

**NEMO Workforce Investment Board  
YOUTH COUNCIL  
Meeting Minutes  
November 20, 2009**

**PRESENT:**

**Youth Council Members:**

Debbie Akright, Division of Youth Services  
Donna Dunwoody, Moberly Housing Authority  
Terri Jones, Kirksville Area Technical Center  
Laura Melling, Youth Participant  
Alonna Murphy, 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit Juvenile Office

**Guests:**

Krystal Collins, Boonslick RPC  
JoAnn Toerper, Boonslick RPC

**NEMO Workforce Investment Board Staff:**

Brandi Glover  
Sharon Hillard  
Linda Studer

## MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chairperson Terri Jones called the November 20, 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

Three Youth Council members were present, and a quorum was established. Two more members arrived later bringing the total members present to five. A signature sheet was signed by all individuals.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Debbie Akright made a motion to approve the agenda. Alonna Murphy seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

## APPROVAL OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL MINUTES

Alonna Murphy made a motion to approve the August 7, 2009 meeting minutes. Debbie Akright seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

## YOUTH SERVICE PROVIDERS UPDATES/REPORTS

- **Gamm, Inc.**

Sheree Prebe was unable to attend the meeting because she was attending a funeral. Brandi passed out and reviewed the reports for Gamm, Inc. Through September 30 for the Summer Youth Program Next Generation Jobs Team (NGJT) 15% Governor's discretionary funds Gamm had 41 youth in the program, 41 youth were working and 5 of those youth were receiving supportive services. Terri asked if the youth were required to be enrolled in all of the 10 required elements. Linda said because the NGJT funds were provided through the American Recovery Reinvestment Act (ARRA) stimulus funding, the youth only had to attain a Workplace Readiness goal and they were excluded from the other performance measures. Brandi said Gamm had 130 youth enrolled in the NGJT 85% out-of-school youth summer program. All of those youth were enrolled into summer employment opportunities, and 36 were enrolled in supportive services. Gamm had 138 youth enrolled in the NGJT 85% in-school youth program. All of those youth were enrolled into summer employment opportunities, and 23 were enrolled into supportive services. Brandi also reviewed the expenditures for each program.

Terri said the Kirksville Tech Center has some students that are in the GED Option program who get paid to come to school, receive paid employment and also receive \$100 when they pass the GED. She asked if the kids who are not enrolled in the Option program receive \$100 when they graduate. Linda said they do not receive the \$100; however, they do receive \$25. She said this was the result of an incentive policy developed by the Northeast Region. It was felt that it was more difficult to get a youth to graduate from the GED program than to graduate with a high school diploma. We couldn't afford to give every youth we served \$100 for either graduating or achieving their GED, so we looked at who we felt needed the biggest "carrot" to succeed. Terri said the youth in the Option program get a high school diploma when they pass the test and their scores become part of a transcript and not a GED certificate. Terri said the kids may not know about the difference in the incentives they are receiving but she didn't feel it was quite equitable

and it should be looked into. Linda said the incentive for the program could be revisited. However if we give \$100 to every youth, it will greatly reduce the number of in-school youth we will be able to serve.

Terri said they also had two youth who should have tested for the GED in October but they didn't want to take it until December so they could keep getting the money for coming to class. Terri said she thought a committee should look at the issues the Youth Council had discussed. Brandi said the issues would be reviewed, and that the WIB was not aware that any abuse like that was happening. Linda said if WIA staff had been informed of the abuse they would have addressed the issue.

Brandi said Sheree reported that although the summer youth program is almost completed there are a couple of youth still working. Gamm has Jane Moore out talking to schools and doing some recruitment for their regular youth program to try to get more students enrolled and they have gotten several referrals. Sheree also mentioned that she very much enjoyed working with Terri through the GED Option program and she appreciated the referrals.

- **Boonslick RPC**

JoAnn Toerper provided a handout for Boonslick's service provider reports. She said they met their mandated 80% expenditure rate for the NGJT Summer Youth 85% ARRA funds. They have some kids enrolled in the in- and out-of-school NGJT program and they are continuing to spend those dollars. The youth that were eligible have been moved/enrolled into the regular in- and out-of-school programs. JoAnn said they are still spending in all four program accounts with the exception of the 15% Governor's discretionary funds.

JoAnn said operating the NGJT program required their entire office of Warrenton DWD staff working together with service provider staff to find worksites and businesses. It really enhanced and opened the eyes of everyone they marketed to. With the help of the state marketing, they now have many businesses that are aware of the youth program and they are able to sell it to the community to find more worksites for the kids. JoAnn said she felt the out-of-school youth program was stronger now than it has been for a couple of years. Some of that was due to the NGJT program. But a lot of it was due to the relationships that she, Krystal and everyone that worked with the program had been able to build through the Local Advisory Team meetings as they worked with local NECAC offices, Family Service Division and other organizations that had brought benefits to the kids.

