

**NEMO Workforce Investment Board  
YOUTH COUNCIL  
Meeting Minutes**

**June 12, 2009**

**PRESENT:**

**Youth Council Members:**

Debbie Akright, Division of Youth Services  
Denise Bennett, Macon County Economic Development  
Terri Jones, Kirksville Area Technical Center  
Laura Melling, Youth Participant  
Penny Miles, Northeast Missouri Community Action Agency  
Alonna Murphy, 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit Juvenile Office

**Guests:**

JoAnn Toerper, Boonslick RPC  
Sheree Prebe, Gamm, Inc.

**NEMO Workforce Investment Board Staff:**

Brandi Glover  
Sharon Hillard  
Linda Studer

## **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Chairperson Penny Miles called the June 12, 2009, Northeast Missouri Workforce Investment Board (NEMO WIB) Youth Council (YC) meeting to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. at the Monroe County Farmers Mutual Insurance Community Building in Paris, Missouri.

## **ROLL CALL AND SIGNATURE SHEET**

Sharon Hillard took roll call. Six Youth Council members were present, and a quorum was established. A signature sheet was signed by all individuals.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Terri Jones made a motion to approve the agenda. Debbie Akright seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

## **APPROVAL OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL MINUTES**

Sharon said the minutes were revised to correct a misspelled word and include some commas. Debbie Akright made a motion to approve the April 24, 2009, meeting minutes as amended. Denise Bennett seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

## **YOUTH SERVICE PROVIDERS REPORTS & UPDATES**

Brandi provided reports for the Youth Service Providers.

JoAnn said Boonslick's numbers for in-school youth have been very strong throughout the year. The outreach in their schools has been good and a lot of kids have been placed in work experiences. She said they should have no problem making their 80% expenditure rate requirement by the end of June. JoAnn said they have spent a lot of staff time planning and gearing up for the Next Generation Jobs Team (NGJT) program. They have been going out recruiting kids and working on forms for the program. Currently they have 55 new enrollments for the NGJT, and they have completed 2 Workplace Readiness classes. A lot of the employers are requesting interviewing and background checks for the youth. When that information is completed, some of the kids will be starting to work. JoAnn said their budget for leadership for both in- and out-of-school youth may be down this year due to their focus on the NGJT. A lot of the kids will not be going to the leadership camps they attended in the past. They have offered the classes to the kids on their regular programs but they are more interested in finding jobs for the summer. JoAnn said the whole process of the work experiences and working with the businesses has been outstanding. The state's efforts with helping to market the NGJT has been very good and the businesses are very excited and working with them. She read the list of various businesses that had agreed to be worksites for the youth.

Penny asked about the spending process of the ARRA funds and the regular youth WIA funds. She asked if the providers were going to try to expend the ARRA funds and then roll over to the regular program funds.

Sheree said they are going to try to maximize the dollars. She said Gamm is a little bit short of their local dollars in getting to the 80% expenditure rate for PY 08. She talked about the NGJT program enrollment numbers for the region and said she thought our region had 250 youth enrolled in the program, and statewide we were at 138%. She said she has over enrolled for the

NGJT program because some of the youth will probably drop out and that will allow Gamm to continue on with the program. She said some youth will be dually enrolled into the local program which will free up some ARRA funds to continue because they are over obligated to continue through September 30. Sheree said her staff is committed to making the NGJT program successful. They have worked as late as 10:00 and 11:00 p.m. and have given up their weekends and that is why the region is leading the pack in MO. Gamm has a lot of worksites going right now. They have two crews; one is a concrete crew and one is carpentry crew. Because the kids can only work a total of 320 hours they will have two sets of kids to complete the work. They are going to be working at the fire station in Edina building a 120 x 60 pad. They are going to be doing sidewalks at Memphis and Palmyra. They are going to be doing shelter repairs at some of the parks, some painting and some landscaping in the city of Kirksville. The city of Canton is taking five kids to work on a new trail. In addition, they have some individual worksites both clerical and medical. Sheree said she was happy with the summer youth program and how it has unfolded. Gamm has had eight Workplace Readiness classes so far. They have some kids out on worksites, and they have already sent payroll out to some of them. She said they don't foresee any problems in spending the money and they think they will get it done.

