

Youth Committee Meeting

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

2:00 p.m.

CareerSource Central Florida
707 Mendham Blvd., Suite 250
Orlando, FL 32825

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Debbie Clements, Lonnie Bell, William D’Aiuto, Lorna Garrow, Sue Koziol, Randy Means, Brian Michaels, Barbara Newton, Jack Plettinck, Randy Reynolds, Linda Rimmer, Dr. Robert Spooney, Jeff Whitehead, and Virginia Whittington

MEMBERS ABSENT: Christine Burk, Gary Cain, Tom Doyle, Larry Eason, Paulette Edwards, Kamil Fadel, Wendy Hammock-Silungwe, Jovanna Heavener, Tadar Muhammad, Maggie Teachout, Michael Shaver and Brent Trotter

STAFF PRESENT: Pam Nabors, Mimi Coenen, Joyce Hinton, Kenneth Gathers, Nilda Blanco, Chad Kunerth and Kaz Kasal

GUESTS PRESENT: Shellonda Rucker/Henkels & McCoy, Alyza Gonzalez/Youth Participant, Randy DeBoer/University Technical Institute

WELCOME & CHAIR’S REMARKS

Call to Order

Ms. Clements called the meeting to order at 2:05pm 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 July 2, 2014 Youth Committee Minutes

Ms. Koziol made a motion to approve the 7/2/14 Youth Committee Minutes. Mr. Bell seconded, motion passed.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Introduction of Operating Officer/Director of Operations

Ms. Nabors introduced Mimi Coenen, the new Operating Officer/Director of Operations. Ms. Nabors stated that Ms. Coenen comes to CareerSource Central Florida with 20 years’ experience with workforce development. Working at West Palm and Broward County regional workforce boards, Ms. Coenen brings comprehensive experience from every aspect of operations. Recently, Ms. Coenen served as Youth Director for Palm Beach County.

2. Mission Moment

Glen Providence with Parramore Kidz Zone (PKZ)/City of Orlando greeted the committee. Mr. Providence stated that their organization provides wraparound support to kids in the Parramore area, which is near downtown Orlando. PKZ's main focus is to increase high school graduation rate and decrease teen pregnancies. PKZ recently launched an academy service initiative where students receive economic assistance/savings program while staying in school, which provides incentive for students to graduate high school and continue on to trade/vocation training or college. In June 23 students graduated, there were no teen arrests in over three years and pregnancy rates are nil. Mr. Providence welcomed the committee to take a tour of their facility. Mr. Bell asked what activities have been the most effective in keeping kids engaged. Mr. Providence replied that any exposure opportunities outside their immediate area are effective – such as field trips to colleges.

3. Performance Presentations

- **Goodwill**
Representative from Goodwill provided a presentation overview on current status with the program, challenges, partnerships and areas of focus. Their goal to enroll 200 in-school youth has been met. They placed 141 youth in summer work experience. They continue their focus on staff training and enhancing program development to include soft skills training. Goodwill appreciates the ongoing technical assistance from CareerSource Central Florida staff; their support has made the program the success it is.
- **Children's Home Society**
Ms. Pates with Children's Home Society provided an overview of their successes, challenges and focus for the coming year. They currently have 175 youth enrolled. 110 were enrolled in the summer internship program. Their focus for this year is to enhance their program with more assessments, certifications, internship opportunities during school breaks, and re-engagement with those participants who have dropped out of the program. Ms. Pates commented that CareerSource Central Florida staff has been instrumental with their technical support.
- **Covenant House**
Ms. Barrington-Cruz provided an overview of current program status, goals and challenges. They currently have 107 youth enrolled. Their challenges are creating a program within a program and building strong staff. Their goals for the year are to expend their outreach efforts to homeless youth in Osceola and Seminole and create exposure to educational and careers opportunities by setting up college and business tours and guest speakers. Ms. Barrington-Cruz also shared a testimonial letter from one of their participants.
- **ResCare**
Ms. Gutierrez provided an overview of their program status, successes, challenges and areas of focus. They currently have 162 youth enrolled. Ms. Gutierrez also provided videoed testimonials from three participants, who spoke of their successes in the program. A big challenge is finding out-of-school youth, and then keeping them engaged and retained. Their focus this year is to increase placements and outcomes, as well as enhancing the program to include increasing training opportunities, providing more hardcopy materials & hands-on learning opportunities, longer term life skills training and an expanded portfolio of local employers.

- **Henkels & McCoy (H&M)**
Ms. Rucker provided an overview and current status/updates of their program. H&M currently has 548 youth enrolled. Ms. Rucker also provided a review of their successes, challenges and opportunities. Challenges include recruiting/enrolling out-of-school youth and training staff on the many compliance expectations. The goals for the year include out-of-school enrollment and positive outcome focus, increasing industry certifications, and increasing number of out-of-school youth work experience placements.

4. Youth Managers Report

Mr. Gathers referred to the “Youth Managers Report” in the meeting packet and provided highlights on partnerships and collaborations to include: the success of the Central Florida Employment Council Job Fair event, establishing a partnership with City of Orlando to access space in the recreation centers to deliver services to youth in the community, and establishing a youth internship program with the City of Sanford. Mr. Gathers also provided a performance summary and financial review of each youth contractor. Mr. D’Aiuto asked what is being done to get more youth enrolled in Lake and Sumter counties? Ms. Nabors replied that there is a targeted effort to partner with key organizations in Lake and Sumter counties. There is also a focus to ramp up in Osceola county.

5. Youth Summit Update

Mr. Gathers stated that the timeframe planned for the Youth Summit will be next January or February 2015. Youth employment will be the focus of the summit with stakeholders and businesses in attendance. The Youth Summit will include keynote speakers and review of WIOA. Currently looking for sponsorships and space for the Youth Summit.

6. WIOA Update

Mr. Gathers referred to the document in the meeting packet entitled “What’s New in WIOA – Youth Workforce Investment Activities” and reviewed the key elements with regard to youth in the new legislative changes, which will include placing a priority on out-of-school youth, high school dropout recovery and achievement of recognized postsecondary credentials. As there will be less funding for in-school youth, it would be important to figure out revenue diversification strategies/partnership support in order to continue the successful in-school programming, so as not to lose the momentum established.

The committee also discussed ways to increase participation and commitment on both the youth and employer side – for youth: improved soft skills and for employers: their buy-in to be a mentor and provide valuable on the job training vs. the perception getting “free labor.” Developing a supervisor orientation to prepare employers ahead of time on the importance of their role in this program was discussed/considered.

7. Special Projects/Initiatives

Mr. Gathers stated that up to \$1M in unobligated funds have been earmarked/can be used toward out-of-school youth, in preparation of new WIOA legislation. The below listing are areas that have been identified where there is a critical need:

- Parramore District
- Lake/Sumter
- Foster Youth

Mr. Bell made a motion to allow up to \$1M be used towards out-of-school youth in services and

programs. Mr. D'Auito seconded, motion passed.

Dr. Spooney made a motion for staff seek open requests for proposals on three procurements, per each of the above listed out-of-school youth initiatives. Mr. D'Auito seconded, motion passed.

8. Review of Upcoming Meetings

Ms. Clements stated that the listed on today's agenda will be the dates/time of upcoming meetings. Ms. Kasal will send out calendar invites to the youth committee on these dates/times.

9. Other

No additional business was offered/discussed.

CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Ms. Clements thanked those who attended today's meeting and adjourned the meeting at 3:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kaz Kasal
Administrative Supervisor