

**Mountainland Regional Council
Regional Youth Council
April 7, 2009
Community Action, 815 South Freedom Blvd**

Present:

Anita Craven, Provo Ctr for High School Studies
Brian Christensen, Utah School Employees Assoc.
Brian Smith, DWS
Jared Ferguson, Chair
Julie Lay, DWS
Kendall Crittenden, Wasatch County Council
Laura Black Ameritech College
Linda Holt, Intermountain Healthcare
Lisa Birch, Career Pathways Coordinator
Maira Lesa, WIA Youth
Ranae Lee, Alpine School Dist. – Adult Education
Ryan Pitachniak, Learning for Life (guest)
Ryan Whitesides, Job Corps
Scott Taylor, Wasatch Mental Health
Shirlee Silversmith, Learning for Life
Troy Gasser, DCFS
Zenaida Martinez, DWS

WELCOME AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Jared

Thank you for attending the meeting today. Jared entertained a motion for approval of the January 6th minutes. Scott moved for approval, Linda seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Want to continue with education component on council on what's happening in their area to build better connections and learn about resources to provide. Are there concerns or dissensions from anyone? No.

Update on other projects – brochure handout to give to students. Working with DWS to fund a work ready curriculum that DWS will own and offer to customers in DWS and other partners. In addition to resume building, conflict resolution, dress, sexual harassment, able to hire work base learning coordinator in Nebo. May also look at whether or not try to run course with MATC. Because of cutbacks may not be likely this year. Expectation is just keep moving forward in direction we've been going.

Health Sciences Partnership – Julie and Pam Niece (IHC) met on Health Sciences Partnership where educators and healthcare professionals meet to work on needs in industry and education. Had first meeting yesterday with other education and health partners to initiative this in our area. All school directors and higher education on board to be part of this partnership. Lisa Birch was selected as chair of this group. Healthcare

continues to be one of major employers in region and one of the most in demand jobs statewide. Looking to grow with other healthcare providers and interested entities.

COMMUNITY ACTION OVERVIEW – LoAn Le

Welcome to our center - tour provided after meeting for those interested to see what's going on in Community Action (CAP). Handout provided.

LoAn is over family development program. Have about seven different programs, most known for Food Bank that serves Utah, Wasatch, and Summit counties. Regional locations are Payson, Heber, Kamas, Coalville, Park City, and Provo. Customers come in for food box on walk-in basis. Meet with Community Action rep for 5 minutes to review budget to see what's going on in family. Determine how frequently will need to come in for food boxes. Our organization is second largest in state of Utah. Community very generous – can provide food for family for 7 days instead of 3 days in other areas of state. Biggest donations are during Scout Food Drive and Postmaster Food Drive and holidays at end of year. Serve approx 80 to 150 families a day with food boxes. All food collected stays in region.

Other programs – Home buyers for household that want to buy home, offer class for 6 hours of home buying process to understand expectations. One on one counseling to pull credit report, so don't get in situation with rent-to-buy option, which can be dangerous, foreclosure or default counseling to help them not get into these situations. Reverse mortgage for 60 years and older on fixed income, need to access home equity but not repay loan until sell home or deceased.

Family development – work with homeless families to help with rent (eviction, deposits, etc.), will pay for other utilities etc. to free up money, put families up in hotels with vouchers, do case management with families in programs. Gasoline vouchers, bus tokens, clothing vouchers, hair vouchers,

Work with tenants so landlords are fair with them and inform them of their rights.

Mountain biking for youth 12 – 17 - registration fees or scholarships for youth who can't pay. 8 to 10 weeks on weekend, ½ day on Saturday, provide helmets, etc., to get youth active and redirect them to healthful activities. Next session starts beginning of May. Two paid staff working and use volunteers. Groups are usually 5 – 9 youth. All adults are background checked to be safe. Provide water and treats. Provide bike maintenance and safety before do actual rides. If interested, contact Linda Stinson – 374-8800 ext 202. Also on website.

Outreach program, community specialist – bring services into someone's home if homebound. Don't bring out food boxes but homebound person can send proxy to get their food at food bank. Renter rebate can apply for rebate of rent even if on subsidized housing. Circuit breaker – property tax rebate to be waived or reduced at end of year. Also help with HEAT program. This is separate from utility assistance program. Extended this year until Apr 17th. \$1300 for family of one can qualify. For renters or

homebuyers. Need appointment made before April 17th, bring income, utility payments, housing costs, other costs to be put into formula to see how much they are qualified for. Need to meet income guidelines but no other questions asked.

