

Youth Committee Meeting

Workforce Central Florida
707 Mendham Blvd., Suite 250, Orlando, FL 32825
Wednesday, August 7, 2013
2:30 p.m.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Debbie Clements, David Bundy, William D’Aiuto, Larry Eason (via phone), Paulette Edwards, Kamil Fadel, John Gill, Wendy Hammock-Silungwe, Ivan Kaled, Randy Means (via phone), Brian Michaels (via phone), Dwight Mitchell (via phone), Deborah Moffitt (via phone), Tadar Muhammad (via phone), Barbara Newton (via phone), Jack Plettinck, Randy Reynolds (via phone), Linda Rimmer, Brent Trotter (via phone), and Virginia Whittington

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lonnie Bell, Tom Doyle, Craig Polejes, Dr. Robert Spooney, Maggie Teachout, and Danyiel Yarbrough

STAFF PRESENT: Pam Nabors, Joyce Hinton, Jennifer Wilson, Nilda Blanco (via phone), Chad Kunerth, Suzan Awad, and Kaz Kasal

GUESTS PRESENT: Shellonda Rucker, Candace Burns/Henkels & McCoy; Ruth Patrick, Aja Smith/BETA Center

WELCOME & CHAIR’S REMARKS

Call to Order

Ms. Clements called the meeting to order at 2:30pm, welcomed those in attendance, and asked the two new members, Ivan Kaled and Kamil Fadel representing Youth, to introduce themselves. Both Mr. Kaled and Mr. Fadel are working as interns at Orange County Government. Ms. Clements thanked Mr. Kaled and Mr. Fadel for deciding to serve on the Youth Committee – their input will be valuable as both are youth.

Roll Call

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

Public Comment

None offered.

Approval of the May 23, 2013 Youth Committee Minutes

Ms. Whittington advised that the minutes need to reflect that she was present at the 5/23/13 meeting. Ms. Nabors indicated this correction will be made. **After further review, Mr. Plettinck made a motion to approve the May 23, 2013 Youth Committee Minutes. Mr. Kaled seconded, motion passed.**

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Update on Henkels & McCoy – Contract/Program Launch

Ms. Wilson stated that the board approved awarding Henkels & McCoy (H&M) the WIA year-round youth services contract. H&M has already hit the ground running and are almost fully staffed. Ms. Wilson introduced the representatives from Henkels & McCoy, Shellonda Rucker, Regional Manager and Candace Burns, Program Manager, who will be providing a program update in today’s meeting. Ms. Rucker greeted the committee and expressed her thanks that H&M has been awarded to

facilitate the year-round youth program. She referenced the Powerpoint presentation in today's packet entitled "Project CoNEXTion." Both Ms. Rucker and Ms. Burns provided an overview on H&M's history/background and the company's overall WIA experience and performance. H&M currently serves six Florida Regional Workforce Boards. Ms. Rucker and Ms. Burns then provided a status of where they were with program facilitation in this region and went over the following areas: targeted population serving (550 youth from low income, with at least one barrier); locations serving in this region; staffing (career coaches, job developers); their outreach with community partnerships; their program service delivery model; incentives/wages (stipend based on performance); and positive outcomes. The focus is for youth (both in and out of school) to earn a credential and either to go secondary school/college or job placement. H&M's commitment is to build trust and stay connected with youth with constant follow up; giving up is not an option.

Ms. Clements asked about H&M's partnership with Orange County Public Schools. Ms. Rucker replied they are starting with 4 charter schools in Orange County and then go from there.

Ms. Nabors asked if H&M have enrolled any youth yet. Ms. Rucker replied that she had 13 enrolled already, and this Friday (8/9/13) will be EFM enrollment day – so some will be registered in EFM this Friday.

Ms. Clements commended H&M on how far they have progressed in just 1 ½ months.

2. Wrap-up on Project CoNEXTion – PY 12-13

Ms. Wilson stated that all of the \$600,000 in remaining funds was spent by 6/30/13. 100 youth were enrolled in the program. 82 youth have completed boot camp and 74 have started work experience, with 8 youth obtaining employment.

