

Youth Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes

October 13, 2010

Host: Penobscot Job Corps

Meeting Attendees: Sarah White (JMG); Victoria Coffey (Penobscot Job Corps); Tim Shaw (City of Bangor); Shannon Young (Del-Jen/Job Corps); Sheila Terrill (Brewer Housing Authority) Sheena Scales (EMDC); Cathy Hamel (Bangor Y); Martin Chartrand (Food and Medicine); Jon Farley (EMDC); Tom Hart (JMG); Nancy McKechnie (EMDC) Seamus Higgins (EMDC); Gillian Jordan (UCB)

1. Welcome

Tom Hart welcomed the group. Everyone introduced themselves and identified the organization they represent.

2. Meeting Minutes

Two corrections made to names were noted for edits in the meeting minutes. Otherwise, minutes were voted for approval.

Motion by Seamus Higgins; Seconded by Tim Shaw to approve the meeting minutes. Accepted.

3. Unresolved Action Item -Asset Mapping

The original discussion surrounding asset mapping began last winter as an idea to help fix the “lack of identity” of the Youth Council. An asset map would provide the community with increased awareness of what the Youth Council does and resources available for youth in the Tri-County area. It would be a “working document” that would always need updating as local area resources change.

A discussion around whether an updated Resource Guide was necessary, or whether we would be creating a redundant document ensued. It was decided that the Council would like to see what is currently available in the Tri-County area, and whether it is a comprehensive document. A copy of Tri-County area Resource Guides will be gathered and sent out to the Youth Council for review. Shelly Reilly will be if an asset map will be an effective way to spend our time, or whether we would be duplicating efforts already in place.

4. Penobscot Job Corps Overview – Victoria Coffey

Victoria Coffey gave an overview of Penobscot Job Corps Center services they provide to youth.

Job Corps is a no-cost education and career technical training program administered by the U.S. Department of Labor that helps young people ages 16 through 24 improve the quality of their lives through career technical and academic training. Job Corps has been around for 45 years. There are 123 Job Corps in the Country. The Penobscot Job Corps began in 1980 and is funded by DOL.

The Penobscot Job Corps offers training in areas such as: Carpentry, Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Culinary Arts and Advanced Baking, Construction (facilities maintenance, welding, home building), and office support. The program also helps students earn their HS diploma and GED.

Additional services provided by the Penobscot Job Corps are assigned career counselors, transportation, weekly allowance, room and board, meals, recreational activities, uniforms and paid supplies. After completion of the program, which has a 2 year max, the student can have assistance with job search, interviewing, college prep, and other tasks and duties that are considered to be a transition service.

Victoria Coffey will provide a list of admission requirements to Shelly Reilly, who will distribute.

5. EMDC Youth Programs – Youth Council (working together) & Outreach

Nancy McKechnie, EMDC's Youth Program Manager discussed some of the outreach projects and documents that they have been working on. Nancy shared with the group a poster that was created and used a drawing done by one of our youth. The posters will be put out into the community and have rip-off contacts or a career advisor in the area. Nancy also went over some letters that they have been sending to families of youth explaining what they do, where they offer services, criteria standards, and contact information. A Youth – Verification Checklist was also created and shared with the council. This document provides a list of documents required at time of registration and through the application process.

A discussion was held around creating a new “brand” for the Youth Program and the need to do more outreach to area youth. Comments and suggestions were discussed about creating a new brand, and how to get youth engaged and aware that we are here and they (the youth) are our main focus. The group discussed how to get other community members involved and working together.

Comments/Suggestions:

- Focus groups
- Understanding the importance that we all play as members of the YC as an extension of the TCWIB

- How can we engage the YC/YP while connecting directly to the youth themselves?
- How can we translate our “message/mission statement” to be youth friendly?
- Connect with employers, youth’s parents and family members and the community about what their take on connecting with the youth is. What is their perspective
- Have a peer to peer event that kids “want” to attend

Some ideas about outreach for the youth within the community and all the organizations at the table were an exciting topic at the meeting. Some of the suggestions and ideas included creating a youth development newsletter vs. an asset map, sponsor the “skate event” that Tim Shaw from Bangor Region Public Health and Wellness usually puts on. The idea of hosting a Job Fair was discussed. (Not the “traditional” job fair) The YC members discussed the fact that they have the opportunity to really all come together and work with each other amongst their organization and come up with new and innovative ideas.

Upcoming Youth Programs presented by Nancy McKechnie, Youth Program Manager

Advance Clinical Experience

This program is collaboration between EMDC Youth Staff and EMMC’s staff. It is a summer program for 10 youth focusing on health occupations. It is for Tri county tech school. They will graduate with a diploma and a CAN certification. All 10 youth will be set up with a nurse and do 8 weeks of clinical in an area of the hospital. After clinical the students will be going through 2-day Workready training.

Work experience/Workready – Shaw house partnership

This is workready/work experience training for youth who have dropped out of high school. It will be somewhat individualized training for them and will help them get the work experience and training in a career field that will help them to obtain a good job.

Grant

Recently applied for a grant through Microsoft that will hopefully provide students with laptops.

E-learning Lab

Discussed Metrix e-learning lab as one of the new tools for the Youth Program. The training will begin next week.

6. Adhoc committee

Shelly Reilly requested the names of interested YC members who would be interested in being part of an ad hoc committee to complete action items intermittent between our quarterly meetings. The following ad hoc committees were created and the interested members that were in attendance of the meeting are listed below.

Shelly Reilly will email the other YC members who did not attend the meeting and inquire about their interest in working with the adhoc committees.

Outreach Adhoc (working with Nancy McKechnie)

Sarah White

Tim Shaw

Cathy Hamel

Event/Job Fair Planning

Tom Hart

Shannon Young

Victoria Coffee

7. Action Items

1. JMG – send RFP to EMDC (Tom Hart and Sarah White)
2. Each YC member to email Shelly Reilly with one “youth friendly” employer
3. Shelly Reilly to send out the current Resource Guides from (tri-county) for review via e-mail
4. Victoria Coffey to send out resource info about Job Corps to Shelly Reilly
5. Shelly Reilly to send out email inquire all YC members about adhoc committees
6. Tim Shawn to send Shelly Reilly information on the Skate Park event.
7. Shelly Reilly to contact all members of the Youth Council to reconfirm their involvement

The next meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2011 (Location TBA)

**If anyone is interested in hosting upcoming meetings please email Shelly Reilly at sreilly@emdc.org.*

MISSION STATEMENT:

To connect youth in the Tri County area with educational, employment and service opportunities in an effort to strengthen work readiness skills, promote high-growth occupations, and advance a strong, capable future workforce.