When HEAT closes move into family assistance program to assist these families. Do a lot of advocacy for clients and programs.

Undocumented population – most of funding is government issues (state, federal, city) as long as one family member is born in U.S. and is permanent resident family can be served. With food bank no one has to be documented because food is from community.

Is there collaboration with other agencies to see if families get multiple services? Coordinators work with other agencies to use Pacmis (computer) program to see who is receiving state services through DWS. Will review every 30 days to see if receiving food stamps or other financial service. Will make exception if family needs special food needs.

CAP is mostly short-term help but some have been served for 6 months getting food from food bank. If long-term, come in and volunteer at food bank so working for food and services. Will refer them to religious resources if determine are members of local congregations.

211 – dial this to take you to local United Way that covers that area which gives information and referral for services, even if not United Way services. There are approximately 12 agencies in community that receive food services. Sub for Santa is handled through United Way in this region because there is no Salvation Army in Utah County.

Don't give gifts but provide help. Before can receive help, get interviewed to see what resources are available. Rather than just pay person's utility bill, go through income and provide help with caulking etc to help with heating bills to make them better aware of how to be self sufficient to meet their own needs.

If family has car that needs tires and can't afford them, CAP reviews income and provides food so the family can buy tires themselves. LoAn presented to counselors in Provo School District last week as many are now experiencing youth who need help that haven't needed it before based on economic conditions.

Commercial Kitchen to help small businesses that people can rent on daily, weekly, monthly basis for very minimal cost to make food for their upstart businesses and is approved by Utah County Health Department. Want to help people who are in start-ups.

Is there anything CAP struggles to get on a continual basis that this group can help with? Financial help is always great because it helps them to service their trucks, etc. Paper products and hygiene kits are always welcomed and needed. Timpview High School is

going to make Easter baskets for the families CAP is serving. Donor and recipient can meet at CAP when baskets are complete.

Community Action is a great place to do community service assignments through school service for students. Not a lot of people are aware of what CAP offers so marketing would be great on services they provide.

EDUCATION PRESENTATION - Shirlee Silversmith, Learning for Life

Employed with Boy Scouts of America, responsible for a large area. Worked for 17 years with USOE for Indian Education with curriculum instruction. Worked on state textbook curriculum. Want to make sure curriculum meets No Child Left Behind mandate and will meet child's needs and grade and follow them through age 20 with Explorer program. Scientifically research based to see how well it's being received, curtailed negative classroom behavior.

Very adaptable for culturally diverse populations. Two-part program, one is school based from kindergarten to 12th grade and follows traditional values (honesty, ethics, etc). Many parents miss opportunity to teach children values to apply to real life situations. Schools emphasis is on core curriculum not on values. Money isn't available to teach value based in public schools, LFL is writing grants to try to raise funds to offset costs for schools to have this value based curriculum. Even have paid for mentors to assist teacher. Can be integrated into what's already being taught in math, social studies, etc. Schools that use this curriculum really like it has had helped curtail bullying in some of the schools. Also has special needs curriculum. In high school curriculum focuses on resumes, interviewing, ethics in workforce, etc.

Explorer program - approach organization in community based on career interest survey done in high school. Explorer Post has waiting list at UVRMC to learn about careers in that field, hands on activities, job shadowing, and have to be involved in service learning project. End of school year go to Mexico for week to provide services to community from irrigation to medical assistance to families, and come back changed. Most want to do it again and enjoy helping people in communities.

Also have police departments that have Explorer Posts and are starting one with Timpanogos High School and two more at Provo High and Timpview High and Kiwanis Club to set up key club for business and leadership.

Have access to campgrounds to provide experience to students and take elementary students to campgrounds to do day camps, snowshoeing and leadership training games, etc. Get to interact with students and found with Explorer program students that these kids know the education and job they want to pursue and how to get there, unlike many of the other students in the schools.

At the Saratoga Springs Police Department, Ryan P. was honored as Explorer of the Year and is captain of Explorer Post at police department. Program is for all children. Can contact Shirlee to discuss youth who are interested in program.

