

Dakota County Youth Council
6 April 2007
8:30 – 9:30 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, Norm Champ, Shannan Boodoo, Regan Warren, Beth Olson, Will Branning, , Ruth Fonstad, Virginia Becker, Suzanne Sheridan, Rick Gubash , Everett Waters, Trudi Greaves

Members Absent:, Mike Cook, Tanesha Ford, Joyce Eissing, Ruth Lawrence, LaDonna Boyd, Michelle Rydeen, Mel Henderson, Ann Graves, Nicole Crews

Staff: Marguerite Kirchoff **Scott County Report**

Visitors: Laura Mootz, Scott County Outreach to School Ambassador

Call to Order:

Kari called the meeting to order at 8:31. Minutes from March meeting were reviewed and approved as follows:

Motion- Rick; **second** - Ruth

Membership

Applications from Everett Waters of HHH Job Corps and Trudi Greaves were reviewed and approved as follows: **Motion-** Shannan **second** – Virginia Everett and Trudi shared their background and interest in youth programs with the Council.

Scott County Report

Laura Mootz, Scott County Outreach to School Ambassador, reported to the Council on her work in with young people in Scott County. Laura has been busy developing and refining The Zone at the Shakopee WorkForce Center. She has also been involved with the local Rotary's STRIVE program which works with students with the lower GPA's at the high school. Laura has worked with almost 29 of these youth. Additionally, Laura is reaching out to other youth groups and schools in the area, offering tours of the WorkForce Center. Her full report is **attached**.

Performance

Preliminary reports from DEED show that Dakota-Scott performance compares well to other local areas and is on track to exceed 100% of planned goals for Program Year 2006. Only the wage gain goal is below passing and most other goals are well over 100% of plan.

Local Annual Plan

The annual Youth Services plan was reviewed . This year the plan is an update, with most items remaining “unchanged” from last year. Marguerite noted a few new items, such as the Shared Vision practice which for our area was The Zone. Additionally, the Plan asked for a report on the Outreach to Schools project which was included. The Youth Plan was approved as follows: **Motion** Norm **Second** Beth. The plan will be submitted on Monday, April 9.

Plan of Work -

All projects are moving forward; the Library Workshops begin tomorrow and continue on April 14 and May 7. Both recent Job Fairs were very successful. The new advice column, The Jobinator, is ready to launch.

At its March 16 meeting, the Dakota-Scott Workforce Investment Board approved the Youth Council decision to execute a contract with Tree Trust for WIA Youth services. This decision was approved at the April 3 meeting of the County Board.

Contractor Report

Job Service Virginia has been receiving referrals from Sara Boehlke who leads a life skills class with youth open to County services. None of these youth were income eligible, however.

Tree Trust Norm thanked the Council for deciding to contract with Tree trust and shared some progress regarding

youth enrolled in the program. He also shared the letter that was sent to Tree Trust alumni and parents regarding funding for the MYP. Norm's report is **attached**.

ETC Trudi summarized the work that Laura is doing with their mostly older youth. There are three youth awaiting Laura's return from vacation to begin services.. Laura is eager to work with them.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Branning reported that groundbreaking for the Rosemount Library will be coming soon. He attended the Association of Minnesota Counties convention at which the Governor was the guest speaker. He also attended an event at which Representative Kline and Secretary of Education Alice Seagren spoke. One young audience member suggested that technology become part of the core curriculum.

The County Board recently heard a report noting the disproportion of youth of color in the correction system.

Other Announcements

Marguerite noted an article about getting a summer job in which Tammy Dickinson of Tree Trust is quoted. There was also some information regarding the Seeds program, an internship program with MN DOT.

Regan shared the Safe Haven newsletter that reported on the ground breaking for their new Welcome

Suzanne noted an event coming on April 27 that will convene community members around the topic of Financial Literacy .

Rick mentioned his participation in a group to work with Project C3 and other resources for youth.

Next Youth Council meeting is Friday, May 4, 2007, 8:30-10:00 a.m. at the Burnsville WorkForce Center, 2900 Co Road 42, Burnsville MN 55337.