

DRAFT
Anne Arundel County Workforce Investment Board

Youth Council Meeting Minutes

Woodland Job Corps
3300 Fort Meade Road
Laurel, MD 20724

December 13, 2002

Attendees:

Stacey Atwater, Mahmoud Baptiste, Karl Behringer, Jason Diedrich, Lisa DiGiacinto, Megan Lynch, Andy Moser, Clifton Martin, Debbie O' Banion, Cynthia Oliver, Willie Reeves, Lisa Saiia for Anne Biddle, Grant Schmelzer, Evalena Sullivan, Lisa Stroman, James Turner, and Michael Yeakey.

Recorder:

Jason Diedrich

I. Welcome and Approval of Minutes

The Youth Council Chair, Michael Yeakey, called the meeting to order at 11:10 am. The minutes of the September 27th meeting were read. There were no discrepancies as to their content and the minutes were then unanimously approved.

II. Additional Agenda Items - None

III. On-Line Youth Resource Catalog Update

Mr. Moser gave a brief report updating the progress made concerning the on-line youth resource catalog. He provided a printout of the draft homepage layout of the site. Mr. Moser gave the site address as www.aayouthworks.org. Both Mr. Yeakey and Mr. Moser discussed possible dates the site would be up and running, noting the end of January 2003 as a probable date. Mr. Yeakey stated that currently there are over 250 entries in the database. He reassured the council members that there would be continuing updates to the site as more links become available. He asked members to email him with recommendations and/or ideas concerning the website. A few attendees suggested creating a link to the Junior League and Mr. Schmelzer suggested an MVA link. Both were noted.

IV. Anne Arundel County Public School Partnership

Mr. Behringer gave members an update on the progress of the initiative for out-of-school youth. He passed around and read aloud the permission letter to be sent to parents of children who have withdrawn or have been expelled from the school system. Mr. Behringer also explained that the letter would give parents the option of allowing their child's information to be released to the WIA partner agencies or not. Diane Finch

praised the letter and suggested that thought be given to the timing of letter delivery, noting that often times a 'cooling down' period is beneficial to the child and parent. Mr. Yeakey agreed with Ms. Finch on the timing issue. Mr. Martin suggested a survey/questionnaire be included in the letter for the students to fill out, highlighting their interests and skills, to help give them the most help in determining their future careers.

V. Youth Program Update

Mr. Moser gave members an update on the progress of two youth programs currently being implemented. He expressed satisfaction with the progress of the WAGES program being implemented at Brooklyn Park Middle School. Mr. Yeakey informed the group that a final report on the program would be sent to the Board of Education by early summer. Diane Finch recommended submitting the report to the superintendent of schools as early as possible for inclusion in the new county charter. This suggestion was noted and discussed by the group and was agreed by all to be pursued further.

Next, Mr. Moser discussed the Chesapeake Center for Youth Development (CCYD) program. Mr. Moser stated that the program was having difficulties with low enrollment and low expenditures. Both Mr. Moser and Mr. Yeakey said that they had spoken with the program manager and had expressed concern over the program's progress. Mr. Moser stated that he had sent a letter of non-compliance to the program manager as well as the executive director of CCYD. Mr. Moser informed the group that he has an appointment to speak with the executive director of CCYD to discuss these issues the following week. The council members agreed that if the program was unable to increase enrollment significantly by the end of January 2003, then their contract should be ended.

VI. Youth Program Site Visits

Mr. Diedrich addressed the council to announce the dates available for visiting the two program sites in the coming month. Two dates for each program were offered. A signup sheet for site visits was disbursed to the council members.

VII. WIA Youth Conference in Butler, PA

Mr. Moser discussed the Youth Conference scheduled for February 6-7, 2003 in Butler, PA. Mr. Moser gave details of what the conference would encompass and said that that the deadline for the conference application was December 27, 2002. He then gave the website address for the conference.

VIII. Final Comments

Mr. Moser presented the council with a copy of the Fall/ Winter Youthworks newsletter. He explained that the newsletter had been sent to all participants of youth programs funded by the Workforce Investment Act within Anne Arundel County. He also stated that any comments, requests, or recommendations should be directed to Jason Diedrich.

Mr. James Turner passed out flyers from his organization and explained that all services provided by his group are at no cost to the participants, which can range from teenage to

adulthood. He also praised the programs which have been implemented over the past year and hopes for more to come.

Ms. Diane Finch suggested bringing all organizations offering alternative programs together in a conference-like atmosphere in the county to share ideas and successes and bring light to the growing number of programs being offered.

IX. Adjournment

The Council agreed that the next meeting would be held on February 28th from 11am to 1pm, at the Support Services Building off of Rte. 3 in Millersville, MD, with lunch being served afterward. The meeting was adjourned at 12:19 pm.