

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

November 18, 2010

PRESENT:

Youth Council Members:

Debbie Akright, Division of Youth Services
Debbie Atkinson, Dynamic Educational Systems, Inc.
Terri Jones, Kirksville Area Technical Center
Alonna Murphy, 10th Circuit Juvenile Office

Guests:

JoAnn Toerper, Boonslick RPC
Sheree Prebe, Gamm Inc.

NEMO Workforce Investment Board Staff:

Brandi Glover
Sharon Hillard

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chairperson Terri Jones called the November 18, 2010, Northeast Missouri Workforce Investment Board (NEMO WIB) Youth Council (YC) meeting to order at approximately 10:10 a.m. at the Division of Youth Services Northeast Regional Office in Columbia, Missouri.

ROLL CALL AND SIGNATURE SHEET

Roll call was taken by Brandi Glover. Four Youth Council members were present and a quorum was established. The signature sheet was signed by all individuals.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL MINUTES

Debbie Atkinson made a motion to approve the August 20, 2010 meeting minutes. Alonna Murphy seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

MEMBER NOMINATION/ELECTION

Brandi nominated Shileen High from Job Corps as a member of the Youth Council. Debbie Atkinson made a motion to accept the nomination of Shileen High as a Youth Council member. Debbie Akright seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

YOUTH SERVICE PROVIDERS UPDATES/REPORTS

- **Boonslick RPC**

JoAnn reviewed Boonslick's Program Services Expenditure report. The report included expenditures for the following programs: regular in-school and out-of-school, State Park Youth Corps (SPYC), SPYC 15% additional, and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) TANF funded youth programs. The report showed that they were 29% spent on the regular in-school and out-of-school program funds, 97% spent on the SPYC funds, and 49% spent on the ARRA TANF funds. JoAnn said the SPYC 15% funds were late in being issued to them so they were unable to spend as much of the funds. They still have some kids working through November 30 on the SPYC program. She said the ARRA/TANF funded program was amazing and allowed them to do some wonderful things with the kids. Her only regret was that it took so long to get the information to them so they could get the program running. Overall they are 41% spent and they are where they need to be with the in- and out-of-school youth. They had 109 youth enrolled into WIA. Their estimated success rate for the SPYC program was 85% and for the TANF program it was 73%.

JoAnn said they had two youth who were placed through TEMCO and the TANF summer jobs program that were successful in securing employment after their work experience was completed. One was a young man who went to work with the highway department and the other used the skills learned through his summer employment to acquire his new job. Another youth was considering pursuing a career in conservation management due to the experience with the SPYC program.

JoAnn said they have been working with the Montgomery County University Extension which has received a grant from Missouri that involves checking the status of the crops and soil etc. They currently have two youth (working on the third) enrolled in the program. The youth will be working in Montgomery County learning the processes of checking crops, soils and GIS mapping etc. JoAnn said a lot of the County's population is retiring and they are trying to get the youth interested in agriculture and farming.

The Youth Council talked about how the youth enjoyed working in the State Parks this year. JoAnn said the SPYC summer program was set up a little different than the past summer youth programs and Brandi was very instrumental in organizing the job interviews for the youth with the park supervisors. Sheree said it was harder to recruit for the SPYC program because the youth only received minimum wage and through the TANF summer program they could pay whatever the salary was for the position. Brandi said they recommended the wage be increased because our region is so rural and it was barely worth the youth driving the long distance for minimum wage.

- **Gamm Inc**

Sheree reviewed Gamm's Program Services Expenditures report. She said because they were trying to expend as much of their SPYC and TANF funds as possible, they really didn't get started on their regular in-school program until October 1. The report indicated that their expenditures for the out-of-school youth were primarily for the month of October. Sheree said they had a lot of out-of school youth and a lot of in-school youth as well and were already 100% obligated. At this time, she didn't feel she could enroll anyone else. However, she felt she needed to keep her experienced staff so they would be prepared if/when another summer program started again in March. Sheree said the WIB had said Gamm could request additional funds based on their obligations and she would like to do so. She stated that she wasn't over budget yet; she was just over budget in a few line items by a large amount and she may need to re-evaluate her budget line items to be more in line with expenditures.

Sheree said she had turned the summer youth program over to Elaine Miller this year. Elaine planned to attend the Youth Council meeting today but since Sheree was closer she chose to attend. She thought they were given \$535,000 for the TANF program and they had spent about \$400,000. They were late in getting started due to late notification from the state. They gave the contracts to the WIBs sometime in June and the funds had to be spent by September 30. Sheree said Gamm has 15-17 kids still working on the SPYC program through November 30. Even though they don't have much in-school and out-of-school money they are continuing to enroll and provide minimal services to the youth. They want to be prepared for the SPYC program this coming summer and if they have the kids enrolled it will help them to have a head start. She said they are doing well; they are spending the money and they are serving a lot of kids.

Brandi said she didn't bring any numbers as far as how many are being served, but we are serving more with less money.

Sheree said they have more out-of-school youth this year coming for the GED and she felt that was due to successful partnering. Sheree commented that the out-of-school youth have difficulty achieving success. They seem to be on board at first and excited to be receiving a stipend for attending the GED classes. Then they stop coming to class and stop taking our calls because they think they're in trouble and we have a hard time re-engaging them. Due to funding issues and because we had some abuse last year, we have issued some guidelines for receiving the

stipend this year. Now the youth have to attend 80% of the class hours assigned to them for the week to get the stipend. Terri said they had kids that were coming to the Options/GED classes and just sitting and doing nothing and getting paid. Now her Options/GED teacher corresponds with Mandy at Gamm, Inc. and if the kids are not making progress they don't get their stipend.

SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM UPDATE

Brandi said 5,500 youth were placed in work experience throughout the State through the TANF summer youth program. The Northeast Region had 186. Statewide over 1,000 youth were placed in work experience in the SPYC program. The Northeast Region had 74 and 26 of those continued past September 30. Governor Nixon received two national awards for the program and it has been announced that the program will be repeated again next summer.

WIA LOCAL PLAN MODIFICATION – YOUTH SECTION

Brandi said the Workforce Investment Board is required to submit a Local WIA Plan to the Division of Workforce Development and to modify that Plan when requested. Some of the sections of the Plan are particular to the youth, the Youth Council and its structure and purpose. The WIB was recently asked to modify several sections of its Plan. Some of the modifications submitted included the Sixth Eligibility Criteria for Youth, a listing of the WIB's Youth Council membership and their contact information, and an update of the WIB's competitive process for awarding contracts (RFP). Brandi said a draft copy of the NEMO WIB WIA Local Plan could be viewed on the NEMO WIB's website at www.nemowib.org.

STRATEGIC PLAN; COMMITTEES

Brandi said the Youth Council had updated its Strategic Plan to make it more like the WIB's Strategic Plan, and at the last meeting the YC was in the process of identifying action steps for each of the goals. She asked that members review the Plan to see if it captured everything the Council intended. Brandi said in previous meetings it was decided that the Youth Council would try to address one goal at a time. Today she would like to address Goal #4 – Youth Council expansion and increasing partnerships/collaborations. Terri said she would contact the directors of the Career and Technical Schools to ask if they or their GED providers might be interested in joining the Youth Council. Sheree suggested that the WIB's Private Business members be asked if they were interested in joining the Council. It was also mentioned that the Youth Council needed to fill the vacant position of foster parent. Other options for candidates for membership were discussed and contact names were provided to Brandi.

Brandi said she found several grants but most of them required us to have a partner/s and she hadn't been able to locate any. However, she was still looking and she did have one grant she hoped to resubmit before going on leave.

Brandi said she would like to present the Youth Council's Strategic Plan to the Workforce Investment Board to let them know that it had been adopted.

Debbie Atkinson made a motion to approve the Strategic plan as presented. Debbie Akright seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

YOUTH FUNDING/SPENDING REQUIREMENTS

Brandi said one of the youth subcontractors had requested the Youth Council consider changing the requirement that 50% of the youth funds must be used to provide youth activities for in-school youth and 50% must be used to provide youth activities for the out-of-school youth. She said the Workforce Investment Act requires that a minimum of 30% of the funds must be used to provide youth activities to out-of-school youth. She thought the NEMO Youth Council decided to adopt the policy of the 50-50 funding split for the in- and out-of-school youth programs around 2006 and that is how we have done it ever since. She was unsure of all of the reasons for the change but she felt it was due to a Training Employment and Guidance Notice (TEGL#3-04) from the Department of Labor placing more emphasis on serving the out-of-school youth. Since she wasn't the Youth Coordinator at that time, she could only guess the change was to ensure more focus on the out-of-school youth.

JoAnn explained that she requested the change because of the improved relationship in Montgomery County and the increased number of in-school youth being served. She had been working to improve program participation in that area for two years and she didn't want to have to stop serving the youth because of the lack of funds. Terri asked if the WIB would have to approve the change in policy. Brandi said the WIB took the Youth Council's recommendation but she was unsure if they actually voted on it. After some discussion the following motion was made:

Debbie Akright made a motion that the goal be that 50% of the funds at the local level be used to provide activities for the in-school youth and 50% for the out-of-school youth. However, if there was a need the subcontractors could fall back to the state's guidelines that a minimum of 30% of the funds at the local level must be used for out-of-school youth and 70% for in-school youth. Debbie Atkinson seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

Debbie Atkinson provided a Career Pathways handout sponsored by Job Corps/desi.

Sheree talked about her involvement in the making of a promotional/informational video that will be posted on the State of Missouri's website. The video (4 minutes of it) was currently posted on YouTube. The project was requested by the Governor's office to showcase the many valuable career assistance resources the public can receive from the Next Generation Career Centers. The video includes the products and services available at the Missouri Career Center-Moberly, plus other information that represents the center, Missouri's workforce system and the NGCC initiative.

Debbie Akright provided a flyer regarding an open house the Division of Youth Services is hosting to increase their recruitment. They are looking at ways to get high school aged youth to consider social services, counseling, psychology and criminal justice as career paths of interest. The Division is reaching out to high school counselors and inviting them to their open houses. They planned to hold open houses at all of their facilities. They are starting with their facility at Camp Avery in Troy and their next open house will be in Montgomery City on December 7th at the Youth Center. Invitations had been sent to area high school counselors, to the colleges, to the Missouri Career Centers, etc. She asked the Youth Council members to email her for driving directions if they would like to attend.

CONFIRMATION OF NEXT MEETING DATE/LOCATION

The next Youth Council meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2011 at the Moberly Career Center. Future Youth Council meetings were scheduled for April 20, 2011 at 1:00-3:00 p.m. in Hannibal and June 16, 2011 from 10:00-12:00 noon in Paris.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Submitted By:

Mark Chambers