3. WIA Youth Procurement Round Two - Timeline

Ms. Nabors reviewed the handout entitled "WCF – WIA Youth Procurement Round II Timeline" in the meeting packet. An RFP for additional youth service provider(s) (which consists of \$3.2M in additional funding) was posted on the WCF website today, 8/7/13. In the first RFP, it was expected that more local community organizations would have responded; however many did not due to their lack of experience working with WIA funding and all of its complexities. To further assist these local based organizations better understand WIA funding, WCF provided a two-day workshop on Monday (8/5/13) and Tuesday (8/6/13) of this week; and it is hoped that these organizations will respond to this 2nd RFP. Ms. Wilson added that there was good attendance at the workshop - about 20 community organizations attended. Based on the survey these organizations took at the end of the workshop most indicated that the course met and exceeded expectations and also found the EFM demonstration helpful. Ms. Clements stated that a Review Committee will be formed to review/evaluate the proposals and their recommendation will be forwarded to the full board for review/approval to award contract(s). Since the Youth Committee consists of many youth providers, it was decided it would be more prudent to have the full board approve awarding of contract(s). Ms. Clements welcomed anyone on the committee if they would like to participate on the Review Committee to let Ms. Nabors or Ms. Wilson know. Ms. Clements added that reviewing/evaluating the proposals is a lengthy process, with a 1 to 2 week intense commitment; however this is a very meaningful undertaking. Ms. Hinton advised the committee that they cannot discuss any board/committee matters outside publically noticed meetings.

4. BETA Center Presentation

Ruth Patrick, President/CEO and Aja Smith introduced themselves and thanked the committee for allowing them to present at today's meeting.

Ms. Ruth Patrick, President/CEO, provided a handout entitled "BETA Center Summary" and indicated that the BETA Center serves families in crises and children in jeopardy of abuse/neglect. Their focus is on educating and empowering families in the facilitation of five specific areas: 1) residential program for pregnant women living in unsafe environments; 2) education – strong partnership with OCPS; 3) child care services/developmental child care; 4) emergency services (food, formulas, diapers); and 5) community education. Ms. Smith stated that she works with the young women in the residential program and is the liaison with the summer program. She provided an in-depth view of what help these youth receive – the process starts with addressing their basic needs (families that come to BETA Center are in crises), and once they are set up with the needed resources, then the focus turns to specific goals – i.e. developing life skills and personal responsibility, education attainment and job readiness skills. Thanks to Joyce Hinton for the connection with WCF, in three weeks three of their girls are out of the residential program and involved in the youth internship. They look forward to a continued partnership with WCF to help improve the lives of these affected youth. Ms. Clements thanked Ms. Ruth and Ms. Smith for their presentation.

Ms. Rimmer announced that there will be Ruby Payne training on poverty - its impact and how to improve the lives of those in poverty. The trainings will take place next week at the BETA Center and Goodwill. Further details on this will be emailed out to the committee after the meeting.

5. Follow-up on Region Wide Youth Activities Calendar

Ms. Wilson stated they have been researching the committee's suggestion at the previous meeting on having a centralized community calendar where all youth providers can place their information on resources and events. Ms. Hinton pulled up the findyouthinfo.gov website for the committee to review. Information on local community resources can be pulled up by zip code and then further narrowed down by topic and department. There is also a "share a resource" where community organization can place their information; however this website is not responsible for monitoring information - each agency needs to monitor and update their own information. Ms. Nabors indicated that further discussion will continue on coordination of programs to effectively connect youth Ms. Wilson suggested having a roundtable discussion with WIA eligible youth to help identify their needs and issues. Ms. Nabors concurred – this could be a symposium for youth and youth providers to raise issues such as the huge number of youth who are unemployed, approximately 75%. This symposium can help address the challenges youth are facing and discuss ways to resolve. Mr. Fadel and Mr. Kaled's involvement in this – their outreach and own valuable input, will be very helpful and instrumental

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, October 2, 2013 here at the WCF administration office.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kaz Kasal
Sr. Administrative Assistant