Ryan Peltekian speaks on his experience with Explorer Post – “I’m 18 years old and enjoy the Explorer program, helps in leadership program and gives youth opportunity to serve community and steers you in right direction to give you structure in the workforce and to use these leadership skills to serve community. Love being part of the program.

Jared presented a plaque and letter of recognition to Ryan on behalf of the Regional Youth Council.

OVERVIEW OF ORIENTATION MANUAL - Julie

Overview of manual and brief history of DWS and state and regional councils/youth councils. DWS is a good source of publications regarding youth and other services that the State provides. If you need statistical data, please notify Julie to see if we can get the requested information.

The intent of the Regional Youth Councils is to collaborate and serve youth in our regions, avoiding duplication of services, and sharing resources and knowledge to get more youth into programs and services which will help them.

Jared stated we need to promote education and government careers for stability and prepare youth for layoffs that could happen in their lifetime. DWS is looking at skill sets along with sectors. Hoping to keep council and regional youth councils with new structure in Department as they are very valuable and a good structure for region.

Shared with CTE directors and regional council a commitment with Brent Brown on Sept 10th and 6:30 pm to come to open house on automotive occupations, not just car repair, more high tech and also accounting positions, etc. Everyone in the region is invited to attend at Toyota dealership just south of UVU. Jared would like to have all of us invite the youth we serve to come to this event. Brent expects professional behavior while there. Invite parents as well.

Executive Committee from RYC will meet with regional council executive committee to better partnership on issues that both are facing and how to collaborate better between the two groups.

CAREER GUIDE FOR TEENS – like this publication as it discusses career and schooling options from a high school student’s point of view. Especially like the statistical information pertaining to dream jobs and the first account stories from youth. Julie will find out more info on these publications,

LEADERSHIP PROJECT – Maira

Approved by email, youth will be doing tomorrow at old junior high school doing repair and beautification. List of donations for what youth can use – handed out. Can contact Maira for pick up by end of April. This is an autistic high school for youth who can’t maintain in mainstream high school.

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE REPORT– Zenaida, Brian

Annual edits for contract for this year. This is last year that doing contract from July 09 to Jun 10 up for bid again. We're hoping Consortium will bid again since they're doing an awesome job!

Still have 2 edits to have corrections on, so far have 90% - need 88% to pass. Edit is cases being served by contractor where they take 20% randomly and go through each one of them and is being monitored to see if money is being used correctly, youth are on program were eligible to start with, and notes are being taken on youth for progress reports. Have small percentage on follow up, which is once youth has completed services through WIA or degree or employment, they are set on follow up where youth still has opportunity to get help. Did edits on these as well.

Trying to get 300 youth and adding another counselor, added full time tutor, which has been big help, so we don't have to contract out anymore for these services.

Need to serve 50% in-school youth and 50% out-of-school. Try to focus with WIA counselors and school counselors contact them for youth to qualify and if they don't, they suggest other options for them to look at. Right now at 59% for out-of-school youth, which is the biggest one to target. Out-of-school youth are hard to contact and hard to serve.

Stimulus money, received approx \$5 million for youth. Once edits are complete will send out via email for approval.

Stimulus money does not or cannot flow through WIA but has to go through DWS directly. 700 youth statewide to be served, region has slotted 114 youth to be able to provide summer stimulus internship program. For youth ages 18-24. Money has to be spent between June 1 and Sep 30th. Have worksite coordinators targeting employers. Money has to be targeted mainly for health, medical, and green jobs. In process of contacting employers for interns for summer and program pays for 80% of occupational wage = \$10/hour we'd pay 80% of that. Requirements along same lines as WIA youth, as far as income guidelines, significant barriers, not testing youth like WIA.

Hoping to do radio broadcast to market, contact UVU and BYU and LDS services to get word out through congregations. Applications will be available at schools for youth to fill out.

Income guidelines – based on household size, if younger than 24 years old, include parents' income if living at home. Once applications are gathered will review and will be served on first- come-first-served basis.

When Brian gets criteria set for this will email to Julie who will send to RYC for review and feedback. Brian is requesting feedback on how to market this program.

Meeting Adjourned.

Next meeting July 7th, 10:00 AM - PDC at Provo School District. Brian update on stimulus.