

Youth Committee Meeting

Workforce Central Florida
707 Mendham Blvd., Suite 250
Orlando, FL 32825
Wednesday, November 6, 2013
2:30 p.m.

MINUTES

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Debbie Clements, Rick Bedson, Allie Braswell, David Bundy (via phone), Tom Doye (via phone), Larry Eason (via phone), Ivan Kaled (via phone), Cathy Lake, Randy Means (via phone), Dwight Mitchell, Barbara Newton, Jack Plettinck (via phone), Linda Rimmer, Dan Rodgers, Maggie Teachout (via phone), Brent Trotter
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Lonnie Bell, William D'Aiuto, Kamil Fadel, Wendy Hammock-Silungwe, Katie Porta, Brian Michaels, Deborah Moffitt, Deborah Morris, Tadar Muhammad, Dr. Robert Spooney, Virginia Whittington, and Danyiel Yarbrough
- STAFF PRESENT:** Joyce Hinton, Kenneth Gathers, Jennifer Wilson, Nilda Blanco, Tonya Elliott-Moore, Chad Kunerth, Andrea Jiraud and Kaz Kasal
- GUESTS PRESENT:** Paulette Edwards/Central Florida Urban League; Ron Goss, Shellonda Rucker, Candace Burns, Yesenia Santiago and Hilda Acosta /Henkels & McCoy; Marilyn Gordon/Goodwill; Tara Hormell/Children's Home Society; Maria Shorkey, Chela Cruz/Covenant House Florida; Traci Agius, Kyla Gutierrez/ResCare

WELCOME & CHAIR'S REMARKS

Call to Order

Ms. Clements called the meeting to order at 2:30pm and welcomed those in attendance.

Roll Call

Ms. Kasal commenced with roll call and established that there was a quorum present.

Public Comment

None offered.

Approval of the August 7, 2013 Youth Committee Minutes

Mr. Braswell made a motion to approve the 8/7/13 Youth Committee Minutes. Ms. Teachout seconded, motion passed.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Introduction of Mr. Kenneth Gathers, WIA Youth Program Manager

Ms. Hinton introduced Mr. Gathers, the new WIA Youth Program Manager. Mr. Gathers has an extensive background in workforce services. Mr. Gathers greeted the committee and stated he is looking forward to working with everyone. Andrea Jiraud was also introduced as the new Technical Coordinator who will be providing technical support to the youth service providers. Ms. Clements asked everyone else to introduce themselves as well.

Ms. Hinton extended her thanks to Ms. Wilson, who has done a great job managing the youth program until a WIA Youth Program Manager was hired.

Ms. Clement reflected that about a year ago the Youth Committee just formed in order to be back in compliance. In the past six months, with two different procurements processes, we now have 5 year-round youth providers.

2. Contract Status

Ms. Blanco referred to the memo in the meeting packet and provided an update of the youth RFP 2013 – Round 2. Ms. Blanco stated that before the RFP for Round 2 was issued, WCF hosted a technical assistance workshop to help training providers better understand the WIA program requirements. This was in direct response due to lack of community-based providers responding to the first RFP. The RFP/Round 2 was issued with a submittal deadline of 9/6/13. Eight proposals were received. A committee of six reviewers comprised of board members and community partners convened to review and score the proposals. Arbor/ResCare, Children’s Home Society, Covenant House and Goodwill Industries were recommended for funding, which was approved at the 9/24/13 WCF Board of Directors meeting on 9/24/13. Including, Henkels & McCoy (H&M) from the first round, WCF has now procured five organizations to provide year-round services for youth ages 16-21. WCF has obligated \$5M of its \$5.2M budget. The remaining dollars will support WCF’s Youth Program staff and items purchased on behalf of the collaborative (i.e. TABE Online tests, outreach items). The timeline for H&M is from 7/1/13 thru 6/30/14; the timeline for the other four organizations is from 10/1/13 through 9/30/14.

