

Dakota County Youth Council
2 November 2007
9:30 – 11:00 a.m.
HHH Job Corps
1480 Snelling Avenue
Saint Paul MN 55108

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, Suzanne Sheridan, Kari Davis, Will Branning, Mel Henderson, Ramie Chackan, Joyce Eissinger, Norm Champ

Members Absent: Tanesha Ford, Regan Warren, LaDonna Boyd, Rick Gubash, Beth Olson, Ruth Fonstad, Ann Glaves, Trudi Greaves, Abbie Wells Herzog, Mike Yanda, Shannon Boodoo,

Staff: Marguerite Kirchoff, Renae Pereira, Jill Pittelkow

Visitors: Martin Meiser, Dakota County Community Corrections (for Ruth Fonstad); Coralee Gaden, Job Corps student; Al Jones, Job Corps Outreach Director for the South Metro.

Call to Order:

Marguerite called the meeting to order at 9:35. Introductions were made. Sheena O'Brien, the Job Corps Center director (acting) welcomed the group.

Minutes from October meeting were reviewed and approved as follows:

Motion- Kari; **second** – Mel

Marguerite announced her plans to retire from Dakota County at the end of the year. Dakota County is seeking to hire a replacement with a one month overlap to ensure a smooth transition. MK will let the YC know when the position has been filled. Kari stated that the YC thanks her for her work with them over the past years.

2008-2009 Plan of Work –

A revised plan of work was presented to the Council. Changes were made to reflect the Council's preference for using some budget for program support. Additionally, the plan to implement Outreach to Schools project in academic year 2007-08 and 2008-09. Funding for this comes from DEED. Another section was added stressing the YC's intention to expect our service providers to provide the highest standard of services to program youth. Our providers regularly report to the YC and are monitored regularly, so this addition reflects what we have in place now.

The revised plan was approved by the youth Council as follows:

Motion- Norm; **second** – Joyce

Plan is **attached**.

Membership

Virginia Becker will no longer be serving on the Youth Council as her job does not specifically relate to young participants. In her place, Mike Yanda, Job Service manager will represent DEED on the Youth Council.

His membership application was approved as follows:

Motion- Everett; **second** – Mel

Youth Employment Services Award –

Today is the deadline for submitting a nomination. Because the WIB legislative event is not taking place until January 25, we can accept nominations through Monday, November 5. The nomination does state that a decision would be made public by November 16th. We hope to honor that deadline.

Scott County –

Report tabled for this meeting

Contractor Report –

Norm brought a written report. He noted that the data regarding credits earned through the summer program is now available. Youth earned 94 credits in crews and 28 credits working at individual sites. These are elective credits and can be used toward graduation as electives.

He also noted that they are working with a young person who is a Safe Haven resident and has significant language barriers. Marguerite added that this person self referred through the Zone. Commissioner Branning asked if either Tree Trust or Dakota County staff are connected with the new transitional youth housing project in Dakota County. Marguerite said that she is in close contact about it and will make sure that the connection is maintained. Commissioner stated that it has been eight years in preparation and has finally gained approval.

Tree Trust's report is **attached**.

Commissioners Report

Commissioner Branning had a very informative trade trip to Ireland. He was impressed with the great influx of young workers to the Country which was the result of their direct efforts to bring new companies (such as Hertz) in and to offer well-paying jobs to workers.

The 2008 Dakota County budget is in preparation, with progress being made on the Cedar Avenue Transit way. A trolley line is under consideration for Robert Street.

Youth News

The new Work Readiness Credential is available for anyone and for its pilot year is free for all. It consists of 4 parts, oral and written communication, math and reading comprehension. It stresses important soft skills that employers need. There are preparation classes. Flyers and information were distributed to all.

HHH Job Corps Presentation and Tour

Everett gave us some background about the Center. It is on the former Bethel College campus. Former Mayor Lattimore of Saint Paul was a strong champion of the Center and worked hard so that it could be located in the Capitol City. There are 122 Job Corps Centers in the US. About 350-400 young people go through the Center each year. Of those, 265 reside on campus with the others commuting. The Center accepts applications from young people between the ages of 16 and 24. The average stay is 9 months, but most finish within 2 years. There is an advanced training program that youth can apply for. Job Corps assumes the financial responsibility for all training while young people are in the program.

Al Jones showed a DVD in which teachers and students spoke of the advantages of the program and how they have benefited from it. Coralee Gaden, a Job Corps student visiting the meeting, added her own story, saying that she has gained so much confidence from the program and believes she has a bright future.

Everett then took the group on a tour of the campus visiting the culinary center, which earlier today had produced the delicious baked goods that we enjoyed. We also visited the health occupations center, the building maintenance and painting and wall paper center and the business and computer skills center. Our tour included a walk through of the beautiful new cafeteria which is named for Mayor Lattimore.

A handout is attached.

Meeting adjourned at noon.

Next Youth Council meeting is **Friday, January 11, 2008**, from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. at the Burnsville WorkForce Center, 2900 County Road 42, Burnsville MN 55306, 952.895.7600.