

**Youth Council
Minutes
May 11, 2006 -- DRAFT**

I. Call to Order

Youth Council Chair Paul Paradzinski called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Members present: **Paul Paradzinski**, Chair, Craig County; **Wanda Anthony**, Goodwill Industries of the Valleys WIA Youth Program; **Laura Elliott**, Junior Achievement, Roanoke; **Jennifer Unroe**, 4-H Youth Development; **Michele Wells**, Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services; **Bill Zimmerman**, Diversion Program

Members absent: **Jodylee Edsall**, Roanoke County Schools; **Becky Johnson**, MeadWestvaco; **Ron Jones**, TAP This Valley Works; **Russ Merritt**, Franklin County YMCA; **Marion Vaughn-Howard**, Roanoke Department of Park and Recreation Youth Services Division; **Harriet Woodward**, Alleghany/ Covington Department of Social Services; **Billy Writ**, Old Dominion Job Corps/Richmond

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

There was no quorum.

III. Approval of Minutes

As there was no quorum present, approval of the minutes from April 11 and March 14, 2006 has been postponed until the next Youth Council meeting.

IV. Reports

A. Goodwill Industries of the Valleys – Youth Programs:

- Goodwill has exceeded its participant and skill-sets goals for this point in the program year.
- Ms. Anthony reported that the federal/state emphasis on older youth – as well as an anticipated decrease in youth funds for PY2006 – has generated significant changes for Goodwill's program.
 - Goodwill is developing a pilot program for the older youth
 - Goodwill expects to reduce the summer employment program to approximately 30 youth in Area III. Goodwill is searching for employer-paid (rather than subsidized) summer work for students. Ms. Wells suggested that Goodwill refer those youth they cannot help to DRS.
 - To acquaint older youth with the workforce centers, Ms. Anthony asks that all prospective clients first visit a center before seeing her.
 - Goodwill's hiring a grant writer who can concentrate on funds searching will be helpful to the youth program, as well.
 - Ms. Anthony also praised Generation Solutions for its successful assistance with CNA candidates.

B. WDB Board Update

Ms. Vest reported the following:

- Dabney S. Lancaster Community College is concerned about the decrease in youth-program funding for PY2006. Ms. Vest and Ms. Matthews (Goodwill) will meet with Dr. Teaff of DSLCC to review the ramifications of less funding.
- Third quarter numbers are attached to these minutes. Figures in the "Cumulative 3rd Quarter Performance" column were compiled by Clay Stein and are the best gauge of performance measures.
- Ms. Vest discussed the Youth Coordinators meeting held in Richmond May 3.
 - Workforce programs in Hampton and Manassas have created mini-workforce "centers" in local malls, using donated space and targeting youth. Several Council members expressed an interest in visiting one of the sites. Ms. Vest referred everyone to the website www.jobhut.org for more information.
 - Raymond Cousins (VEC-WIA Youth Program Coordinator) told Virginia's LWIBs that the VEC-WIA is going to collaborate with several state departments to sponsor a regional meeting for youth council groups around the state.
- The board is actively recruiting new board members from Alleghany County and Covington.
- The Workforce Center Consortium has hired Shirley King as Workforce System Director. Ms. King will work among the three centers; she brings to the job excellent customer service skills.

V. Unfinished Business

- **Area Youth Services Organizations:** Mr. Paradzinski opened the discussion on these organizations. He proposed that the Council search out services for youth that relate to employment/education and support agencies.
 - Ms. Vest has collected information from the Internet as the starting point for a directory of youth services. Mr. Paradzinski asked the council to consider how such information would be used and disseminated:
 - Mr. Paradzinski suggested breaking the data into groups, such as recreation, crime prevention, character-building, help groups, sports services, education-related, vocational.
 - Create a reference book/directory – with cross-references – that Workforce Center partners can have readily available.
 - Ms. Elliott suggested that the Council look to high-school students in Area III to create a directory website that could be linked to the WDB website. Visitors could also access directory for print-out if set up as .pdf file.
 - Use the directory as newspaper insert; get a sponsor to pay for publishing it.
 - Ms. Unroe is creating a similar directory (for 4-H) this summer, with the help of an intern. Ms. Unroe can share her experience with this Council.
- The lack of transportation and child care are two major concerns for job seekers but which employers may not realize or think of as obstacles to employment. Ms. Hamilton and Ms. Vest have discussed the idea of having a summit with employers to discuss such obstacles that can interfere with their need for employees.
- Hold a summit of various service agencies, to discuss who does what and how to get together to best serve youth.

VI. New Business

None.

VII. Announcements

Next meeting: **Thursday, June 8, 2006**, 9 a.m., Room 813, Roanoke Higher Education Center.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Anne M. Cooney
Anne M. Cooney, administrative assistant

5/17/06
Date