

Tri-County Workforce Investment Board
Youth Council Meeting
Wednesday December 19, 2007
11:00-1:00pm EMDC

Present:

Joanna Russell- Tri-County LWIB

Jason Bird- Tri-County LWIB

Renea Muscatell- Penobscot Job Corps Academy

Karen Smith- Brewer Housing Authority

Tom Hart- JMG

Agenda:

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Executive Director
- III. Discuss Past Youth Council Experience
- IV. Potential RFP
- V. Youth Council Chair
- VI. Additional Member Suggestions (Youth, parents, Hancock Cty, Piscataquis Cty)
- VII. Group Updates
- VIII. Other Business

I. Introductions

- a. Those in attendance introduced themselves, gave some background information, and shared their past experiences serving on the Youth Council

II. Executive Director's Report

- III. Funding Report- Joanna updated the board about the current events surrounding the Appropriations Committee and the potential budget cuts to LWIBs statewide. Each state agency was charged with reporting back a cost savings plan. Part of MDOLs plan was to close the physical structure of the Houlton, Saco, Ellsworth, and Belfast CareerCenters. The Service Delivery Committee that Joanna serves on (with staff from MDOL, Maine Jobs Council and others) was asked, by MDOL, to find savings in the workforce investment arena, and report back. SDC

- i. The SDC committee agreed that more flexible and efficient ways of delivering services should be explored, and supported where they already exist. Ten career centers were included in this discussion.

- a. Recent information was forwarded by Commissioner Fortman explaining that the four CareerCenters originally identified to the Appropriations Committee will be closed. At this time it is expected that all areas will maintain the level of service provided using alternative delivery models. By July 1st of 2008, the CC in Ellsworth, Belfast, Saco and Houlton will be closed. Joanna is working with several different groups, including the Hancock County Transition Team, to determine how the services will be provided after that date. Those involved are currently looking at all possibilities from using office space from select existing organizations, to creating mobile teams that will travel to the areas on certain days per week.
- b. There was a question brought up about reducing the size of the LWIBs from four to two. Joanna had no further information to confirm that this would happen.

IV. Past Youth Council—What is the current status

- a. There was discussion around what the current status of the Council was, where it was heading, and what needed to be done. Those in attendance mentioned that there was no September meeting as scheduled last year. Leading up to this point, it was stated that there was vagueness and ambiguity in where it stood. All attending agreed that the Youth Council needed to be revived. Defining a clear mission and purpose in moving forward was discussed. It was mentioned that the Council as a networking tool was very beneficial.
- b. In order to improve the council in multiple ways, members are asked to invite people who would be able to bring new life to the Council. Youth Council members who know of anyone who has a stake in the youth arena were asked to invite them to the March meeting. All agreed to email names and introductions of the guests that they expected to bring. Having parents and youth join the council was something that was stressed as well.
- c. The council also discussed attracting youth and their parents and will consider a later meeting time at our next meeting.

V. Potential RFP

- a. It was stated that it will only be a matter of time before an RFP goes out for youth services. As soon as a decision is made the Youth Council will be informed.

VI. Youth Council Chair

- a. The current chair is unknown, and there is a need and desire to have a new one. Nominations are now being accepted for the position, and voting will occur at the March meeting. Joanna mentioned that she would like the chair to facilitate and administer the meeting. There is not much other work needed. All agenda

items and past meeting minutes will be provided to the chair at the start of each meeting. Please feel free to nominate a person prior to our March meeting. Joanna asked that you contact your nominee prior to the nomination to get their approval.

VII. Group Reports- Job Corps, JMG, Housing Authority

- a. Job Corps- There is a review coming up, by MDOL. There is a new national director who brings a new mission of 20% of students going on to college. There are 22 Corps in Region 1, and they are looking at clustering and sharing resources in order to cut costs. PJCA was 19th in the nation in performance. They just received a new planning grant to work on getting more kids on to college. The Corp, and the work they did, will air on the January 9th episode of Extreme Makeover Home Edition. On January 17th there will be a community networking meeting at 11:45.
- b. JMG update- the program has been expanding, and will continue to expand. Currently there are 2800 students and 152 communities involved. The goal is to get 4500 students enrolled. Their source of funding comes from federal, state and a growing number of private contributors. They are going to begin a big endowment that has lofty goals. This year they have expanded into Brewer High school and reached max capacity in that program, with even more demand. They also have programs in Oak Hill and Mt. Ararat H.S. this year. JMG has received requests for more tailored or specific programming. The middle school program is expanding fast too. The idea is that the earlier the intervention, the more likely they will be able to keep the kids on the college path. The M.S. program has events where the students are able to get out and see the rest of the state (from Portland, to camping, and more). John Doorer from MDOL did a report for JMG on their 1998 graduates and where they are 6 years out. The study looked at occupational fields and also the income earned. It found that graduates of the program were earning \$125 more than their counterpart. They are also looking at recent graduates that are in their sophomore year of college now, and found that 65% of their graduates are still enrolled in higher education, whereas 47% of students nationally continue onto their second year.
- c. BHA update- They are still focused on their mission of self sufficiency and improving their programming around that. Their funding comes from HUD. They recently found out that the funding went through for the one year grant and expect to hear back soon about the second 3 year grant. They do expect to get it. There will be a new executive director taking over for BHA. The new ED has been working for BHA for 20 years already.

VIII. To Do before meeting in March

- a. Agenda for March meeting-Executive Director and Board Members
- b. Meeting dates for 2008- Executive Director
- c. History of Council-Executive Director

- d. Report back on LWIB I Youth Council meeting-Executive Director (if able to make it to their next meeting before meeting in March)
- e. Invitations/nominations for new members for 2008 and beyond- Executive Director and Council Members
- f. Bylaws and requirements for Council Members sent out for purpose of invitation/nomination- Tom Hart
- g. Definition of 10 Elements-Executive Director
- h. Council Chair nominations- Council Members
- i. Invite possible new members to the March meeting. Email introductions prior to the meeting. – Council Members