



Youth Council Minutes

Monday, February 14, 2011

Conference Room – Madren Center – Clemson

Members Present:

Kristi-King Brock- Chair
Betsy Burkett
Danny Fahey
Heather Love

Melvin Martin
Tim Mays
Rick Murphy
Crystal Noble

Sandra Pruitt
Linda Valone
Janice Walpole

Members Absent:

Lisa Gillespie

Hugh Foster

Tabitha Vasilas

Providers/Guests:

Brenda Christensen
Karen Craven
Stephanie Gentry

Shari Gibson
Tina Justin
Kelly McCollum

Lisa McWherter
Alena Pelfrey
Helen Pridgen

Staff Present:

Sharon Crite
Mary Harris

Jennifer Kelly
Crayton Pruitt

- I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION-** Kristi King-Brock- Chair
Youth Council greeting and opening statements were made by Chair Kristi King-Brock. Individual introductions of all persons in attendance were also heard.

- II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES-** Kristi King-Brock- Chair
The minutes from October 6, 2010 meeting were emailed, posted on website and included in the packet for review. Chair Kristi King-Brock called for any corrections or amendments to the minutes.

COUNCIL ACTION TAKEN: A motion to adopt the minutes as written was made by Melvin Martin, seconded by Tim Mays, and carried with a unanimous voice vote.

III. Palmetto Youth Connections

Karen Craven referred the Youth Council to handouts that were passed out to all members and guests. She reviewed the handout that presented the Monthly Report Update for January for Youth for PY '10. She pointed out to the Youth Council that the Total Literacy/Numeracy Gains of 38%. She also pointed out to the Youth Council, the 62 new enrollments over the past month and stated that the total is up to 116 thus far with their overall goal being 175 new enrollments that they were well on their way to reaching that goal.

Karen Craven also referred the Youth Council to the handout that presented the Monthly Report Update for January for Gateway to College Youth for PY '10. She pointed out to the Youth Council that the Total Literacy/Numeracy Gains of 50%. She also pointed out to the Youth Council, the 19 new enrollments over the past month and stated that the total is up to 36 thus far with their overall goal being 40 new enrollments.

Chair Brock asked if they anticipate being able to exceed the enrollment and literacy/numeracy goals. Karen Craven confirmed enrollment goals will be met or exceeded as would the literacy/numeracy goals.

Karen Craven also told the Youth Council members about the customer service classes that have been offered. She stated that out of the 15 people that signed up for the class they had 11 show up and participate. She informed the Youth Council that they anticipate having 11 high school graduates in the spring.

Karen Craven shared a couple of quick success stories from the programs and stated that they had received nothing but positive feedback from the participants of the programs.

Chair Brock asked if Sandra Strickland should be recognized at the next Youth Council meeting. Karen Craven agreed that she should.

Chair Brock asked Karen Craven to share with the youth Council how the customer service classes came to be. Karen Craven gave a review of the customer service classes and what all was included in the classes; she also asked several quick questions involving the customer service classes.

IV. Old Business:

Youth Strategic Plan

Chair Brock stated all changes to the youth strategic plan had been highlighted for review by the Youth Council. The Youth Council reviewed the changes as listed and each sub-committee gave a brief overview of the changes in their sections of the Youth Council's Strategic Plan-Key Critical Issues, Goals, Objectives, Strategies, and Action Plans.

V. New Business:

New Member Application for Youth Council

Sharon Crite informed the Youth Council, that in order to be in compliance with the law the Council needed the addition of an active youth participant that would sit on the Council. She stated that this application was for an active youth that wanted to participate in that role.

COUNCIL ACTION TAKEN: Danny Fahey made a motion to accept the application of Amy Miller to join the Youth Council; seconded by Crystal Noble, the motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

Contract with Palmetto Youth Connections

Chair Brock stated that the youth Council needed to approve the renegotiation of their contract with Palmetto youth connections. She stated that the decision would then move on to the finance committee, executive committee, and the Board.

COUNCIL ACTION TAKEN: Melvin Martin made a motion to approve the renegotiation of the contract to handle youth services with Palmetto Youth Connections; seconded by Tim Mays, the motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

2-1-1 Update

Sharon Crite stated that Mary Harris had been hired as the temporary staff to work on the 2-1-1 project. She stated that Mary Harris had undergone training in the previous week and that the project was on schedule. She stated that the project was scheduled to end by June 16, 2011.

Job Fair

Sharon Crite reminded the Youth Council that the Tri-County Community Job Fair would be held at the Anderson Recreation Center located at 1107 N. Murray Ave. in Anderson, on March 22, 2011 from 10 AM to 3 PM. She stated that there would be employers present representing customer service, manufacturing, healthcare, hospitality, and other industries. She stated that participants in the job fair would also be able to meet with staffing agencies, colleges, and other service agencies. She stated there would be some work from home or start your own business booths in attendance as well. She invited any Youth Council members who would like to attend or take part in the event to let the staff at WorkLink know.

Career Cluster Showcase Update

Rick Murphy stated that they would be having the career cluster showcase again this year. He stated that they were looking at the week of September 22 through the 29th. He stated that they were planning on holding the event at Littlejohn Coliseum again this year. He stated that they would be working out details with the school districts as well as parents of students and the public to be able to maximize the potential of this event this year.

LWIB Standards (Youth)

Chair Brock stated that the WorkLink Investment Board is scheduled to be reviewed by the state on April 21, 2011. She referred the youth Council members to pages 60-66 of the packet provided. She stated that there were seven indicators/measures that would be reviewed during this process, one of which focuses on youth. She stated that the addition of Amy Miller to the youth Council would bring them into compliance as far as community representation was concerned. She stated that are service providers were in compliance according to standards provided in this review. She stated that the changes made to the youth strategic plan would also bring the youth Council and to alignment with the LWIB Standards and the State's strategic plan.

Grant Research Committee

Chair Brock stated that an ad-hoc committee was being created to research grants available to WorkLink. She asked for Youth Council members to sign up to serve on this committee if possible.

State Policy: Youth Aging out of Foster Care

Sharon Crite gave a brief overview to youth Council members of what our guest speaker would be covering in the presentation following lunch. She stated that representatives from the area one stops and DSS agencies were represented in this meeting.

- VI. **GUEST Foster Care/Independent Living** Helen Pridgen, DSS State Office
Helen Pridgen gave a presentation covering a wide range of issues that are faced by our area youth as well as youth statewide. She explained that youth are introduced to services in the 11th grade or age 16 whichever comes first. She stated that at age 18 an individual has the right to choose whether to stay in foster care or to emancipate themselves.

Brenda Christiansen stated that youth need independent living skills and they need as much help as possible to make the transition in being able to care for themselves as independent members of society.

Stephanie Gentry stated that as much help as to be given is desperately needed and added that the tendencies are for these youth that are aging out of foster care to become independent but then to come back after a few months because they don't know how to make it on their own.

Helen Pridgen presented a PowerPoint slideshow covering how agencies can better prepare young persons and Forster care for discharge and adulthood as well as what resources are needed to enable young people to become self-sufficient and independent. She then offered a Q&A session for youth Council members and guests in attendance.

VII. Scheduled Meeting Change

Youth Council members were informed that the April 6th meeting date was being changed to April 4th. *****TAKE NOTE:** Meeting was changed from April 4th to April 11th post-meeting.

VIII. Adjournment

With no other business to discuss, the meeting was held adjournment.

Respectfully submitted by: Crayton Pruitt, Workforce Programs Assistant