

Youth Committee Meeting

Lake Tech Center

2001 Kurt St.

Eustis FL 32726

Thursday, May 23, 2013

2:30 p.m.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Debbie Clements, Lonnie Bell (via phone), David Bundy (via phone), William D'Aiuto (via phone), Larry Eason, Randy Means (via phone), Brian Michaels (via phone), Dwight Mitchell (via phone), Tadar Muhammad (via phone), Barbara Newman (via phone), Bill Oakley (via phone), Jack Plettinck, Craig Polejes (via phone), Linda Rimmer (via phone), Dr. Robert Spooney, Maggie Teachout, and Virginia Whittington

MEMBERS ABSENT: Allie Braswell, Tom Doyle, John Gill, Wendy Hammock-Silungwe, Randy Means, Deborah Moffitt, Brent Trotter and Danyiel Yarbrough

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

WELCOME & CHAIR'S REMARKS

Call to Order

Ms. Clements called the meeting to order at 2:35pm 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 April 3, 2013 Youth Committee Minutes

After review, Mr. Michaels made a motion to approve the April 3, 2013 Youth Committee Minutes. Mr. Plettinck seconded, motion passed.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. WIA Year-Round Youth Services – RFP Update

Ms. Clements reported that the RFP for the WIA Year-Round Youth Services went out in April 2013 and responses were received in early May 2013. Ms. Clements extended her thanks to the Review Committee for their time and commitment through this review process. The Review Committee consisted of: Debbie Clements, Larry Walter, Bob Carlisle, Paul Bough, Mark Wylie. The committee met on 5/13/13 to review and score the five proposals received. The committee quickly identified the top three scoring proposals. These top three scorers were asked to return on 5/20/13 and provide presentations and additional information. After a question and answer session with each provider, the Committee discussed their scores and then ranked each proposer. Based on the committee's ranking, a recommendation to select Henkels & McCoy was made. The committee's

formal recommendation to negotiate contract of H&M for year-round, in-school and out-of-school youth services to all five counties, will be forwarded to the Board for review and approval. Ms. Nabors added that since this recommendation does not obligate the full \$2M, WCF will be working with Ms. Clements and the board on the utilization of the remaining funds.

Ms. Clements commented that the responders to this RFP were largely national firms and there was a disappointment that very few, local-based community organizations applied. Some barriers that local organizations have are: lack of experience working with WIA funding and all of its complexities; not being able to meet all WIA eligibility criteria; and not having capacity to "front" the money (not able to initially fund to start-up the program, while waiting for reimbursement). The Review Committee discussed this issue and it was suggested that another RFP be released for a smaller, more targeted program, which would be more feasible for local organizations to facilitate. This would also provide the opportunity for local organizations to gain experience working with WIA programs and better position them to compete with the larger, national organizations. The advantage with local community organizations is their ability to better reach their respective local populations.

2. Update on Project CoNEXTion

Ms. Wilson provided the following updates on the Project CoNEXTion:

- Currently 81 youth enrolled in the program.
- 71 youth have completed boot camp and are projected to start work experience.
- There are 10 youth that staff need to follow-up on, to see where they are at and get them engaged.
- Further update for Orange County - there was an event yesterday which 38 attended. 33 of these youth were placed and they will start their work experience next week.
- Youth experience currently includes the following types of positions: office assistants, grocery clerks, thrift store workers, dock workers, camp counselors, cook/bakery assistants, child-care assistants. Orange County Library System will be included in the next round.
- 28 employers have applied.
- \$450,000 remaining in funds to be utilized prior to 6/30/13.
- Need to enroll 40 more youth to get to the targeted number of 120. A lot of applications were received; however not all were eligible.
- There is a boot camp scheduled for next week in Lake County.

Ms. Clements asked how often youth are certified/re-certified to be eligible. Ms. Wilson replied that eligibility is based on the time they enter the program. Mr. Mohammad asked if the 33 that were placed in Orange is in addition to the 81. Ms. Wilson replied that this is part of the 81 total. Mr. Mohammad asked if the \$450,000 needs to be spent by 6/30/13. Ms. Nabors affirmed, the funds need to be used up for enrolling youth by 6/30/13; however these funds can be carried in to new program year and used for existing enrolled youth in work experience, and other related activities over the summer. There will be more outreach efforts, and also work experience hours can be added to existing youth in the program. Ms. Wilson added that there have been challenges with the format and they are looking at other boot camp options.

Ms. Nabors stated that the current information received today does not include April 2013 numbers. Staff will provide update as of 4/30/13 and email this out to the Youth Committee. Ms. Nabors asked Youth Committee to help with outreach efforts for this program and asked Ms. Wilson to email out to the committee the flyers on the program.

3. Juvenile Justice Presentation

Randy Reynolds, with the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), greeted the committee and introduced himself as Circuit Coordinator for Circuit 5, which covers Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Marion and Sumter counties. Mr. Reynolds stated that he has worked with DJJ for 4 years, and has been recently put into his current position, which is a new position with a large focus on helping transition youth to find jobs. Mr. Reynolds indicated his previous background includes work as detention officer and work in probation. Mr. Reynolds provided an in-depth Powerpoint presentation to the committee entitled: "Challenges of Employing DJJ Youth" in which he reviewed DJJ's system, terminology, employability challenges with juvenile youth, and outreach efforts. A hard copy of the Powerpoint presentation was included in the meeting packet. Mr. Reynolds thanked the committee for inviting him to present at today's meeting and provided his contact information. Ms. Nabors asked Mr. D'Auito to provide counterpart contacts for Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties – to identify how juvenile youth are handled in these counties.

4. Region Wide Youth Activities Calendar

Ms. Hinton stated, at the request of the Youth Committee, that staff are working to post on WCF website a universal calendar which all agencies can view all youth activities within the 5-county region. Staff is working with the Communications and IT departments to coordinate the set-up of this calendar and submission of information from agencies into the calendar. Ms. Blanco added that staff has been researching "Children's Cabinets" to learn about their efforts and how to link with them. "Children's Cabinets" was originally established by Lawton Chiles after he left his governorship, which focuses on keeping youth safe and families together by offering services and resources that address unmet needs. Ms. Hinton indicated that she is planning to attend the "Children's Cabinets" meetings in this region's counties to get more information.

Next Meeting

Ms. Nabors suggested having the next Youth Committee Meeting in late July or August 2013 – the Youth Committee can review the status of year-round contract and review another presentation on targeted youth. Ms. Clements concurred and asked staff to send out some potential meeting date/time options.

CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

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

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kaz Kasal
Sr. Administrative Assistant