Brandi said the Northeast had 323 actual enrollments in the NGJT and we planed 226, so we are almost 100 over. We have 187 in the summer employment part of the program that are either out on the work experience or in the Workplace Readiness classes.

Sheree said Governor Nixon and Grover Gamm, who began Gamm, Inc., were in Hannibal yesterday attending the same event. As Governor Nixon was walking by, he stopped and thanked Mr. Gamm. Sheree said he knew the Northeast is leading the state in the NGJT program and he acknowledged how well this region is doing statewide.

Brandi said that the state has a weekly conference call for the Youth Summer Employment Program and that the Governor joined the call and acknowledged all the work that is being done for the NGJT. He said he was extremely pleased with the progress of the program and that he truly feels this is going to impact the economy and help to transform the economy like they want. Brandi said MO was recognized by Vice President Biden as second nationwide in getting the program going so quickly.

It was stated that the subcontractors would provide more numbers on the summer youth program at the next Youth Council meeting.

Penny asked if the WIB had received any new guidance on the extra reporting requirements for the ARRA funds. Brandi said it was mentioned on yesterday's NGJT conference call that they were being prepared. Sheree said they were keeping their information separate so they could easily pull that data. Linda said the youth are identified separately in our case management system and we should be able to pull those numbers.

Linda reviewed the subcontractor's MO Performs reports. The data on the first report was by career center. Linda said as of March 2009 there were 187 youth enrolled in the Northeast Region. She noted that this was only regular WIA youth and did not include the ARRA youth. The Youth Council talked about the decreased numbers in Hannibal. The numbers had dropped in half and Sheree was not sure why. She said possible reasons were that they had a change in director and that they had a number of dislocated workers in the area. She said currently Hannibal is working with the NGJT program and doing very well. It was mentioned that

Moberly's numbers were declining as well. It was noted that there are ups and downs in the numbers, and that the region's performance numbers are based on overall numbers not individual career centers. Linda said the new MO Performs reports will allow us to drill down by career center and to identify issues we may have in certain areas. The other MO Performs report which showed how we compared regionally within the state in youth placement and youth attainment of a degree was reviewed. Other issues that were discussed were how the region negotiates performance goals, how youth are brought into the youth programs, and the barriers the youth have to have for the ARRA 15% funds income guidelines.

Sheree said they are at a point where they are not enrolling any more youth for the NGJT because they are about 100 over. However, they are giving out applications to be put on a waiting list and they will fill the slots as they need to.

### **MEMBER NOMINATION/ELECTION**

Brandi said Penny Schwartz, who is a private business owner and a WIB member, has expressed an interest in becoming a member of the Youth Council.

Terri Jones made a motion to recommend Penny as a member of the Youth Council. Debbie Akright seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

Brandi said Debbie Atkinson resigned from her position with Job Corps. She said the Youth Council's bylaws state that the YC will have a member of Job Corps represented on the council. She has contacted Debbie's replacement and he is in the process of checking to see if he can take her place in the position.

### **ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS**

Penny said her term as Chairperson of the Youth Council was ending, and Terri Jones had agreed to be nominated for the position. She said Debbie Akright had volunteered to be nominated as Vice-Chairperson. Brandi said Mark Chambers agreed to continue to serve as Secretary Treasurer.

Denise Bennett made a motion to accept the slate of nominations for officers of the Youth Council. Terri Jones seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN COMMITTEES**

Brandi said she would be contacting some of the members soon regarding the Youth Council committees that didn't have appointed chairpersons to begin setting dates for some committee meetings. She said she hopes to be able to spend more time on this in the coming month so she can get more information out to everyone.

