

Dakota County Youth Council
5 October 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: Everett Waters, Beth Olson, Ruth Fonstad, Suzanne Sheridan, Shannon Boodoo, Ramie Chackan, Tami Dickinson, Abbie Wells Herzog, Ann Graves, Trudi Greaves, Kari Davis

Members Absent:, Tanesha Ford, Regan Warren, Virginia Becker, Joyce Eissingner, LaDonna Boyd, Mel Henderson, Rick Gubash, Will Branning

Staff: Mark Jacobs

Visitors: Rich Wagner, Rehab Services; Mike Yanda, DEED/Dakota County Job Service; Maure Ann Metzger, Carver Scott Educational Coop

Call to Order:

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

Minutes from September meeting were reviewed and approved

2008-2009 Plan of Work –

Boodoo brought copies of the strategic plan for 2006-2007. The WIB's executive committee will be starting work on an overall plan. Group discussed concepts such as Washington County's training for job readiness (court ordered) and career awareness activities such as work experience coordinators, career fairs, ambassadors and mentoring programs. Consensus of group was to keep the two existing goals

1. Continue to provide oversight of Federal and State funded youth programs in Dakota and Scott counties
2. Extend reach and influence of youth Council in the community.

Youth Employment Services Award –

Nominations forms are on-line and have been distributed.

Scott County –

Beth Olson reported that they're gearing up for year-round activities. Lots of short-term training is in the CNA field.

Contractor Report –

Tami Dickinson (standing in for Norm Champ) reported that 12 more youth will enroll in the WIA Youth Program. Nine recently graduated and entered employment.

- They started providing services to students at Hastings High School – beginning the program with 10 students and meeting with them weekly
- Met with Director of Special Services and district work coordinators in Burnsville to discuss possible collaboration.
- Served 71 youth in the summer youth program 65 in Dakota and 6 in Scott.

Greaves reported that ETC's working on MFIP/youth with Tree Trust. They're following up with the kids and getting reports. Getting referrals from EAC.

Carver-Scott Educational Coop –

Seven youth who are in the Coop's Leadership program talked about their backgrounds and their aspirations. Each youth had faced challenges ranging from homelessness, medical conditions, racism, and disabilities. Through the program they became involved in the community, worked on team building, organized events and attended events including "Peace Jam"

where they met Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama. Some of their projects include a Santa's Workshop, bakes sales to raise money for needy families, Mad Dads and Walk for Change.

The students help create the leadership class, select projects, tap into community knowledge, develop partnerships and celebrate achievements.

All in all, it was a most impressive presentation by an impressive group of young people

Youth News

- Jacobs reported on Superintendent Kanninen's (ISD 191) report to the WIB and the benefits of all day kindergarten. Some discussion on the achievement gap and the need to address the issue on the front end.
- Everett noted the next meeting is at Job Corp. Also, they're taking a group to Rushford to help with flood clean up.

Next Meeting – Friday, Nov. 2, 2007, HHH Job Corps, 1480 North Snelling Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108 (by State Fairgrounds)

Meeting adjourned at 9:43 am.

Next Youth Council meeting is **Friday, November 2, 2007**, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the HHH Job Corps Center at 1480 Snelling Avenue, Saint Paul MN 55108. 651.647. **PLEASE NOTE NEW TIME AND LOCATION. THIS WILL BE A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY TO FIND OUT ABOUT THE JOB CORPS PROGRAM AND MEET PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS.**