

**YOUTH COUNCIL AGENDA**  
**Roanoke Higher Education Center, Suite 808**  
**Wednesday, April 28, 2004, 9:00 AM**

- I. Call to Order Paul Paradzinski
- II. Attendance Record Katy Herbst
- III. Approval of Minutes February 25, 2003 Paul Paradzinski
- IV. Contractor Reports
  - A. Alleghany County Rick Hall
    - 1. Contractor enrollments, terminations, expenditures and overall progress in achieving performance standards.
    - 2. Meetings attended, information gathered, and studies conducted.
    - 3. Program Financial Report
  - B. Goodwill Industries of the Valleys, Inc. Wanda Anthony
    - 1. Contractor enrollments, terminations, expenditures and overall progress in achieving performance standards.
    - 2. Meetings attended, information gathered, and studies conducted.
    - 3. Program Financial Report
  - C. Total Action Against Poverty Ronald Jones
    - 1. Contractor enrollments, terminations, expenditures and overall progress in achieving performance standards.
    - 2. Meetings attended, information gathered, and studies conducted.
    - 3. Program Financial Report
- V. Strategic Plan
- VI. Announcements  
Next Meeting: 9:00 AM, Wednesday, June 23, 2004, RHEC Suite 808
- VII. Adjourn

**Youth Council**

**Roanoke Higher Education Center, Suite 809**

**Wednesday, February 25, 2004, 9:00 AM**

**MINUTES**

- I. Call to Order Paul Paradzinski  
Paul Paradzinski called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM.

II. Attendance

Members Present: Wayne Flippen  
Lethia Hammond  
Ronald Jones  
Paul Paradzinski, Chair  
Lutheria Smith  
Jennifer Unroe  
Harriet Woodward

Youth Service  
Providers Present: Wanda Anthony, Goodwill Industries  
of the Valleys  
Ronald Jones, Total Action against Poverty (Member)

Staff Present: Bruce Wood, Executive Director  
Katy Herbst, Administrative Assistant

- III. **Approval of Minutes – December 17, 2003** Paul Paradzinski

**The Minutes of the December 17, 2003 meeting were approved as presented.**

IV. Contractor Reports

A. Alleghany County Build a Better Future

Bruce Wood, who met with Rick Hall Tuesday evening, February 24, 2004, reported that Alleghany County is presently graduating two WIA participants and are in the process of getting the information into the VWN3 system. A computer system crash has delayed the MIS process. Clay Stein will assist the Build a Better Future Program with the implementation of the VWN3.

B. Goodwill Industries of the Valleys, Inc.

Wanda Anthony discussed the activities of the Alleghany Highlands Truancy Team which has held two meetings, involving 7 youth. A letter of support for the program from the Assistant Superintendent of Alleghany County Schools is included in the meeting packet. Academic enrichment activities and work experience activities will be offered at Dabney S. Lancaster Community College as the summer component of the WDB Year Around Youth Program and will involve 10-20 participants. Charlotte Purdue, Case Manager for Goodwill in Franklin County continues to participate in the Franklin County Truancy Team, which meets once a week.

There are 16 Area III youth currently participating in work experience at 13 partner employers. There are currently 52 youth enrolled in the system. Follow up services are being provided to 200 exited clients. Goodwill forecasts that Youth Goals will be met. Enrollment normally increases around March, as students begin to consider summer employment.

Goodwill is assembling a Drug Awareness Program in mid-April. Joseph Jennings will be the motivational speaker for this. Goodwill is offering \$50 gift certificates for all participants who receive a diploma or GED as an incentive to keep youth in school.

C. Total Action Against Poverty

Ron Jones summarized TAP's activities to grow the Keep Youth In School program. They provided an orientation to WIA for their partners and ran four recruitment sessions. They also conducted a door to door outreach at Landsdowne Park and Villages at Lincoln and received thirteen applications. Two participants are currently certified, and the others are being processed. Staff participated in training by Clay Stein on enrollment procedure for the Youth Program. The Franklin County Case Manager for the Keep Youth in School Program will provide WDB staff with a report.

V. Youth Contract Renewal

Paul Paradzinski indicated that the WDB would meet February 27, 2004 to vote on whether to extend the current contracts or issue new RFPs for PY04. **Harriet Woodward made a motion to recommend extending the current youth contracts. The motion carried.**

VI. Strategic Plan

The deadline for the strategic plan revision has been extended to September. Bruce Wood asked that the Youth Council consider the goals

that were set in the current plan, and what changes need to be made in the WDB strategy for youth services. The youth goal section of the WDB Strategic Plan is included with these minutes for discussion at the April 28, 2004 Youth Council Meeting.