Brandi said she also planned to work on the Strategic Plan and hoped to have it ready for review at the next Youth Council meeting so it could be taken to the WIB for approval.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Brandi asked everyone to do a short infomercial on their position with their agency.

Debbie Akright, Division of Youth Services (DYS), provided handouts for everyone. She said DHS is divided into five regions. She works in the Northeast Region and serves about 32

counties. She said the kids are committed to them by a judge, and most of them have already gone through their local juvenile office. The kids may have committed very serious crimes, have been repeat offenders or had issues at school at home or in the community. Debbie said when the kids come to them the ideal situation is that they have a case manager assigned to them and their family who remains with them until they are discharged. An assessment is done to help the service coordinator decide what residential placement best suits the youth's needs. In the region, they have three group homes; two for boys and one for girls. They have a moderate secure program in Troy, two secure programs (one in Montgomery City and one in Fulton), and a non-residential program in Columbia. Debbie said in a few cases, the youth can remain at home and that is called community care. She said DYS also contracts with other providers for services such as Boys and Girls Town or providers that offer drug rehabilitation services for youth that have needs they cannot provide. While the youth are in their programs, their case manager will see them once per month. They will have community mentors that will work with the service coordinators to provide additional supervision and mentoring for the youth. She said a lot of their kids are going back into the same environment so they provide family counseling as well.

Debbie said they have a lot of support in place for the kids. However, there is a lot of peer pressure and it's hard to predict which kids will be successful. She said DYS is the last stop before the adult correctional system, and once the youth become seventeen they are considered adults. DYS can't have them past their eighteenth birthday. Debbie said DYS has pretty good parent involvement. She felt in last few years they have seen more substance abuse and most of the youth are affected by drug abuse in some way. Mental health issues are also on the rise.

Alonna Murphy, 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit Juvenile Office, said they provide supervision to kids up to the age of 17. They will keep them in the court system until age 21 if they are in foster care. They do not commit them to the Division of Youth Services. She said they don't take kids because they have committed a crime; they take them because their behavior is out of control. She said the kids may be sent to them because they are not following the rules, they are not going to class, they are not getting along peers, they are being sent to the office too often, or they are being disruptive or belligerent. Alonna said they have parents of small kids that call them because they just don't know where to reach out for services. In these cases, sometimes all they have to do is set up some family counseling or some referrals. She said the kids don't have to commit a crime for the Juvenile Office to work with them; sometimes parents just need support.

Alonna said in Marion, Monroe and Ralls Counties she has probably committed only 15 to 25 kids. She said most times it is not the child as much, as where they are living. A lot of the kids they work with are kids that are doing the same things the other kids are doing, but they have just gotten caught. She said they have a huge problem with parent support. Most of the kids come in without their parents, and many of their parents are incarcerated. Parents are reluctant to go to parenting classes or counseling. They wait months before making or keeping their child's appointments with the psychiatrist, and they don't follow through to get their child the medication they need. Alonna said the children need the guidance of adults to tell them how to dress and what to wear to court or to an interview. Because they don't have their parents or anyone at home to guide them, they are out running around with their buddies and they sometimes get into trouble. She said the Juvenile Office monitors the youth they have on supervision pretty closely for drug and alcohol use and they can do drug testing for the parents or the schools at no cost. She said the Juvenile Office also takes custody of children, if they are

being abused or neglected, after an investigation and recommendation by the Children's Division.

Denise Bennett, Macon County Economic Development Director, said her two rolls in the county are business retention and business attraction. She said the majority of her time is spent toward business retention; making sure their local businesses are healthy and happy. Denise said she has a passion for youth. She feels that the youth are our economic development future so they do a lot of programs for the youth. One of the programs she is involved in is for eighth grade students, and next year they will be doing a program for seniors. She said the hats she wears are many, and this is the most challenging and most rewarding position that she had ever had.

