

**Youth Council
Minutes
April 11, 2006**

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

Members present: **Paul Paradzinski**, Chair, Craig County; **Wanda Anthony**, Goodwill Industries of the Valleys WIA Youth Program; **Jodylee Edsall**, Roanoke County Schools; **Michele Wells**, Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services; **Harriet Woodward**, Alleghany/ Covington Department of Social Services; **Bill Zimmerman**, Diversion Program

Members absent: **Laura Elliott**, Junior Achievement, Roanoke; **Becky Johnson**, MeadWestvaco; **Ron Jones**, TAP This Valley Works; **Russ Merritt**, Franklin County YMCA; **Jennifer Unroe**, 4-H Youth Development; **Marion Vaughn-Howard**, Roanoke Department of Park and Recreation Youth Services Division; **Billy Writ**, Old Dominion Job Corps/Richmond

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

Guests present: **Linda Matthews**, Goodwill Industries of the Valleys

There was no quorum.

III. Approval of Minutes

Because there was no quorum present at today's meeting, approval of the March 14, 2006, minutes has been postponed until the next Youth Council meeting.

IV. Reports

A. Goodwill Industries of the Valleys – Youth Programs:

Guest Linda Matthews, Vice President of Workforce Development, reported on changes to the PY2006 youth programs from the U.S. Department of Labor.

B. WDB Board Update

Ms. Vest reported the following:

- Allocation for PY2006: The U.S. Department of Labor will notify the state of a partial allocation of funds in late April/early May. The VEC will then determine local allocations. Approximately \$280,000 in Youth funds are guaranteed for PY2006. The Board cannot finalize its budget until it receives the allocation information.
- The WDB received its federal tax-exempt status on March 14. WDB's bookkeeper, Sherry Dean, has applied to the Commonwealth for state tax-exempt status also. The status allows the WDB to apply for federal grants.
- The performance-numbers celebration on March 22 was a success. 25 people attended the luncheon, including WDB Chair Wayne Flippen, Treasurer Bill Jones, and Board member/Youth Council chair Paul Paradzinski.
- The results of the Workforce Center assessment opinion survey were reviewed in April's Board meeting. The assessment was designed to give WIA III a baseline assessment of the area's workforce centers. Best practices from each center can be

shared with the other workforce centers in Area III. One possibility: set up an area at each center for older youth, to give them exposure to the workforce centers as a valuable resource.

- Interviews for the positions of Workforce System Director and Referral & Information Specialists (at Roanoke and Rocky Mount) will begin the week of April 17. To date, 61 applications have been received for the three positions.
- C. Ms. Woodward reported that, on April 4, the City of Covington School System held a job fair of non-traditional occupations for third- through seventh-graders. The employer luncheon for ninth-graders, in conjunction with Jackson River Technical Center and the Alleghany County School System, has been rescheduled. Local employers have really enjoyed their experience with these lunch programs and want to participate again.

V. Unfinished Business

2006 Goals & Priorities: Discussion began with review of a report from Ms. Vest, breaking down youth participants (by locality, race, and gender) in WIA III programs for PY2005, to date. Roanoke City has the highest percentage of youth served. Older youth numbers could be slightly skewed because some of the older youth also qualify for adult services.

Coordination of services is key. One suggestion for a source of mentors for youth is church ministries. Members mentioned other resources in WIA III:

- HOPE, Incorporated in Alleghany County – a non-profit group that is a hybrid between faith groups and social services; one of its summer programs is Algebra camp.
- Staight Street – Clifton Forge
- Salvation Army
- Apple Ridge Farm
- 4-H
- Council for Community Services – a good resource for mentoring, tutoring, success skills

Two ideas were presented:

- Put together a directory of available services
- Hold a summit of various service agencies, to discuss who does what and how to get together to best serve youth.

Concern was expressed regarding the DOL's emphasis on enrollment goals as opposed to serving people.

VI. New Business

None.

VII. Announcements

Next meeting: **Thursday, May 11, 2006**, 9 a.m., Rm. 813, Roanoke Higher Education Center.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Anne M. Cooney

Anne M. Cooney, administrative assistant

5/4/06

Date