VII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM.

VIII. Announcements

Next Meeting:                    April 28, 2004  
   Roanoke Higher Education Center, Suite 808

*Katy Herbst, Administrative Assistant, March 2, 2004*

## Gaps: Youth

### Youth Gap 1: Truancy

Potential truants are not engaged in school. The system for addressing truancy is not working effectively. Youth learn the system and become masters of how to avoid being identified as dropouts or qualified as “alternative students”. Truancy regulations are not followed consistently. Parents often leave for work before the child goes to school, and are unaware their children are not at school. Parents often lack life skills to work with the behavior problems of their children. School systems, courts, parents groups, social services, cooperative education, business, and community action groups all must work together to address truancy problems. Truancy very frequently leads to dropping out of school.

#### Bridge:

- K-4: Provide life skills training for parents and custodians to prevent students from becoming truants in later years.
- Middle School: (75% of dropouts are 9<sup>th</sup> grade students) Reward WDB program students who have good attendance. Example: For every ten consecutive school days a student goes to school, that student will receive a free movie ticket or rental.
- High School: The WDB and the Youth Council will assist Area III school divisions in developing SOL directed, workforce focused curricula. The WDB and the Youth Council will facilitate business partnerships with Area III school divisions to provide internships and incentives for students to remain in school. This would include involving employers in the classroom to emphasize to students that a high school diploma or GED is a requirement for successful employment.
- Work with school systems and Junior Achievement to incorporate *Economics to Stay in School* class into the curricula at all at risk schools.

### Youth Gap 2: Homebound Instruction

Youth receive homebound instruction for behavioral and medical reasons. These students frequently do not receive the pre-employment, work maturity or social skills training that other youth receive in the public school environment. These students usually receive a maximum of two hours daily/10 hours per week of instruction. Often, homebound instruction does not provide appropriate academic skills.

#### Bridge:

- Work with social services and the school systems to find creative solutions for homebound students.
- Work with employers to find part time jobs for homebound students that will provide on the job training.

### **Youth Gap 3: Employment for Disabled Youth**

Youths who are developmentally disabled or severely physically disabled have very few options for employment or on-the-job training. Parents often do not understand the system. Services provided at no charge end at age 22. There is no easily identifiable program that will link these individuals to continuing education programs. Furthermore, many employers have not developed or used programs like on-the-job training that would benefit youths who have few skills and abilities on which to build. Schools, parents, employers and community action groups, like Goodwill, DRS, Project Train-IT and businesses must unite to find positive solutions for youths with disabilities.

#### **Bridge:**

- Identify the number of disabled youth. Determine how many of these youths can be served by our partners and how many additional disabled youth need to be served.

### **Youth Gap 4: Alternative Program Youth Vocational Training**

Youth enrolled in alternative programs in some school divisions are not likely to receive vocational skills training because they may not be permitted on school campuses due to past behavioral problems. This limits training availability to youth even when a program may be able to assist with the cost. Schools, community colleges, and community action agencies must partner to provide vocational skills training to students in alternative programs.

#### **Bridge:**

- Identify students who are not receiving training.
- Evaluate skills/needs.
- Make referrals to Job Corps when appropriate.
- Provide adaptive individualized vocational training such as entrepreneurship programs.
- Find partners to work on solving behavioral problems.

### **Youth Gap 5: Occupational Skills Training:** (masonry, auto mechanics, electrical, construction)

While there are instruments in place to assess the occupational needs of area employers, more input from local businesses is needed to strengthen occupational education. Partners needed are WDB, Job Corps, VEC, community colleges, schools, training providers, youth programs chambers of commerce and the business community.

#### **Bridge:**

- Coordinate with the business community and organizations such as the VEC, Roanoke Valley Regional Alliance, Roanoke College, and Virginia Western Community College who gather workforce related data to assess workforce needs.
- Coordinate with providers of vocational education to ensure that necessary training opportunities are provided in WIA Area III.

**Youth Gap 6: Youth Perceived as Dropouts:** (under the age of 18)

Many youth perceived to be dropouts (under 18) are not identified as dropouts and are therefore not referred to alternative programs. Community action agencies, adult education, and schools must work together to ensure that these students no longer fall through the cracks of a system designed to serve their specific needs.

**Bridge:**

- Identify and consistently refer drop-outs and perceived dropouts to out-of-school programs provided by the WDB.
- Give students incentive to enroll in alternative programs.
- Engage students in school. (see Gap 1: Truancy).