

Youth Committee Meeting

Workforce Central Florida
1392 East Vine St.
Kissimmee, FL 34744
Wednesday, April 3, 2013
2:30 p.m.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Debbie Clements, Allie Braswell (via phone), David Bundy (via phone), William D’Aiuto, Randy Means (via phone), Brian Michaels (via phone), Dwight Mitchell (via phone), Tadar Muhammad (via phone), Bill Oakley, Jack Plettinck (via phone), Craig Polejes, Maggie Teachout, Brent Trotter (via phone), and Virginia Whittington

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lonnie Bell, Tom Doyle, Larry Eason, Wendy Hammock-Silungwe, Deborah Moffitt, Katie Porta, Dr. Robert Spooney, and Danyiel Yarbrough

STAFF PRESENT: Pam Nabors, Kevin Neal, Joyce Hinton, Jennifer Wilson, Tonya Elliott, Nilda Blanco, Chad Kunerth, Suzan Awad, and Kaz Kasal

WELCOME & CHAIR’S REMARKS

Call to Order

Ms. Clements called the meeting to order at 2:32pm 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 March 13, 2013 Youth Committee Minutes

After review, Mr. Michaels made a motion to approve the March 13, 2013 Youth Committee Minutes. Mr. D’Aiuto seconded, motion passed.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Foster Youth in Central Florida

Mr. D’Aiuto, Youth Committee Member and Regional Managing Director with Department of Children and Families (DCF) greeted the committee and provided a Powerpoint presentation entitled “Youth Aging Out of Foster Care,” reviewing a breakdown of the number of kids in care and in foster homes. Mr. D’Aiuto also reviewed survey results from the “Florida NYTD Survey Report Sprint 2012” – this was a survey completed by 1,821 young adults ages 18 to 22 who aged out of Florida’s foster care system and provides percentages as to their status with housing, employment, training and any government aid they are receiving (foods stamps, Medicaid), as well as percentages of those who were arrested/received confinement sentences.

Mr. D’Aiuto introduced Michael Bryant, Chief Operating Officer and Karla Radka, Vice President of Community Impact & Leadership Development, with Community Based Care (CBC) of Central Florida, which is the leading agency for foster care in Central Florida. Mr. D’Aiuto stated that DCF works together with CBC on

issues/challenges in the child welfare system to improve the quality of life and opportunities for foster youth. He asked Mr. Bryant to provide their presentation.

Mr. Bryant greeted the committee and thanked them for inviting him to speak at their meeting. He stated that CBC covers Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties. Mr. Bryant provided the following highlighted from his presentation:

History of the State Run System - underperformance, lack of adequate staff training, high staff turnover, high caseloads, difficulty establishing effective community relationships.

After legislation pushed for privatization, CBC was created to deal with foster related issues, with their main goal to make sure foster youth can get into a stable home environment and assist youth with education and employment opportunities. Privatization also resulted in getting more staff (with less staff turnover rate) and provided the ability to specifically focus on areas that needed improvement, as well as working with WCF and other local non-profit organizations to address local issues; stronger case management/coordinated care for kids; delineation of services; engagement with community; development of a robust provider network; and building trust. This region went from bottom ranking in the state to #4. Having a more stable home environment with less foster home crowding and a higher number of adoptions, helps to increase focus on education and jobs, which helps to improve their potential.

How can we help? – prepare youth to meet their potentials; empowerment; increase engagement and connectivity in community – mentoring/training is very important; transportation – only 20% of have drivers licenses. Create a culture of CREST: Communication, Respect, Empowerment, Support and Trust.

Mr. Means asked what programs help address kids' communication skills. Mr. Polejes indicated that their organization has training on success skills, which started here locally and then rolled out nationally. This training provides youth on how to market oneself: writing a resume, what to wear, body language, what to say/what not to say. This has been a great success. Mr. Mitchell indicated that their organization focuses on 16-18 teens in professional /soft skills training. Dr. Teachout stated that feedback from industry partners in their area have indicated that youth lack most in soft skills and conflict/resolution. Lake County wrote a curriculum in coordination with human resources professionals in the business community to be implemented in career technical programs. She offered to share this curriculum with committee.

Mr. Mohammad thanked DCF and CBC for the information provided today. He commented both foster kids where there is no parent vs. youth with parents have unemployment issues – that both groups of youth need focus. Mr. Braswell concurred – he sees this all over the region. Ms. Clements concurred and commented that there are also other groups such as homeless, disabled, juvenile that are eligible for programs and that the Youth Committee should learn more about.

