

Mountainland Regional Youth Council Committee

Minutes

January 8, 2008

Attendance: Jared Ferguson, Ryan Whitesides, Suzanne Rodriguez, Maira Lesa, Gary Lacock, Brian Christensen, Lori Stewart, Kendall Crittenden, Anndee Wilkins, Eric Jenkins, Zenaida Martinez & Julie Lay.

Job Corps Presentation – Paul Otto, Ogden & Ryan Whitesides, Utah County, were asked to present on this Federal funded program. 15 students from Job Corps came and talked about their experience. Job Corps takes students ages 16-24 who don't have enough credits, truant, drop outs, etc. There are 230 students from the Wasatch front currently enrolled. Students live on campus Monday through Friday and can earn going home on the weekends. These students are there on a volunteer basis. Students earn high school credit and a trade. Anyone interested can have a tour daily.

Information from the State – Incentives for educational level improvement: (hand out) In improving education, they would like WIA to give incentives to youth who complete their education. A presentation will be made about this at the next meeting. There is a mandate to touch the basics of education. Julie Lay indicates the State Council needs to partner better with the regional council. Jared agreed that organizations seem to miss each other and with the expertise they should be working together and connect better to be more efficient.

Ryan Whitesides said he feels the goal of this group should be for the students to have options, choices and get prepared for a career.

Jared noted it is important that school counselors be aware of all the options for students and to continue to keep in touch regarding new programs or changed programs. He wondered if it would be helpful for this group to provide information about all resources and how the students could be made aware of these options and choices.

Jobs For Kids: “Future Fair” – show the kids what is out there and options. Anndee Wilkins, Job Corps, will be doing this Fair in March. If anyone has information please contact her at 371-6242.

COMMITTEE GOAL: Julie Lay indicated the State council wants a tentative goal from this committee. After some discussion it was decided to: Promote development of job skills for our students incorporating all agencies and business partners. It is intended this committee provide a list of skills needed in this area and find or develop classes for these students. Maybe invite employers to this committee to participate, and have Lori and Clay (MATC) to be a part of that. Next Regional Council meeting will be Feb 28th and Julie will have this topic on the agenda and get back to the committee.

WIA is in need of adding a guideline incentive with approval by this committee:
A **motion** was made by Brian Christensen and seconded by Kendall Crittenden to accept the following: “Attendance incentives should list a graduated increase in the amount the youth can receive for attendance with no more than \$150 per term. The Employment Counselor may decide the terms for acceptable number of absences and days the youth is tardy. Unexcused Absences are unacceptable and will result in a loss or forfeit of attendance incentives.” The motion passed unanimously.

Attached is the **WIA Youth Leadership Project**, which was completed in November-December 2007. Maira indicated 20 youth participated and 30 families were helped and 40 thank you cards were sent to the troops.

Maira handed out the new WIA in school youth brochures that the Provo High School graphics class designed.

WIA Information: 13 and 14 year olds are generally on a waiting list. Older youth are basically helped quicker. Hoping to add another counselor, which will help with youth on a waiting list. In the past 5 years, referrals have not slowed down and Maira appreciates this group referring students to their program.

There was discussion to meet more than quarterly regarding the new Goal of this committee.

Career Pathways: There are 62 career pathways the state has identified which are on line at the USOE website. Jared will provide more information at our next meeting:
<http://www.schools.utah.gov/cte/pathways.html>

Next Meeting: March 4th, 10:00 am, Provo School District

Next meeting Assignments:

Incentives for Educational level improvement – Jane Broadhead

Career Pathways – Jared

WIA – student success stories

Committee Goal: State Council Agenda outcome – Julie