JoAnn provided another report for the Youth Council that contained a summary of current enrollment numbers for all the programs as of November 19, 2009. The report also contained information regarding Boonslick's "Greening Missouri Youth" project and stories of youth who had successfully completed the programs. JoAnn explained that through the "Greening Missouri Youth" project they worked with Missouri Enterprise who provided four weeks of training to five youth for one day each week. Each week they covered different topics regarding energy savings. The kids were taken to Lincoln, Montgomery and Warren County Government offices to do energy assessment audits. Later, they provided a report on their findings. Other businesses that are working with them on the "Greening Missouri Youth" project are King Innovations and Victor Pipe who manufactures wind turbans. One of the gentlemen from Victor Pipe is serving as a mentor to the youth and is helping to coach the kids. She said the kids are really learning a lot, and at the end of December they will be presenting a project that they have worked on with each business. Linda asked if the kids could present the project for the Youth Council. JoAnn

said she would check on the date for the presentation and let Brandi know. Krystal presented the information about two youth who had successfully completed the youth programs.

### **WIA YOUTH PROGRAM (OCT. 1, 2009 — JUNE 30, 2010)**

Brandi provided WIA Youth Re-Contracting Information reports for Gamm and Boonslick current through September 30, 2009. She said the reports showed that the subcontractors were already over their planned numbers for enrollments for this year. Their region actual performance data was what they are doing right now but was only a couple of months of data and would change. Brandi said we met our PY08 Regional Performance goals except for Literacy and Numeracy. Donna asked what would be the consequence of not meeting that goal. Brandi said the region would receive a negative performance on that measure. Linda said we would review the data to try to find out why we missed the goal. She explained that the Literacy and Numeracy measure is based on the TABE test scores, and when individuals are first enrolled they have to take the test to measure their basic skills to ensure they score 8.9 or above. If they score below 8.9, they must test again within 12 months. Not only do they have to measure again, but they have to increase their score by two Educational Functioning Levels (EFLs). If the individual never returns to be tested, that is a negative. If they do not test or if they don't increase by the required EFLs, it is a negative. Linda said we need to do some research to see what our issues are on this measure.

Brandi also provided a MO Performs report that showed the number of youth who were new registrants, number of youth exited, and number of youth in the program for PY08-July through PY09-August by career center (numbers for youth enrolled in the NGJT program were not included). Terri said the last time the Youth Council reviewed this report Moberly's numbers appeared really low but now Hannibal's numbers were really low. Brandi said Hannibal's enrollments were increasing. The report indicated that they had four in August and she said they had more for September and October. The newly hired staff at the Hannibal career center was also discussed.

### **SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM REPORT**

Brandi said there are a few youth still working. The guesstimate for Missouri is that 7,500 youth participated in the summer youth employment program. Northeast MO had 390 youth participate which was over our original projection. Through October 5<sup>th</sup> the youth had worked 7,759 hours. They were paid between \$7.25 and \$12.00 per hour and the average wage was \$8.14. As of October 19<sup>th</sup>, we had 16 youth that received permanent employment and others may still receive permanent employment as a result of the program.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN; COMMITTEES**

- **Goals/Achievements/Committee Breakouts**

Brandi said the Youth Council had the Strategic Plan in a pretty decent working order. However, there were some things we were supposed to revisit that we didn't have time to address at today's meeting. She said she would like to reformat the Youth Council's Strategic Plan to look more like the format of the WIB's Strategic Plan. After that was completed, the members could revisit the plan to see what changes needed to be made. Everyone agreed that it was okay for Brandi to do the reformatting.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Brandi reported that the Workforce Investment Board had received a letter from the AFLCIO confirming the retirement of WIB member Emmett Garner. Therefore, he would no longer be a member of the Youth Council. Brandi said we were not required to have a person from labor represented on the Youth Council. She said our Strategic Plan states that we will have a representative from business on the council and we really didn't have a lot of private employers represented. She asked the members if they wished to replace Emmett with a person from the AFLCIO, or if they would like to fill the vacancy with an individual who would represent private business. After some discussion, it was decided to fill the vacancy with a private business person. Terri asked if the individual had to be a WIB member. Brandi said because the Chair of the Youth Council must sit on the Executive Committee of the WIB and in order to do so they must be a WIB member and Emmett who was leaving was a WIB member, we could look at the Board members to see if someone was interested. Terri suggested the members try to find someone from their community that would be willing to serve so they could ride to the meetings together. She mentioned that a private business member would have to give up their time and mileage. Donna suggested finding someone that was fairly close to Paris. Everyone was reminded that although she hadn't been able to attend a meeting yet, WIB member Penny Schwartz who is also a private business owner is now a member of the Youth Council.

Brandi said the Youth Council had recently recruited two people, Denise Bennett and Penny Schwartz, from the Workforce Investment Board. Terri reminded everyone that she has only one year before she plans to retire. Terri said we really need to encourage the Youth Council members that are on the WIB to participate in the meetings.

Moving the location and changing the time of the meeting to better accommodate private business Youth Council members was discussed. It was decided to have the next Youth Council meeting in Columbia at Debbie Akright's office (conference or training room) if arrangements could be made. If arrangements could not be made in Columbia, it was decided that the meeting would be held in Moberly.

Brandi said she would be sending out a new calendar of meeting dates. Everyone agreed to meet on the third Friday of every other month.

## **CONFIRM NEXT MEETING DATE/LOCATION**

The next meeting date was set for 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on December 18, 2009 in Columbia or Moberly, MO.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Donna Dunwoody made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Debbie Akright seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at approximately 12:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Mark Chambers