Ms. Clements thanked Mr. D'Aiuto and Mr. Bryant for their presentations.

Ms. Wilson indicated that she was at a community action event yesterday and they discussed a calendar of events that shows services offered with other providers. She will share this calendar once developed so committee/organizations can participate/get engaged to help build in the community. Ms. Radka concurred, providing the calendar with information on other providers and their services would be very beneficial. Ms. Nabors added that WCF can play a facilitator role for calendaring youth – employment or other events for organizations providing youth services.

Ms. Clements commented on the article in the Orlando Sentinel regarding the City of Life partnership – this is a great article that captures the breadth of issues and how important youth preparation is in order for them to attain employment.

Status of Boot Camp Activities

Ms. Wilson provided a status of Project CoNEXTion's boot camp activities. The first Boot Camp that was held on 3/25/2013 - 3/29/2013, staff were only able to enroll 12 youth (2 – Osceola, 9 Orange, 1 Seminole). The Boot Camp was not as successful as hoped, since there were a number of other spring break activities taking place during that week. Additional Boot Camp locations and dates are to follow.

Demographics / Performance Data

Ms. Blanco provided a Powerpoint presentation on additional data, per request from committee at the last meeting (attached).

Status of WIA Youth Procurement

Ms. Blanco stated that the RFP for year-round youth services was issued/posted on WCF website on 3/26/13 and legal notice has also been posted. Proposals are due by 5/3/13 at noon. Ms. Blanco announced there will be a Bidders Conference this Friday, 4/5/13 at which she will provide an overview/clarifications on the RFP and answer any questions bidders may have.

NEW BUSINESS / ACTION ITEMS

Ms. Clements announced a point has been reached in the meeting where an action item, with regard to the RFP/Youth Incentive Plan, will be reviewed/discussed. She advised if any providers who serve on this committee have any intention of bidding/responding to the RFP, they should refrain from participating during this section of the meeting. Also if they have not yet filled out the conflict of interest form, to please inform Ms. Kasal and one would be emailed to them. The following committee members are on record, that have filled out a conflict of interest form:

- Craig Polejes, Junior Achievement of Central Florida
- Tadar Muhammad, Home Builders Institute
- Dwight Mitchell, Professional Opportunities Programs for Students, Inc.
- Barbara Newton, Professional Opportunities Programs for Students, Inc.
- Linda Rimmer, Goodwill Industries of Central Florida
- Bill Oakley, Goodwill Industries of Central Florida
- Allie Braswell, Central Florida Urban League, Inc.

Action Item – Youth Incentive Plan

Ms. Wilson provided a review of staff recommendations for the proposed incentive plan as follows:

- Project ConNEXTion Boot Camp Completion - \$100
- Credential Attainment - \$50
- High School diploma - \$100
- Increasing reading/math skills - \$50
- Support services – based on need; up to \$150
- Obtaining employment (more than 15 hours/week) - \$50 OR
- Entering post-secondary, advanced training, or military - \$50
- Employment Retention – retain employment for 30 days - \$50

Ms. Clements asked what type of credential attainment? Ms. Wilson replied this would be a nationally recognized credential attainment.

Ms. Whittington asked if a youth already has a high school diploma, then how would they be provided an incentive. Ms. Clements asked if they have a high school diploma would they automatically receive \$100. Ms. Nabors replied no – if they have a high school diploma, then they would work on the educational credential that they next need to attain.

Ms. Clement recommended that the maximum incentive be changed from \$550 to \$500, whether in-school or out-of-school. Staff can work out the details on this with weighting and aligning the actual dollar amounts with WIA outcomes.

Ms. Whittington made a motion to approve the above proposed incentive plan with the change to \$500 maximum received per participant. Mr. D’Aiuto seconded, with Mr. Polejes, Mr. Muhammad, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Oakley, Mr. Braswell abstaining, and motion passed.

Next Meeting

Ms. Nabors indicated that the Youth Committee should continue to have comprehensive presentations on other target youth groups and asked the committee if they have any ideas for presentations to please let her know. Also if anyone would like to host the location of the next meeting please let Pam know.

Ms. Clements asked Ms. Kasal to send out potential meeting dates out to the Youth Committee – probably dates at end of May or early June.

CHAIR’S CLOSING REMARKS

Ms. Clements thanked those for attending today’s meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kaz Kasal
Sr. Administrative Assistant