

Youth Committee Meeting

CareerSource Central Florida
707 Mendham Blvd., Suite 250
Orlando, FL 32825
Wednesday, March 5, 2014
2:30 p.m.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Debbie Clements, Lonnie Bell, Rick Bedson, David Bundy, William D’Aiuto, Tom Doyle, Jovanna Heavener, Sue Koziol, Cathy Lake, Brian Michaels, Dwight Mitchell, Tadar Mohammad, Barbara Newton, Jack Plettinck, Linda Rimmer, Dan Rodgers, Maggie Teachout, Jeff Whitehead, and Virginia Whittington

MEMBERS ABSENT: Larry Eason, Kamil Fadel, Wendy Hammock-Silungwe, Ivan Kaled, Randy Means, Debora Moffitt, Debbie Morris, Kathy Panter, Dr. Robert Spooney, Brent Trotter, and Danyiel Yarbrough

STAFF PRESENT: Pam Nabors, Kevin Neal, Joyce Hinton, Kenneth Gathers, Andrea Jirard, Tonya Elliott-Moore, Chad Kunerth and Kaz Kasal

GUESTS PRESENT: Shellonda Rucker/Henkels & McCoy, Kyla Gutierrez/ResCare, Chala Barrington-Cruz/Covenant House Florida, Lee Pates/Children’s Home Society, Gloria Vine Wilkinson/Goodwill Industries

WELCOME & CHAIR’S REMARKS

Call to Order

Ms. Clements called the meeting to order at 2:33pm 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 January 8, 2014 Youth Committee Minutes

Ms. Koziol made a motion to approve the 1/8/14 Youth Committee Minutes. Mr. Plettinck seconded, motion passed.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Mission Moment – Department of Juvenile Justice / Lake & Sumter Counties

Mr. Bedson with the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) – Circuit 5 stated that their region works with three different CareerSource regional boards. Last week, they had a very successful meeting between DJJ and the youth providers in our region. DJJ learned more about CareerSource Central Florida and youth services. Although the population of the youth they serve is smaller than the Orlando area, their needs are just as great. For youth returning back into the system (start 60 days out), DJJ makes sure they become quickly engaged – CareerSource Central Florida youth services are built into their treatment plan. DJJ will meet youth at their homes and go over their treatment plan

and figure out where to fill the gaps. If youth are on probation, DJJ connects youth to CareerSource Central Florida youth program for employment/education skills development. DJJ provides office space in Lake and Sumter counties for youth providers to meet the youth and provide services.

2. Youth Summit Update

Mr. Gathers indicated that a Youth Summit will be scheduled later in the year - the target date will be at some point in the fall. A taskforce group will be formed to meet and plan for the Youth Summit – these meetings will be publically noticed. Ms. Lake volunteered to be on the taskforce and any other Youth Committee member is welcome to join this group as well.

3. Youth Provider Training Updates

Mr. Gathers stated that staff has been providing eligibility process training to all training providers to help them as they craft their programs in terms of eligibility for the target populations.

4. Youth Providers - Updates

- Henkels & McCoy (H&M)

Ms. Rucker provided an overview and current status/updates of their program, which services in-school and out-of-school youth in all counties of this region. H&M currently has 195 youth enrolled: 118 in-school youth and 77 out-of-school youth. Per request of the Youth Committee, Ms. Rucker referred to the chart on the handout that shows the breakdown in numbers by county and in-school/out-of-school. She also reviewed the participant demographics. H&M is continuing to develop partnerships and recruiting sources. Ms. Rucker shared a success story of an out-of-school youth participant in Lake County who received her NRF Customer Service Certification in the program and now is working as a Customer Service Representative with Bank of America. This participant is also enrolled for fall classes at Lake Sumter State College. Mr. D’Aiuto asked what the breakdown is for aging out foster youth. Ms. Rucker replied that she will add this demographic in the report. Mr. Bedson commented that each county has a children’s alliance board and suggested that the youth providers attend these forums to make connections – this is a good avenue for partnerships. Ms. Nabors extended her thanks to H&M for all their hard work and the set-up of the infrastructure, being the first youth provider on board.

