

Dakota County Youth Council
14 September 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: Shannan Boodoo, Norm Champ, Suzanne Sheridan, Trudi Greaves, , Nicole Crews, Ramie Chackan, Beth Olson,

Members Absent:, Tanesha Ford, Regan Warren, Virginia Becker, Joyce Eissinger, Kari Davis, LaDonna Boyd, Mel Henderson, Rick Gubash , Ann Glaves, Will Branning, Everett Waters, Ruth Fonstad,

Staff: Marguerite Kirchoff , Mark Jacobs

Visitors: Abbie Wells- Herzog, Rehab Services; Al Godfrey, Dakota County Community Corrections

Call to Order:

Shannan called the meeting to order at 8:35 . Introductions were made.

Minutes from July meeting were reviewed and approved as follows:

Motion- Norm; **second** - Beth

Membership:

An application from Abbie Wells-Herzog was reviewed. Abbie introduced herself to us and gave us some information about her background and interest on working with youth.

Motion - Nicole; **second** - Suzanne

Guest Speaker

Al Godfrey

All talked about the tools used by Community Corrections staff when working with youth in the system. He explained that staff understand that what is visible and obvious about a youth offender may hide the many causes that contribute to the behavior we see. Staff are trained and tools are in place to address the root causes of offending behavior.

Although juvenile crime is down, the number of youth in detention keeps rising. The department is challenged to find ways of working with youth offenders in alternate ways while preserving public safety. Most youth only stay in detention for 1-3 days which would not reflect a public-safety need. Alternative strategies are called for. Some early success in this matter have been observed.

Large discrepancies have been observed in the number of minority vs white youth in corrections. Black youth, specifically, are over represented in the system. Corrections is working with schools and others as well as with staff to correct this problem.

Handout attached.

Youth Employment Services Award

Nomination forms have gone out. Again this year, there will be two awards, one in Dakota County from Dakota Electric Association and another in Scott County from Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative. Members are encouraged to submit nominations and to distribute nominations through their contacts. Additional information and the nomination package can be obtained from the Youth Council web site <http://www.mnwfc.org/dakota/wib/youthcouncil.htm> .

Budget Balance

The Youth Council has so far spent very little of its budget. Marguerite will work with contractors to expend this money. Suzanne may have an opportunity for Youth Council funding as well through the financial literacy initiative. The money needs to be spent by the end of the calendar year.

Scott County Report

Beth shared a print out of the PowerPoint she presented to the WIB last month about summer programs in Scott County. Beth worked with 71 youth on many different projects. A number of these youth will continue to receive services year round.

Handout attached.

Contractor Report

Tree Trust worked with 71 youth on crew sites as well as 113 youth in scattered sites during the summer program. Norm talked about the successful awards picnic and the hope that legislators will continue to see the value of the programs and sustain, or even restore funding. Their year-round program is taking shape with meetings taking place in Apple Valley, Burnsville and Hastings to continue or initiate services with in-school youth.

Handout attached.

Youth News

Suzanne announced that MN Families on the Move received a Green Guardian grant to continue the services of the professional artist who has been working with after-school programs as well as corrections programs.

Next Youth Council meeting is **Friday, October 5th, 2007**, 8:30-10:00 a.m. at the Burnsville WorkForce Center, 2900 Co Road 42, Burnsville MN 55337.

Hearty thanks to Shannan Boodoo for donating her “winnings” of 12 coupons for Bruegger’s Bagels to the Youth Council.