

**Mountainland Regional Council
Regional Youth Council Meeting
July 7, 2009
Provo School District, Professional Development Center**

ATTENDEES: Jared Ferguson, Provo School District; Kendall Crittenden, Wasatch School District; Brian Christensen, Public Employees Rep; Gary Lacock, Provo School Dist., Special Programs; Brian Smith, DWS; Maira Lesa, WIA; Julie Lay, DWS; Lisa Birch, Pathways Coordinator; Scott Taylor, Wasatch Mental Health/Vantage Point; Linda Holt, Intermountain Healthcare; Cheryl Cummings, Juvenile Justice

WELCOME – Jared welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. Asked for introductions

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Jared

Jared entertained a motion for approval of the minutes as written. Kendall moved for approval, Brian seconded the motion. The motion carried.

HEALTH SCIENCES PARTNERSHIP – Lisa

Appointed two subcommittees, one by Gina Olson with IHC and to work together to develop 4 year calendar on activity and career fairs for students so they see different things during course of high school. Second committee was summer camps and internship areas to get more students involved for job shadowing – running 3 day summer camp with IHC and Alpine School District, looking at doing more 1 day camps to get more students into these camps. Jared been impressed with meetings and participation, had staff from Timpanogos Regional Hospital attend last meeting who also want to be involved with summer camps and career fairs. Will take awhile to get up to full speed but hoping to get good things out of it.

FULL COUNCIL UPDATE – Maira

Discussed the letter from employers and was unanimous to shorten it and adding more bullet points. Signatures from all members and logos if possible. Getting continued feedback on letter from executive and full council to finalize for August meeting. Use Regional Youth Council to promote and market the letter. Lisa said youth won't read it if it's not colorful and has pictures on it. Thought also that youth would look at bulleted list rather than read through a long letter. Will letter be posted online for use? Could we link to partners to get free things if they access the letter? Hoping with high school seniors they will read through information and take life seriously. Summer planner and ideas of what to do for summer. Maybe post letter of pathways letter with advice and move forward to get kids as they're coming up. Could see UVU helping out with this effort, too. Business card reference card with bullets on expectations for interviews, ie, step one, take earring out. Will share new drafted letter to RYC.

Lisa gave pathway presentation and was well received. Want more parent education and share at the 6th grade level instead of waiting until junior high. Lisa would like to see something developed for elementary kids like other states do.

EDUCATION PRESENTATION – Scott Taylor

Vantage point is a youth services program that began in the late '70s - SL County first place to start doing youth services. State legislation in '70s mandated state to provide services to keep kids out of Juvenile Justice System – youth in crisis, family counseling, etc. Money was supposed to come through DCFS and was the case until 2002 when statute got money through Juvenile Justice Services. Wasatch Mental Health started in 1998, DCFS doing before then. Vantage Point made many changes with youth services, outreach to community for kids and families in crisis, early intervention to keep from heading to Juvenile Justice. Positive youth development – average stay is 2.5 days and underlying motivation and ability, choices. Focus on power to make choice and how to increase ability to make choices.

Vantage Point came about because when in crisis don't see resources around you. Not just a place where kids get dropped off and are babysat – but work to change perspective of youth. Youth services when youth in parent's custody and having conflict and need place to go to work through it. Two main things, residential stage 2.5 days gives them place to cool down and get home ASAP. Other thing is community services and youth services. Outpatient and individual group and family therapy for kids and families up to 60 days. Have outpatient groups for early intervention substance abuse, anger management that's court approved, smart families class for teen and parents, and self esteem for mom and girl with therapists to address issues for girls. Goal is to help kids avoid DCFS and JJS custody.

Have a lot of kids that are referred in outpatient therapy with Wasatch Mental Health, borderline suicidal where they can have supervision and therapy without being admitted to hospital. Therapists are full time on crisis team. Age 10 through 17. 10 and 11 year olds don't usually stay overnight.

Juvenile Receiving Center – when police detain youth for offense but not secured detention and can't find parents or parents won't take kid, they go here. Truancy, etc are offense as well. Good way to introduce to youth services and about 45% of parents are interested in receiving more help. Save law enforcement a lot of time and effort so they don't have to track down parents or leave kids at police station. Just opened a satellite office in American Fork located with DCFS to help north county law enforcement. Don't have kids stay overnight in AF but police will drop off. Usually in for a couple of hours.

About 1250 admissions a year between programs offered. About 60% are parents bringing in, 35% is law enforcement bringing in, 5% is emergency foster care for DCFS. Provide same services for these youth as for other youth until placement.

Funding been issue with economy – one time back fill money for 2010 but 2011 still up in air. Hoping that partners will get involved to help with funding issues. Serve alternative high schools that work with them very well. Most kids come from Provo area

and only office that serves youth outside of Utah County – also serves Millard, Wasatch, etc.

Only program where you don't need Medicaid or insurance to come. No charge to their facility. Story of one girl who was abandoned in Russia at birth. 10 year old sister came and took her and they lived on streets for 3 years. Found and taken to Ukrainian orphanage and lived there for 12 years. Ages 10-12 training them to be prostitutes in orphanage. Family adopted girl. Older sister remained in Ukraine. Girl came to US but left other siblings. Adopted mother murdered in US and adopted father moved girlfriend in so girl was sent back to Russia. Stole her identity to commit fraud. Adopted aunt found out about situation and brought her back to US and took care of her. Lasted about 8 months and couldn't handle so brought her to Vantage Point. Reunification efforts didn't work so declared dependent. Caseworker assigned and placed in foster home. Doing better now and started going to MATC and trying to get GED, has some language problems still.