- ResCare

Ms. Gutierrez indicated that they had 37 youth enrolled through end of February and currently the total is now 43 youth enrolled. The goal is 260. One area that has been very successful is employer partnerships – they currently have more employers waiting for youth than vice versa. Also the job success rate is very good. ResCare is still struggling with location recognition. Mr. Mitchell asked if they are having any challenges enrolling youth. Ms. Gutierrez replied that it is difficult finding where the out-of-school youth are – since they are not connected with a school, it is not as easy to locate these youth and also for youth to be aware that these services exist. Ms. Gutierrez asked the Youth Committee to let her know of any ideas/resources that ResCare could utilize. Ms. Nabors added that all providers are promoted under “CareerSource Central Florida Youth Program” – staff is currently crafting the youth message and looking to distribute the message more broadly. Ms. Lake stated that DJJ could run data from their system and pull youth in-school vs. out-of-school and cross reference names. Ms. Gutierrez replied that she would appreciate any data that can help them find youth.

- Children’s Home Society

Mr. Pates with Children's Home Society stated that their program involves the juniors and seniors at Evans High School. Their goal is to enroll 175 youth. They have outreached to 400 youth and 50 have completed applications. Classes/incentives will start in April 2014. The goal is to have all enrolled kids working this summer. Mr. Bundy commented that it would be helpful for ResCare and Children's Home Society to work together and help each other find out-of-school youth. Some of these youth may have siblings who are out-of-school.

- **Covenant House**

Ms. Barrington-Cruz stated that they are a 24-hour shelter and their goal is to serve 125 out-of-school youth. They will be providing wraparound services by extending youth's stay in the program to help get them into a career. They currently have 18 youth enrolled and 8 in the process. Ms. Barrington-Cruz invited the Youth Committee to attend one of their lunch & learn sessions to learn more about Covenant House. This occurs the first Thursday of each month.

- **Goodwill**

Ms. Wilkinson stated that their goal is to service 200 in-school youth and currently have 13 youth enrolled, another 16 are in process and need to be TABE tested. With the school day structure, the time to TABE test is challenging – during spring break they hope to have the testing done.

Mr. Muhammad asked how the providers work with enrollments so they are not crossing over each other. Mr. Gathers stated that once providers establish their connections with a high school or community organization, he is keeping a running list which he provides back out to the providers, in order to avoid overlapping/connecting with the same high schools/community organizations between providers.

Mr. Muhammad commended both staff and the youth providers for all the work they have done. Ms. Clements concurred.

5. Update on Contract Obligations, Expenditures, Enrollments and Performance

Mr. Gathers referred to the "Youth Program Summary Report" in the meeting packet and provided a summary on key projects and performance outcomes, with the following highlights:

- Staff in collaboration with youth providers will be hosting mass recruitment events (evenings and weekends) in all counties to boost enrollments.
- Staff is working with Covenant House, Goodwill and ResCare on modifications to their contracts that will increase the number of youth serviced this program year.
- Business Service Unit is working with local employers to market Youth Work Experience activity and identify potential worksites on behalf of the contractors.

6. Summer Program Options

Ms. Nabors stated that after their discussions with Department of Economic Opportunity and CareerSource Florida in Tallahassee, CareerSource Central Florida is charged with: creating a summer option by engaging youth in summer activities to include maximizing youth into work experiences activities this spring and summer. Then, into the 14-15 program year, youth will be ready to engage in the year round process. Mr. Neal added that to assist the five youth providers in ramping up their enrollments, staff is proposing to set up the infrastructure and be the hub for organizing the work experience effort for summer. Staff still have connections with employers from previous summer youth programs and can help youth providers to outreach/enroll youth and

establish job sites. Temporary staff can also be provided to the youth providers to help during the work experience program duration. Ms. Hinton stated they are working with the Communications department to work on the messaging to parents, youth and employers.

Ms. Clements asked if staff is identifying older siblings, from the in-school youth, who could be out-of-school youth as well as looking at adults who could have children. Ms. Hinton affirmed, staff communicate to WIA Adult and WT customers to let them know about the youth program. Ms. Lake added that DJJ can also help to make referrals. Mr. Muhammad asked how they plan to proceed. Mr. Neal replied that open houses will be held and youth can select the provider of choice. Youth will enroll as a participant in a year round program, with a summer activity component. Ms. Elliott-Moore stated that an email blast on the youth program will be forwarded to the Youth Committee, who then in turn can forward to their contacts.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Nabors stated that a "Youth Career/Connect" grant came out in December 2013 (Department of Labor initiative) and CareerSource Central Florida has partnered with Seminole and Orange County schools to create an occupations youth career prep program for in-school youth. A thanks to Mr. Gathers for his work coordinating this initiative with these schools. Mr. Gathers added CareerSource Central Florida has also recently partnered with Sumter County Schools with the AT&T Aspire High School success initiative.

CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

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, April 2, 2014 here at the CareerSource Central Florida administration office.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kaz Kasal
Sr. Administrative Assistant