

# YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

June 18, 2008

## I. Call to Order

### Present:

Frank Blowers  
Peter Keating  
Mike Kramer  
Debbie Bouts  
Kathy Sasinowski

### Absent:

Paul Reiz  
Chuck Shields

### Others Present:

John Bierbusse  
Linda McLatcher

Mr. Keating called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

## II. Approval of May 14, 2008 Minutes

**FRANK BLOWERS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 14, 2008 AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY KATHY SASINOWSKI. MOTION CARRIED.**

## III. Recommendation to Approve 2008-2009 Youth Contract Budgets

Final negotiations have been conducted with all service providers. Members reviewed the funding recommendations for the ten in-school youth programs currently operating. After staff negotiations, most remained as previously presented with the exception of a decrease to the Fitzgerald Schools continuum program, the MISD's summer and continuum programs, and the Warren Woods continuum program.

Ms. McLatcher noted that the St. Clair Regional Educational Services Agency (RESA), formerly the St. Clair ISD, provides services to students throughout the county working with all the high schools within the district. Also, the St. Clair Learning Academy does not operate a summer program as their services are provided to adjudicated youth referred through the court system.

After review and discussion, **FRANK BLOWERS MOVED TO APPROVE THE IN-SCHOOL YOUTH CONTRACTS AS PRESENTED AND TO FORWARD TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR FINAL APPROVAL; SUPPORT BY DEBRA BOUTS. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Members reviewed the funding recommendations for the eight out-of-school youth programs currently operating. Participants are high school dropouts or those graduates who are low skilled and economically disadvantaged. After staff negotiations, decreases were made to the L'Anse Creuse, Warren Woods, Blue Water Center for Independent Living, and St. Clair County Community College contracts.

Ms. McLatcher noted the success of the program operated at St. Clair County Community College where the program, by virtue of its location, encourages students to continue with higher education.

After review and discussion, **MIKE KRAMER MOVED TO APPROVE THE OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH CONTRACTS AS PRESENTED AND TO FORWARD TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR FINAL APPROVAL; SUPPORT BY FRANK BLOWERS. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

As previously approved, an RFP was released seeking services for a one-year period only placing

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emphasis on out-of-school youth. Staff has been in discussion with the local Department of Human Services to address the needs of the aging foster care youth population who are released at age 18. A model to service these young people will be developed. There are currently 40 to 50 foster youth participating in WIA programs.

Other funds will be dedicated to in-school youth in their senior year. The division of program year 2008 funds will be divided between in-school youth in the amount of \$2,755,336 and \$1,347,920 dedicated to servicing out-of-school youth, making the total training budget available for 2008 at \$4,203,256. The committee will reconvene August 20<sup>th</sup> to review proposals.

**IV. Presentation by Youth Facilitator**

Denise Lapish, Director of the St. Clair Learning Academy, gave a brief presentation of the services provided to adjudicated youth in St. Clair County who are assigned as a condition of the courts. The St. Clair Learning Academy conducts a program that provides eligible youth who may be serving probation; at risk of quitting or have not completed or been expelled from school; or who are unemployed. The academy provides support, resources, training, tutoring, and work readiness assistance. It is anticipated that Work Keys will soon be incorporated into the curriculum.

Ms. Lapish thanked the committee for their support as one of the sponsoring partners.

**VI. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**VII. Adjournment**

**KATHY SASINOWSKI MOVED TO ADJOURN; SUPPORT BY FRANK BLOWERS. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.** The meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Carne  
Recording Secretary