



Bay Area Workforce Development Board

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Youth Council of the Bay Area Workforce Development Board

Meeting Minutes July 27, 2005

Present: Liz Case, Meg Dallapiazza, Christopher East, Donna Freeman, Gema Garcia, Torri Gillis, Bob Guenther, Paula Huff, Dick Seidemann, Fred Stieg, Patti Warmenhoven, Tammy Zinther
Guests: Kathryn Zavala, Pat Nagle, Diane Schmidtke, Mike Ptacek
Staff: Jim Golembeski, Betty Gregory-Paasch

The meeting began with a luncheon and networking session.

WDB Staff provided updates on the board's vision, action plan, and budget priorities. There was discussion about the focus on regional workforce development strategies as laid out in the 2005 budget document that was distributed. The WDB is definitely looking more at the demand side of workforce development (i.e., employer needs) and asking that the job centers create more effective strategies to meet those needs.

Betty Gregory-Paasch asked the members for input on a proposed Youth Offender project using WIA funding. There is \$120,000 of WIA Older Youth funding earmarked for a targeted project, and staff suggested that it be used to focus on adjudicated "out-of-school youth" returning to NE Wisconsin communities from incarceration. There was concern that the Wisconsin Department of Corrections already had sufficient resources to address the needs of this population, but staff responded that those programs were often overregulated and not flexible enough to meet the real needs of offenders attempting to reintegrate into the community. The proposed project would be modeled on the successful Adult program operated through Family Services that works with people in the Oshkosh Correctional Facility. There was also concern that services in a program would be concentrated in Brown County where the Expelled Youth project is operating, and the other counties would get little benefit. Ms. Warmenhoven pointed out that there are a number of young people in the rural areas who are losing their driving licenses because of violations of the new younger driver laws, and that this is a smaller scale problem, but very significant in some communities. There was a motion by Mr. Seidemann, and a second by Dr. Stieg, to support a Youth Offender project and develop a Request for Proposals for that project to be delivered outside of Brown County. After discussion, the motion was amended to include Brown County and let the proposers decide where best to provide service. Motion was adopted by the group. Staff will prepare a draft and get it out for review of the members before issuing it. Potential proposers are reminded that they should not get the draft proposal nor provide any input into its development.

The vision of the Bay Area Workforce Development Board is that job skills and educational levels are increased, quality of life for all individuals is enhanced, while employers' needs are met.

Diane Schmidtke, School-to-Work Coordinator for Pulaski School District and Dr. Mike Ptacek, Director of Curriculum for the Green Bay school District, gave a presentation on Project Lead the Way. This project focuses on providing young people with information and basic skill development in the area of engineering, encouraging them to consider careers in this important field and better preparing them for college engineering programs. PLTW is a national curriculum, and three local districts (Pulaski, Green Bay, and De Pere) have received grants through the Kern Family Foundation to implement the program. Consultation with the Youth Council is required by the grant process. Members were very impressed with the quality of the curriculum and the important focus in the engineering field in which skill shortages are anticipated.

Mr. Golembeski explained that the Bay Area Workforce Development Board will spend significant meeting time this fall looking broadly at the issue of how young people transition from school to work, focusing on what happens between ages 14 to 25. Staff is currently developing plans on how to structure the board agenda for that project and invited input from the Youth Council members. A draft outline was distributed for review and comment. Members are encouraged to provide their suggestions and additions over the next few weeks.

Since the topic of regional job centers focusing on the demand-side had been so interesting, the Youth Council will meet again in August to discuss that topic at length.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 PM.