

Youth Council Quarterly Meeting

Minutes

March 2, 2010

Keith Middle School

3:30 p.m.

Members Present: John Fernandes (arrived after meeting start), Chair; Ron Rouillard, Vice Chair; Dianne Rivet, Clerk; Carl Alves; Matthew L. Cabral; Jennifer Donovan; Nancy Feeney; Roger Hart; Jane Jacobsen (Proxy for Cynthia Wallquist); Reverend David A. Lima; Alice Oliveira; Pamela Pollock; Christine Shannon; Barbara M. Sullivan; Elaine Wilcox; Gloria Williams

Members Absent: Kathleen Castro; Richard Colon (called); Lynn Donohue; Nelson Hockert-Lotz; Walter Jones; Dr. Jean MacCormack; Helena Marques; James Mathes; Gregg Miliote; Joan Ann Niles; Ronald F. Rheame; Benita Santiago; Dr. John Sbrega

Guests: Peg Curro (BCC and Connecting Activities)

Workforce Development Staff Present: Wendy Andrade; Jean Fox; Sean McGauley

Welcome and Introductions: Vice Chair Ron Rouillard welcomed the members and guests and called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m.

1. Consent Agenda- VOTE:

A. 12.1.09 Quarterly Youth Council Meeting Minutes (draft)

Motion to approve by Gloria Williams, seconded by Reverend David A. Lima, and approved unanimously.

2. Other Business:

a. Update on Summer Programs/Jobs

i. In-School/Out-of-School

The six vendors will begin year 2 of their procurements. They have been asked to review their year 2 budgets, which were based on what they submitted in the first year – all of which were reduced because of cuts to formula funding. Steve Grant and Jean Fox will meet with all vendors in the coming weeks to determine funding needs. It is anticipated that the funding allocation for the region will be made available in April.

ii. Letter to Legislators and Congressmen

-Jean Fox explained that at last week's Planning Committee meeting, Gloria Williams suggested preparing a letter to send to Boston and Washington asking for support of youth summer jobs. Considering the number of youth who were able to work and learn last summer, this summer looks to be a challenge in the region. Wareham is expected to be particularly hard hit, as all programming was ARRA funded. Jean Fox will draft a template that will include statistical information, as suggested by Chris Shannon, as well as data from Andrew Sum's reports. She will also contact Connecting Activities and see if pertinent data can be extrapolated from the data base for inclusion in the correspondence. Ms. Williams suggested approaching the Police Chief to see if there was an impact on crime last summer as a result of the large numbers of youth engaged in jobs and programs. She also urged providers to have their youth participants submit letters or testimonials in support of summer jobs. Reverend Lima suggested that Jean draft up a letter on behalf of the Youth Council. Individual members are encouraged to personalize it and send their own letter. Chris Shannon observed that the letter should articulate a workforce need, not a social service.

iii. In School/Out of School – Formula RFP

-Jean Fox informed the council that the Planning Committee met to go over the In School/Out of School procurement. The 2-year vendors would be starting their second year, and since the funding is unknown the Planning Committee voted to have current vendors revisit their budgets in order to address the 25% match piece. The Planning Committee recommended that the Youth Council vote to not go forward with the procurement this year.

-A vote to affirm the decision was presented to the Youth Council, with a motion to affirm by Gloria Williams, seconded by Pam Pollock, and approved unanimously.

b. AHA! Youth Participation

-It was proposed at the last Planning Committee meeting that the Youth Council get involved in the Youth AHA! Night on the 2nd Thursday in April. Jean Fox thought this would be a good venue to reach out to new people. Jean is looking for support at this event, if you are interested in helping out, please contact her at jfox@gnbwib.org.

3. Discuss Framework RFP:

-Ron Rouillard synopsized the Frameworks committee meeting of last month. The committee discussed the RFP and decided that certain language --specifically timeframes -- needed to be tightened up, as it is currently vague. The committee also discussed funding on a 2 year basis with a performance review after the first year. There has also been discussion of sub-contracting out portions of the RRP to entities with expertise in a certain area (e.g., Connecting Activities for the Work-Based Learning Plans).

-Nancy Feeney added that outreach in communities outside of New Bedford should align with services and programming available in those communities. Also, she is very much in favor of the “one-stop shopping” model available through New Directions, where all services are under one roof.