Denise said Macon County is stable. They have lost a few businesses, but they have gained a few businesses. Their tax base is the same in June 2009 as it was in June 2008, and she was pleased with that. She said people still want to see a big industry appear in the Macon area. However, the trends of today are in support of small of businesses and entrepreneurship. Denise said statistics show that every year there are about 200 new businesses of about 100 employees or more in the U.S. that relocate. There are 15,000 locations competing for those 200 jobs. If those jobs were divided fairly, that would mean that a community would get 1 new business every 75 years. She said that is the reality of our situation. Denise said there are so many great, creative, imaginative people out there that are applying to the 10 employee businesses that are going to stay in our communities, and each of those employees represents 10 households that are better supported by those jobs. She said that is where her focus has been.

Denise again stated that she is very passionate about the youth and letting them know the opportunities that are out there for them. Recently she had 100 mailboxes delivered that are going to be used for the seniors next year. The mailboxes will be filled with cards and well wishes and presented as parting gifts at graduation. They hope to let the youth know that Macon is their hometown, their community is standing behind them, and Macon will be a good place to raise their families once their education is complete.

Terri Jones, Kirksville Area Technical Center Director, said the center serves seven school districts. They usually have 450 to 500 students per year. Their biggest sending school is Kirksville. They serve Knox and Schuyler Counties, Edina, Adair County R1 at Novinger, Brashear, Green City and Milan. Terri said they had a large group of laid off workers from Ortech in their business and computer tech programs this year. Their main adult program is Practical Nursing where they take 28 students. They are currently under renovation, and with their expansion they will be able to take 31 in the nursing program next fall. The Kirksville R3 community supported them with a \$5 million renovation and construction expansion bond and they have another \$5 million matching bond on the governor's desk. If that bond is awarded, they will be able to add more programs. Currently, they are planning to add welding and to expand their health care offering. If they get the additional offering, they are looking to add some other programs.

Terri said they have one of the few infant toddler programs in the state. It opened in 2000 through a partnership with Early Headstart through the Community Action Agency in Kirksville. It serves children ages three weeks through six years in conjunction with their Early Childhood Program. It serves as a training program for their students as well as providing free childcare for those who are income eligible and meet Headstart guidelines. They also have a working half day

preschool for children ages three through five. As part of the renovation, the infant toddler program and the working half day preschool will be moving to the new Early Childhood Care building. Terri said some of the other programs they have include constructions trades, auto collision repair, auto tech, computer tech, business offerings and digital design graphic. She said some of the adult students are referred to them from the MO Career Center and some are funded through TRA because they have been laid off. Their programs are short term. Nursing is their longest program. They offer evening classes and customized training and serve safe classes for food service workers in the area. The long wait for acceptance into the nursing classes was discussed. Terri explained the process used by the center to be accepted into their Practical Nursing program. She said they have been accepting 28 students for the last 5 years and before that they only took 25. However, they probably received 78 to 80 applications this year. Terri said they just underwent NCA review this past May which means they are accredited with the national accreditation just like colleges go through. She said she loves what she does. This is her 31<sup>st</sup> year in education and she plans to retire in two years.

Penny Miles, Northeast Missouri Community Action Agency (NMCAA) Executive Director, said the agency serves the five counties of Adair, Clark, Knox, Schuyler and Scotland. They serve low income individuals and provide services such as the Headstart and Early Headstart programs for young families and Community Services Block Grants. NMCAA also works with the Kids Can program which helps to get kids involved and connected with their community. Some of the projects they are responsible for starting are Smoke Busters Landscaping, refreshment stands and a summer program for youth life skills to help youth learn skills such as how to balance their check books. NMCAA also offers family day care homes, emergency shelter for only one month, and low income heat and weatherization assistance to those in need in the community.

#### **SET NEXT MEETING DATE/LOCATION**

The next meeting date was set for 10:00 a.m. on August 7, 2009 in Paris, MO.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Mark Chambers