

Dakota County Youth Council
5 January 2007
8:30 – 10:00 a.m.
MN WorkForce Center
2900 County Road 42
Burnsville MN 55337

Mission: *To provide leadership and support to community partners in fostering the educational and employment success of youth.*

Vision: *Developing successful youth with progressive career opportunities.*

Members Present: Kari Davis, Michelle Rydeen, Suzanne Sheridan, Ann Glaves, Norm Champ, Shannan Boodoo, Nicole Crews, Regan Warren, Beth Olson, Joyce Eissingner, LaDonna Boyd

Members Absent: Rick Gubash, Mike Cook, Tanesha Ford, Ruth Lawrence, Ruth Fonstad, Virginia Becker, Will Branning, Mel Henderson

Staff: Marguerite Kirchhoff, Mark Jacobs

Guests: Marsha Milgrom, Dakota County Community Services; Trudy Greaves, ETC; Joey Brustad , student (guest of Nicole)

Call to Order:

Shannan called the meeting to order at 8:32. Minutes from September meeting were reviewed and approved as follows:

Motion- Norm; **second** - Joyce

Homeless Youth

Marsha spoke to the Council about Dakota County efforts to prevent, address and reduce youth homelessness. Handouts provided and **attached herewith**. Marsha informed the YC that, based on Wilder Research, almost 50 youth are homeless at any given point in time and that young people aging out of foster care are especially likely to become homeless. Sarah Beilke provides some group sessions for these youth. The Council was surprised to learn that girls outnumber boys in the homeless population two to one. Additionally many very young families are homeless, paving the way for generational homelessness. Many lay persons believe the homeless population to be comprised of single males, who choose the lifestyle wishing to be independent, but this is far from the case.

Membership

Sandy Unger has resigned her seat on the Council citing overwhelming job duties. She wishes to maintain her contact with the Council. Staff have received an application from LaDonna Boyd, outgoing WIB Chair and long-time advocate for youth in Dakota County and State-wide. Application approved as follows: **Motion-** Kari; **second** - Norm

Youth Employment Awards

Awards were presented at the Dakota-Scott Workforce Investment Board Legislative Luncheon on December 8, 2006. Receiving the Dakota Electric Association Award was Apple Valley Parks and Recreation for its long-time practice of hiring almost 150 young people to fill a variety of positions each summer. Park Nicollet Health Services received the Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative Award for its growing practice of offering summer internships in the health care field. These internships are offered to young people enrolled in our Federal and State funded programs and provide opportunities to these youth to get a first-hand look at careers in this growth industry.

Budget

Shannan distributed a budget worksheet that listed several categories in which Youth Council funds were spent in the past. The 2007 budget is again \$6,000. Discussion ensued as to how much to earmark for these categories which include, staff development, training and conferences, program support, outreach support, meeting expenses. On the question of whether or not to support out-of-state travel or overnight accommodations, members decided that these options should be available to members but that each opportunity should be decided on a case-by-case basis.

Before completing the worksheet, members requested that 2006 amounts should be shown for each category in order to make a decision about 2007. This information will be available at the February meeting.

Plan of Work

The RFP has been published. The committee to review proposals includes Suzanne, Shannan, Dan Rogness and Marguerite. This group will meet in late January to review the evaluation process and will make every effort to review all proposals and bring a recommendation to the Youth Council at its March meeting. Marguerite distributed a timeline that maps out the approval and transition process. Kari asked to be included in this committee.

Members received a copy of the Pioneer Press article about Meegen Carra, Ambassador in the Outreach to Schools program at Simley. **Attached.**

A newsletter was sent to Workforce Services staff from the Hubert H Humphrey Job Corps. This was shared with members who decided that after the RFP process is concluded, we should ask someone from Job Corps to visit a meeting and tell us more about the services they provide to young people, some of whom are from Dakota County.

This is a budget year and that means that once again MYP funding is at risk. The Minnesota Workforce Council Association is striving to restore the funding to earlier and higher levels. Citizens can be very effective advocates, and Norm distributed a list of key committee members and their contact information. **Attached.** Visiting legislators is probably the most powerful way to send a message. Mark Jacobs will let members know when the MWCA day on the hill is occurring so they can participate. Norm is bringing some YouthBuild kids to Rally Day for Youth on March 1. Perhaps other youth can also attend.

Mark mentioned that there are a lot of champions in the legislature. LaDonna said that newly elected Representative Shelley Madore has asked to receive minutes from The Youth Council on a regular basis. Marguerite will make sure that this happens. Things look hopeful for this biennium.

Scott County Report

Beth is preparing to interview four candidates for the c=vacant Ambassador position. She is also beginning planning for the summer employment opportunities.

Contractor Report

- ETC - Trudy introduced herself to us as the new director of ETC. She looks forward to working with us in the future.
- Job Service - Virginia was not able to attend this meeting but brought samples of Zone items which members were encouraged to take and distribute or use.
- Tree Trust – Norm mentioned a new role that Tree Trust is taking in Dakota County. In 2007, Tree Trust will offer work experience opportunities for MFIP participants who need some positive, documented work experience in order to attain unsubsidized employment in the private sector and become self-sufficient. He is looking for potential sites for placement of these individuals and explained the responsibilities of the host site. Positions are unpaid; insurance and workman's comp are provided through Tree Trust.

Other Announcements

Michele spoke of an initiative that Rehab Services is undertaking.

Rehabilitation Services, an adult Federal-State program to assist persons with disabilities have vocational success, has a collaboration with the Department of Education to work with identified youth (often have an IEP or additional/non-tradition needs) who may need assistance with vocational success. RS Counselors are prohibited from developing employment plans with eligible consumers (documented disability, require multiple RS services specific to vocation) who are determined to need on-going employment supports until the funding source for those supports is identified, such as long-term County support.

Recent review of populations unable to secure long-term supports or traditional societal supports include youth. An example may be a student with Asperger's, the intellectual ability does not meet traditional county case-management eligibility however, does continue to have difficulties requiring support to maintain

employment. Extended Employment, long-term support, has been in place for many years. These are funds available to provide some guidance to the consumer after RS has successfully closed, often a local vendor who is reimbursed for this service and will check in with the client to ensure employment retention.

RS has been allocated funds as a pilot specific to transition (age 16-22) youth and runs through June 30, 2007. Future funding will be dependent on the initial outcome.

This is funding to assist the person from possibly falling through the current social supports and requires additional assistance to stay on track. The youth must be a Rehabilitation Services client, having met eligibility criteria with, agreed upon Employment Plan and then working.

Suzanne noted that MN on the Move for Families is looking for additional sites for the summer program. One of the new things they are doing is offering cooking classes at The Garage.

Next Youth Council meeting is Friday, February 2, 2007, 8:30-10:00 a.m. at the Burnsville WorkForce Center, 2900 Co Road 42, Burnsville MN 55337. Please let Marguerite know if you still need a map or directions.