

YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

August 19, 2009

I. Call to Order

Present:

Frank Blowers
Peter Keating
Patti Gendernalik
Kathy Sasinowski
Debbie Bouts
Mike Kramer
Chuck Shields

Absent:

Paul Reiz

Others Present:

John Bierbusse
Bob Apczynski
Linda McLatcher

Mr. Blowers called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

II. Approval of May 20, 2009 Minutes

PETER KEATING MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 20, 2009 AS PRESENTED; SUPPORT BY DEBBIE BOUTS. MOTION CARRIED.

III. Recommendation to Publish Request for Proposal for Additional Youth Projects

Due to a slight increase in funding over last year and a significant amount of carry-in to provide new programs, staff requested permission to release a new Request for Proposal for additional youth projects.

PETER KEATING MOVED TO APPROVE RELEASE OF A YOUTH PROGRAM REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL AND TO FORWARD TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR FINAL APPROVAL; SUPPORT BY PATTI GENDERNALIK. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

IV. Report on Summer Youth Programs

a. WIA Summer Program

Ms. McLatcher reported that 380 students were served during the WIA continuum portion of the summer youth program. Six school districts participated providing work experience in areas such as culinary arts, landscaping, website development, tutoring, automotive technology, health occupations, entrepreneurship, construction and video production. The majority of students evaluated felt the program was worthwhile.

b. ARRA (Recovery Act) Summer Program

While the target number of participants was 2,000, Mr. Apczynski reported that the recovery act summer program employed 1,926 participants and 241 job coaches (36 of whom qualified as participants) over the course of the summer. More than 200 public and private nonprofit worksites were developed throughout the two counties, with an emphasis on green projects. As an example, Lakeshore Schools and St Clair Shores Adult and Community Education operated environmental awareness projects employing 22 young people; St. Clair County Community College employed 20 youth in a county-wide recycling project; and Warren Consolidated Schools employed 16 youth in a biotechnology project. One of the largest projects was operated in St Clair County by the *Save Our Neighborhood and Streets* (SONS) outreach center where 128 young people were employed in one of six components including a Blight Buster community beautification program and a Community Garden Program. The Blue Water Center for Independent Living employed 16 youth who received training in

requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act in order to canvas St. Clair County municipalities to assess public sidewalks, streets and curb cuts. Van Dyke Schools operated a tutorial program employing ten students who assisted kindergarten students in developing literacy and math skills.

The board provided assistance for the county's payroll department; however, payroll remained an issue throughout the program. Consequently, special payrolls were run in order to keep the process up to date.

Considering the short time allowed for planning the summer program, hiring and training staff, recruiting participants and worksites and processing paperwork, Mr. Apczynski reported the program a success.

While funding was available for two years, staff reported that funds have been expended and unless there is an additional infusion of money, there will not be a summer program of this magnitude next year.

V. Presentation of Summer Youth Providers

a. WIA Summer Program

b. ARRA (Recovery Act) Summer Program

Presentations by two summer service providers were delivered to the committee. Michelle Irwin of L'Anse Creuse Public Schools reported on a Career Pathways project attended by over 100 students. A short video of the program was viewed. They are also applying to present the project to the youth symposium in Chicago this fall. She thanked the board for their support.

Gayla Folsom of Mt. Clemens Community Schools reported that more than 100 young people participated in projects involving recreation, culinary arts, video production and tutorial components. Transportation for many students was an issue that was resolved by using the local public bus system. She reported further that some of the local churches are assisting a number of students by providing transportation to college. She thanked the board for its support.

VI. Other Business

There was no other business.

VII. Adjournment

CHUCK SHIELDS MOVED TO ADJOURN; SUPPORT BY PETER KEATING. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Carne
Recording Secretary