

Mountainland Youth Council Committee

March 4, 2008

MINUTES

Attendance: Brian Christensen, Ryan Whitesides, Zenaida Martinez, Scott Taylor, Maira Lesa, Suzanne Rodriguez, Joann Tuttle, Julie Lay, Jared Ferguson, Mike Bailey, Eric Jenkins & Lori Stewart.

Excused: Troy Hymer & Gary Lacock

Jared informed the committee regarding some Federal funding being pulled back. TANF funding, could keep current kids in, if they have a child or are in the 3rd trimester pregnancy, this TANF Funding could continue, currently the state approved some make up funding. Directing from DWF, new guidelines that need to be established, then can get some funding back into WIA Program.

Maira Lesa – With new guidelines, there will be less funding per youth (cuts in about half), which will cause shorter-term programs. As far as the guidelines, this committee needs to approve any changes. Youth need certain barrier points to be in the program. Look at the priority barrier points in each category. By upping the barriers, they will have to be stricter about the youth WIA enrolls. No points taken away from those printed in green (about 8 points that WIA can play around with).

Barriers change motions: (March 14th go into affect)

Brian Christensen made a motion to accept the point barriers as Maria has them listed, which was 2nd by Suzanne Rodriguez. All approved. Current WIA youth being served will not be affected by this new barrier list. The committee wondered with the funding cuts, if Maira would have to make any cuts to her staff. She indicted a current WIA employee resigned, otherwise, possibly would have had to let someone go.

Jared – Informed the committee of the approved \$4,000 (previously \$8,000) cap on expenses WIA can provide to youth. It was indicated this amount be approved by this committee. A motion to accept this amount was made by Scott Taylor and 2nd by Brian Christensen. All approved. Since there was some discussion and worry this funding has been cut, it was noted in the

meeting that most of these kids probably qualify for multiple sources of funding.

Youth Council GOAL: Tie our efforts more with the region council. Education goal is to increase literacy and numeracy for in and out of school youth. Working with the MATC – job prep class (as per various employers, kids need to learn these skills). Jared took this Proposal to Regional Council last week to have this opportunity for current or newly hired to learn these job skills. Idea for this course, create a sub committee, dissect the curriculum already at the MATC. 3-4 business committee members ready to come forward to help with this pilot course. Take to school counselors, information about this class as it develops. Proposal also includes an education component. Skills low, go to your district adult ed. This will hopefully increase literacy and numeracy to meet the goal the state has asked for. Ask employers to provide an incentive for these people to complete the class (certificate, small raise). MATC need 15 enrolled to provide a class.

Those from this committee willing to be on the sub committee to get this goal moving:

Eric Jenkins, (already a need in DCSF to create this anyway). Get employers on sub committee to get the 15 students in the class as a pilot. Then make adjustments and go from there.

Ryan Whitesides, Job Corps already provides social skills training, employee interaction, etc.

Glen Bailey, Alpine School District

Maira Lesa, WIA

It was recommended we use the existing Critical workplace class or at least use their curriculum guide to get class started.

Regional Council: Asked to focus on certain areas as high growth/high demands for employment: Energy, Auto, Health Care, and Construction. This can be discussed at the State comp guidance conference as well as at the Work-Based coordinator meetings (internship and apprenticeship).

If any members know of someone interested in serving on this Youth Council Committee as a business rep, as well as youth community input, please email names to Jared and he will contact them.

Jared thanked Lori and the MATC for their efforts in helping with the job prep class goal this committee has and also those willing to serve on the sub-committee to help meet this goal.

NEXT MEETING: Wed, May 7th, 10:00-noon, District Office