

Bay Area Youth Standing Committee  
Meeting Notes  
April 24, 2019

Present: Lynn Aprill, Scott Stephens, Adam Sutter, Gail orchard, Fred Stieg, Russ Young, Sandy Skenandore, Teresa LeClercq, Matt Valiquette, Sarah Klapper, Mary Willcox, Jim Golembeski

Introductions made.

There was discussion about the changes in the regional workforce with Baby Boomers moving into retirement with Gen X and Millennials now dominating the 20-60 age groups of prime working years.

Mr. Valiquette discussed the Bay Area WDB WIOA Youth and Young Adult programs. He noted that there are about 60,000 young people eligible for services but the board and subcontractors can only serve a small percentage of them. We have a particular focus on young people aging out of foster care because of the coordination between our WIOA Youth and Young Adult grant and the Independent Living grant from the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families. But the numbers certainly indicate the strong need for more partnership and collaboration among youth programs.

Ms. Aprill shared information about the upgrade of Career Cruising to Xello in July. This program is used in most of the state school districts as a career planning tool. Mr. Young spoke about the challenges in overcoming the difficult family of origin situations. Mr. Sutter shared that Junior Achievement provides a variety of services to K-12 students but their real focus is on grades 9-12. JA does have waiting lists in the programs for elementary level students.

Mr. Golembeski briefly discussed Bay Area WDB's discussion with several K-12 school leaders based on the Wisconsin United Way ALICE (Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed) study which indicated that while about 11% of Wisconsin's working population lives below the federal poverty line, another 25% works but struggles to survive financially. Bay Area WDB has been developing strategies to reach out to this demographic as a means of meeting the skilled needs of our area employers. The board discussion centered on the percentage of students eligible for free or reduced lunch in area school districts with the assumption that behind those numbers were many under employed parents. One of the things we learned was that many of the school districts are doing a variety of afterschool programs, in effect to provide childcare so the parents could maintain employment. Some schools provide social work services and counseling for the students as well. The Green Bay district has made some initial efforts to reach out to the parents with training opportunities as well.

Members shared information during the Roundtable discussion.

Mr. Stephens provided an update on GPS Education programs in the state. Unfortunately, the GPS program in Marinette will be ending.

Mr. Sutter, who is new to the group, spoke about the close partnership Junior Achievement has with the Green Bay School District. They are piloting a program called Innovation Jam, a high school level business and IT program, with Schneider and IBM.

Mr. Young reported that Youth Apprenticeship is growing in the Oconto/Oconto Falls/Marinette schools. There are good relationships with employers.

Dr. Stieg spoke about the need for emotional intelligence training for young people as a basic social skill. He also expressed a concern about increasing teacher shortages, starting already in kindergarten. Employers are increasingly engaged with schools on a number of projects, but they are not looking that far ahead to anticipate and address serious problems as the future workforce is educated and trained.

Ms. Skenadore shared information about the summer TANF program for members of the Oneida Tribe.

Ms. Orchard described DVR's high school youth program that includes pre-employment transition services, job readiness training, and career exploration. The classes run from January through August and include employer tours and paid summer work experience. DVR has a partnership with Dorsch Ford in auto detailing training as well as work experience projects with Bellin and St. Vincent hospitals.

Ms. LeClercq had all kinds of information from the Boys and Girls Club programs in Green Bay. The Teens to Work effort is for 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders in small, case managed groups and provides soft skills and financial literacy training for which the students are paid. The older students can be connected to internship opportunities and a new pilot for internships is being developed with NWTC as well. There are other partnerships with Gap (Old Navy), Microsoft, as well as with the anti-human trafficking agency, Eye Heart World. The Club recently hired a Social/Emotional Learning Director. They have a program for adjudicated youth too.

Ms. Aprill spoke about the successful Teacher Internship program that CESA #8 will be running for the third year this summer. Twenty teachers will participate in 2019.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 pm.