What happens after age 17? Not licensed to be able to let them stay but some outpatient placements with them. Get connected with other services – Medicaid, housing, etc. Kids can bring themselves in as well. Will contact parents and let them know kids are there and will work with parents about situation and see if willing to participate.

2/3 funding comes through state through JJS and combined with juvenile receiving. And if have kids do have Medicaid we will bill Medicaid for services that are provided. Do not bill any third party insurances. Rest of it from federal grant through HHS.

If student has disability and is classified as having emotional disturbance and student not able to be assisted in classroom, ie, out of control and bring a gun, suspended from school system, with courts refer to Vantage Point? Don't have school so school districts are responsible for education but have kids in course of day that are brought to Vantage Point. What is connection with Slate Canyon? None really, sometimes have kids been to Slate Canyon that aren't ready to go back home so will be interim placement. Kid does not have to stay with us to get counseling.

SUMMER STIMULUS – Brian Smith

Been going very well, a lot of hiccups along the way. Making pathways and procedures as going along due to late notice from feds. Our region received about \$700,000 from state to set up summer internships which was based on formula of hourly wage and hours worked. Allocated 114 youth. Currently have 115 enrolled right now and are not tracking money too closely because money will go through Sept 31 and many will be dropping out end of August to return to school. Waiver pending with feds to continue spending to March 2010 to continue until money exhausted. Collected applications in April and flyer put out to market. 470 applicants for positions available. Prescreened applications to meet criteria to identify youth who had significant barriers. Got priority points for barriers to move them to lists. 430 employers to take kids on interships. 80% of salary paid by DWS. Internships set up by DWS and hired 3 additional job coaches. Youth meets with job coaches, assigned to jobs based on interest and what would work

best with them. Of 115 enrolled 107 are placed on worksites. Monitor attendance and behavior at each pay period based on supervisor feedback and based on info try to mediate with kids on issues they're having. Outcome for feds is we have to show that interns received work readiness skill over course of internship. 8 weeks go show improvement. Do again at completion of internship and will report to feds.

Green jobs and health and medical – some biggest successes have been Utah State Hospital, Habitat for Humanity. Utah County been phenomenal and just “get it”. Willing to work with kids. Several kids have significant mental health issues and been struggling on jobs. Employer called and said not going to work out, taking too much time and not enough resources. Identified another potential intern and asked if would be willing to work with these interns. Said yes, and goes out and works with them side by side teaching them what's appropriate and showing them how to properly do things. Works with them half a day and they work half a day on their own.

Another youth had criminal background and worked at cemetery but didn't work out. Job coaches wanted to help so put him on different worksite and lasted one day based on same reasons. Brought youth and father in and said not acceptable based on behavior and making DWS look bad in community. Needed to have employment or go back to jail. Will work with community partner and volunteer 40 hours a week and each day meet with job coach on what went well, and issues he faced. Outlined program for him on how to achieve his end goal on employment. Saw vision and talked passionately about wanting to do it and needed to make changes. Drafted letter to judge about unrealistic expectation of employment after 2 weeks release and being presented so hoping that judge will extend order to find employment so can continue to work with this youth.

Some employers asked if could hire after internship was over. That's the objective for the program. Brian will send information to Julie to send to council. This is just federal stimulus money and won't be continued long term. Have stimulus money for adults that 2- year money.

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE – Brian

Looking at global state budget not region and won't until after August when better able to determine what our budget will be.

WIA UPDATE – Maira

Hired 2 new staff members - Craig Foster and Jonathan Marshall. Will give contact information out via email when it's available. Covering Provo/Orem area.

Enrolled 43 new youth this quarter = Alpine 8, Heber = 3, Nebo = 3, Provo/Orem = 24. 16 closures total. Alpine = 1, Heber = 2, Nebo = 2, Provo/Orem = 11. Worker contacts youth once a quarter to see if doing ok, but they don't have an open case.

Current Enrollments = 236 total. Alpine = 70, Heber = 13, Nebo = 53, Provo/Orem = 100. Haven't reviewed outcomes yet.

Leadership project – 26 youth participated and had to limit number because area was so small. Split into 2 groups and had half come in morning and half in afternoon. Painted new facility for Autistic Center for high school in Heber City. Lady over project was very pleased with work and sent out letter to all youth who participated. Also got a lot of donations – Family Dollar, Childcare Resource and Referral, money left over didn't spend on paint and food – was able to purchase paper shredder, ink cartridges, pencil sharpener. Got discounted paint from Paul's Paint 40% off. Strong participation in this project and very pleased with outcome. Youth were enthusiastic. Slideshow should be available at next council meeting on this leadership project.

YOUTH RESOURCE GUIDE – Jared

Review to change or add information. If you have not submitted information please do so. Will continue to work on it. Goal is to have it done for distribution electronically before beginning of school year. Need to add summit school district. Electronic High School as well as different places they can get GED, ie, BYU (list of GED testing locations) almost rather refer to adult high schools because concern about qualifying or taking GED. Add tag line to refer to Adult High School for GED education. BYU packet program.

Jared will contact Summit School District. Will need idea of how many copies each member will need for distribution. Will email the final document so members can print out their own copies.

Youth friendly copy – What does this do with me if I'm not going to graduate?

Gary stated this meeting is very useful to gather information and what services are already in place without having to do a lot of research. Benefited personally as well. Are we focusing on 30% of population that's not going to graduate? Thinks the youth friendly resource guide will be well used.

Next meeting discuss how it's working and if want to do some more youth oriented flyer or ad. Will be sent electronically before next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned.

Next Meeting: October 6, 2009, Provo School District