

**Youth Council Special Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**August 11, 2009**  
**Wamsutta Club**  
**3:30 p.m.**

**Members Present:** John Fernandes, Chair; Ron Rouillard; Vice Chair, Dianne Rivet, Clerk; Carl Alves, Reverend David A. Lima, Alice Oliveira, Chris Shannon, Elaine Wilcox

**Members Absent:** Richard B. Colon, Lynn Donohue; Nancy Feeney, Nelson Hockert-Lotz, Walter Jones, Jr., Dr. Jean F. MacCormack, Helena S. Marques, James H. Mathes, Gregg Miliote, Joan Ann Niles, Pamela Pollock, Ronald Rheame, Donna Sachs, Dr. John J. Sbrega, Cynthia Wallquist, Gloria Williams

**Guest:** Sarah Gonet of the United Way

**Workforce Development Staff Present:** Edward Dennehy, Jean Fox, Steve Grant

**Welcome and Introductions** – Chair John Fernandes called the meeting to order at 3:40 pm.

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Chair Fernandes asked to hold off on the vote until the regular quarterly meeting in September.

**Other Business**

**GNBWIB Youth Business Plan** – Chair Fernandes stated that he and the Youth Council Director had spent some time revising the initial plan draft. Ed Dennehy was also part of the effort. The Chair's changes, as well as others, have been incorporated in the latest version. He also observed that the exercise brought up some questions, citing the example of the high school credential being an outcome for older youth, but not a measure for younger youth.

Mr. Rouillard then asked Mr. Dennehy about the capped monetary amounts reflected in the Support Services Policy, which is appended to the plan, and which was generated by New Directions. Mr. Dennehy indicated that individual caps are within the purview of the Career Center Director; however, any amount exceeding \$1,000 must be approved by him.

Ms. Wilcox identified a typographical error on page two of the plan (change FY 1020 to FY 2010). No other comments.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Alves and seconded by Ms. Wilcox, the plan, with the correction, was unanimously approved.

Mr. Grant briefly reviewed the Budget Narrative portion of the Business Plan with the Youth Council, stating that the purpose of the document is to highlight where all funding is directed. Most youth-related topics appear on page 4.

Regarding ARRA, Mr. Grant informed the Council that more wage funding will be directed to programs to meet spend-down targets. Mr. Fernandes asked if the WIB's spending on supervisory personnel was proceeding as projected. Mr. Grant stated that 60% of all ARRA dollars must be expended by summer's end; the WIB's target is 90% by September 30. Consideration of wages, programs, and supervisor pay is included in this projection. Chair Fernandes then observed that the stringent WIA requirements presented significant difficulties to staff and to programs.

In response to Ms. Shannon, it was noted that 1,693 applications were received, and 694 of those have been deemed eligible. Mr. Dennehy added that the greatest barrier to eligibility determination remains the documentation requirements.

Ms. Shannon also inquired about the possibility of out-of-school youth working into December. Mr. Dennehy noted that the current push is to continue out-of-school youth as long as possible, with several programs prepared to extend into October, November, and December, if funding allows. Ms. Shannon also asked if the outcome should be revised to be an offer of employment, so that youth could continue working when funding is exhausted. Chair Fernandes agreed that the focus must continue to be on real jobs. ARRA provided essentially subsidized employment. However, recognizing the population served, employment of any kind is beneficial.

Ms. Shannon further observed that so many youth have been placed very late in the season. If they had more opportunity, they could engage in "job carving," and demonstrate their worth and commitment to an employer. In addition, she suggested that the information we obtain from a review of ARRA should be compared with 2010 census information in an effort to frame future goals and objectives.

Chair Fernandes observed that the formula WIA summer programming eligibility determination process is a challenge. ARRA added many more young people to that process.

**Scorecard** – Chair Fernandes then discussed the proposed draft Scorecard. The Youth Council Director had also prepared some preliminary metrics for measurement of each category. It was noted that the purpose of the Scorecard is to provide consistent, measureable reporting to the Executive Committee and the Board about all committee activities and to keep priorities on track. The Youth Council was asked to review the scorecard and proposed metrics for a vote.

Ms. Shannon voiced her concern that the categories were inadequate. Ms. Fox noted that these are a preliminary breakdown of Youth Council efforts, and they are likely to change. All youth-related grants may appear under one heading, as will vendors and their populations. Ms. Shannon then inquired about the vision for the Youth Council. Ms. Fox stated that the WIB will be meeting next week with an expanded group to narrow the focus and identify target populations and sectors. This information will be shared and discussed with the Youth Council at a future meeting, and a formal vote will be taken.

Chair Fernandes expressed his continued dissatisfaction with in-school programming. Youth do not emerge from those programs with jobs. He anticipates further modification of the RFP to

require some level of job participation and exposure, at a minimum. He also noted that the in-school programs all suggest that there are many opportunities for youth; however, there is no mechanism to assist them in taking advantage of the myriad opportunities spelled out in the proposals.

The Chair also reminded the Council that he will be focusing on developing timelines that will assist in establishing priorities and areas of responsibility, and that will preclude much of the last-minute scrambling that occurs.

**Adjourn** – Upon a motion made by Mr. Alves and seconded by Ms. Shannon, the meeting was adjourned.

**Next Meeting** – September 1, 2009 at Normandin Middle School, 3:30 p.m.