3. Update on Henkels & McCoy

Mr. Goss extended his thanks to both the committee and WCF for allowing H&M the opportunity facilitate the “Project CoNEXTion” youth program. He also complimented WCF for all their support. Mr. Goss referred to the handout in the meeting packet and both he and Ms. Rucker provided a Powerpoint presentation on H&M’s progress updates. He indicated that they are 67% staffed and have 86 youth enrollments as of today. He also provided a fiscal snapshot of the first quarter and a project overview. Their main goal is to place youth in jobs and/or advanced training/college. Mr. Goss would like to revisit/reinstitute a “Summer STEM Camp” in the spring. H&M serves all five counties their target goal is to enroll 295 in-school youth and 225 out-of-school youth this program year. Ms. Clements asked how the youth enrollments are doing with regard to geographic distribution. Ms. Rucker replied that Osceola was in the lead on enrollments, but now Lake has taken the lead, Orange is trending better. They will provide a county-by-county breakdown at the next meeting. Mr. Goss provided his thanks to Goodwill Industries for their partnership. Ms. Rucker indicated that H&M is outreaching in the community and reviewed the listing of those agencies serving at-risk youth that they are collaborating with. Ms. Rucker introduced two youth enrolled in “Project CoNEXTion” to relay their experiences.

Gisselle Maldonado introduced herself. She indicated she was applying for jobs but not getting hired because she had no experience. Then she learned about “Project CoNEXTion” when representatives from this program came to visit her high school and discussed how the program offers basic skills and job readiness/occupational skills training. She just started the program and “loves it” – the program has motivated her to follow her dream of helping kids that have faced the same problems that she has had to contend with. She is expecting to graduate from high school this December and is looking to enroll in Southeastern University.

Joil Henry introduced himself and indicated that he is from the Virgin Islands where he participated in a police cadet program and became a team lead. Then he moved to Florida and indicated that he too saw the "Project CoNEXTion" presentation at his high school and became interested as the program helps youth who do not have work experience. He expressed his interest in getting into law enforcement.

Ms. Rucker introduced others on the H&M staff: Candace Burns, Yesenia Santiago, and Hilda Acosta.

4. Presentations from new youth providers

The following new youth providers provided Powerpoint presentations, reviewing a quick summary of their organizations and the programs they will be facilitating.

Goodwill Industries:

Ms. Gordon introduced herself and provided her thanks that Goodwill will be providing their services. Their program "Career Connections" will be targeting to serve 200 in-school youth, with a documented barrier, in Orange and Osceola counties. They will be in partnership with BETA Center, Mavericks High School, New Journey Youth Center, Junior Achievement, and Orange County Public Schools Alternative Education.

Children's Home Society (CHS):

Ms. Hormell introduced herself and extended her thanks for this opportunity. In partnership with Orange County Public Schools, University of Central Florida and Central Florida Family Health Center, CHS will be providing services at Evans Community School which is imbedded on the Evans High School campus. CHS will be providing a set of services and strategies to increase the educational and life outcomes of the students at Evans High School. They will be serving 175 in-school youth. They will be utilizing "Business Incubator" - youth will decide what business to start and be involved and learn tasks as a career. This is in partnership with United Arts and will include technical fields behind the scenes lighting, sound, costumes.

Covenant House:

Ms. Shorkey and Ms. Cruz introduced themselves. Their "Dove Community Program" will be targeting 100 out-of-school youth in Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties. This program will serve long-term support for homeless youth that require additional assistance to pursue their education and secure and hold employment in order to become financially self-sufficient. There will be three program phases: 1) assessment/address deficiencies (2 weeks); 2) paid work experience and occupations skills training (6 weeks); and 3) continuous improvement, obtaining and retaining employment.

ResCare:

Ms. Agius and Ms. Gutierrez introduced themselves. Their program will serve 225 out-of-school youth in Lake, Sumter, Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties. They provided an overview of their comprehensive service delivery design (staff development & training), program tools and services (assessments, understanding the demand, preparation of youth) and location/service areas.

Mr. Braswell commended Ms. Blanco for her technical assistance and taking the time to help small community-based organizations do better.

CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Ms. Clements stated that, as other programs prepare to get up and running, the committee will be looking to

hear from youth program participants at the meetings. This is in line with the request from the new Board Chair, Ms. Brandon, who has asked that "Mission Moments" be provided at board meetings to show the results/benefits from workforce services.

Ms. Clements thanked everyone for attending today's meeting and stated that the next Youth Committee Meeting will be held at 2:30pm on Wednesday, January 8, 2014 here at the WCF administration office.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kaz Kasal
Sr. Administrative Assistant