looking at contracts for next year.

- The Other Ways to Win event will feature a luncheon for educators and guidance counselors, an evening event free to the public with speaker Ken Gray author of the book Other Ways to Win and afterwards exhibits from various businesses and educational institutions. The evening event will be held at Virginia Western in the Whitman auditorium. There are 45,000 middle and high school students in the local school districts of WIA area 3 of Virginia. DVDs, of the evening program, will also be made for future use.

Mr. Flippen, Workforce Development Board Chair, thanked the court service unit for all that they do for the community. He also noted that the board was trying to expand and looking for alternative funding. The board would like to coordinate with others to operate more efficiently and is suppose to be a major part of economic development.

**V. Unfinished Business**

- A. **TAP Job Fair:** Western Virginia Workforce Development will participate in the Southwest Virginia Job Fair April 3 at the Roanoke Civic Center. The morning hours of the fair will be for high school students and the afternoon portion of the fair will be open to the public. The message for the booth for the past couple of years has been "My Future Rocks".
- B. **Incentive Grant Funds:** Mr. Paradzinski would like ideas brought to the next meeting for use of the incentive grant funds. Ms. Vest would like everyone to email her with ideas and she will compile a list and the ideas can be reviewed at the next youth council meeting.

**VI. New Business**

- A. **Outline of Projects:** Ms. Woodward would like everyone attending the youth forum/council meetings to provide a description of the projects they are involved with and send them to Ms. Vest for compilation and Ms. Vest will distribute to all. This way everyone can have a guide to refer to when seeking youth services.

**VII. Announcements**

Next Meeting: April 12, 2007 Goodwill on Melrose.

**VII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Doloris E. Vest  
 Doloris Vest, president

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 Date