4. Resource Directory:

-Jean Fox and the WIB staff have been working on developing a Resource Directory modeled after the one used by the Cape and The Islands WIB. A survey has been developed that will allow WIB staff to plug the survey data into an Excel spreadsheet as well as into a directory. The survey is in the final design stages and will be sent out to area organizations and agencies soon.

-Chris Shannon recommended that the council take a look at MVHUB software, which includes free shareware and provides for easy information updates and provider reminders. She told the group that this software automatically sends email ticklers to businesses informing them that they haven't updated their information in 6 months. Any entity receiving three of these reminders will be contacted by an individual. She recommended the council look at www.MVHUB.org or www.GNBCOAST.org for more information.

5. Scorecard:

-Jean Fox presented the Youth Council Scorecard. She updated on the School Collaboration stating that she has met with Dr. Portia Bonner on the 25th to get information on youth in school with no plans beyond the end of the year. The idea is to connect them to the Career Center and New Directions as soon as possible.

-Chris Shannon and Jean Fox have been attending re-structuring committee meetings at New Bedford High School for over a year as part of the effort to build school collaborations. The effort seeks to elevate the underfunded and outdated Tech Ed. Program at NBHS to an Engineering Academy. The Academy has the support of Superintendent Bonner, who will be meeting with the committee again on March 10. In addition, the school was awarded a grant opportunity that will incorporate STEM and serve 20-40 kids this summer. Both BCC and the WIB are partners.

-Work Based Learning Plans - funding was slashed last year, and schools have been approached for support. A meeting with Old Rochester Regional is scheduled for next week. No meeting has been set for Wareham yet, despite a number of attempts. New Bedford will finalize its commitment later in the budgetary process.

-Jean Fox is working to set up a WIA 101 luncheon with employers to with at-risk youth and explain what is involved.

6. Mayor's Youth Council Update:

-New members Matthew Cabral and Roger Hart were introduced and informed the group that they are working on a community dance for area youth. The idea for a dance came from a survey that they conducted.

-Roger Hart told the group that the biggest pitfall they were encountering was a location for the event. The council offered up some suggestions of locations.

7. New Directions Update:

-Wendy Andrade reported that 570 applications for youth summer jobs have been distributed.

-About 200 have been returned.

- Of those, about 20 are well into the eligibility process.
- 180 youth sat for the TABE test during the February school vacation week.
- Wendy noted that there is a FAQ section on the New Directions Website that addresses most of the questions youth and/or their parents raise. Information is also available on Facebook.
- Wendy further noted that the new database is in place. This database is expected to permit ready access to detailed demographic and service data on all enrolled youth.
- Gloria inquired about the application numbering process. She indicated that New Directions had previously suggested numbering completed applications. Wendy observed that they decided to number them all just to have an idea as to volume circulating. She noted, however, that completed applications are, in fact, queued in order of submission.
- Gloria asked for clarification on the email requirement. Wendy stated that the requirement has already made communication much better. Phone numbers and addresses frequently change, but youth are more likely to maintain an email address. New Directions offers to assist youth in establishing an email account at the Youth Annex. In all cases, youth and/or parents may contact a staff member by telephone with questions or concerns.
- Nancy reminded the Council that eligibility is federally guided, not subject to local jurisdiction. New Bedford's efforts are noteworthy.
- Chris Shannon inquired about plans for youth who are not deemed eligible or who cannot be funded over the summer. Wendy spoke about the workshops offered at the Youth Annex and the Career Center. She noted that Nelson Hockert-Lotz's Summer of Success Program model was a terrific stop-gap measure for area youth, but it is no longer economically feasible. Chris suggested developing a workshop on entrepreneurship for those youth. Once they have some skills, these youth could be encouraged to do some job carving.

8. Director's Report:

-Jean synopsised the Director's report as most of it was already covered in the meeting. She highlighted the Wareham ARRA/Byrne, which will be coming to end and she noted that it was very successful. A site visit is scheduled for this Thursday at the Wareham Boys and Girls Club. There is significant concern is that there is no additional funding for Wareham.

-The Library is starting a "Got English" program which offers conversational circles. This is an ESOL effort, supported by the WIB. It is responsive to the Mayor's request that more be done to alleviate the demand for ESOL in the community, where there tend to be long waitlists, particularly at the lower levels.

Adjourn:

Upon a motion made by Gloria Williams and seconded by Elaine Wilcox, the meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Rivet, Clerk