



YOUTH COUNCIL

MINUTES

**Thursday, November 9, 2006
11:30 a.m.
Cambridge College
60 Island Street – Room 110
Lawrence, MA**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cal Williams, Linda Piergeorge, Megan Shea, Vinnie Ouellette, Jenny Picket, Ed Warnhuis, Janet Allison

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ed Anderson, Tom Cuddy, Tom Casey, Melissa Hogan, Sr. Gwynette Proctor, Erin Kelly, Dave Konjoian, Jeff Marcoux, Steve O'Brien, Fred Shaheen

GUESTS PRESENT:

John Niles

STAFF PRESENT:

Chris Shannon

I. Approval of Minutes

Cal Williams called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m. and said the first order of business is the minutes of the October 12, 2006 Youth Council meeting.

Megan Shea made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2006 Youth Council meeting. It was noted that the date of the Strategic Planning session should be corrected to November 30th from noon to 4:00 p.m. Janet Alison seconded the motion with the noted change and motion passed.

II. Transfer of Training Funds

Cal Williams explained that the FY'06 carry-in and FY'07 Supportive Services funding for Title I WIA youth has been nearly exhausted. DTD is requesting a transfer of \$20,000 from the FY'07 WIA Youth Training line item to the FY'07 WIA OSY Supportive Service line item to continue to provide the supportive services for current enrolled youth and youth who may enter current available slots.

Discussion followed on the source of funding and the fact that these are all low income kids.

Motion by Janet Alison seconded by Linda Piergeorge to approve the transfer of \$20,000 from the FY'07 WIA Youth Training line item to the FY'07 WIA OSY Supportive Service line item. Motion passed.

III. WIA 101

Chris Shannon explained that John Niles of Commonwealth Corporation is here today for the second of three training sessions. Chris said that she requested John's assistance because of his familiarity with the history and politics of the region and his knowledge of WIA.

Mr. Niles began his comments stating that since we are still a relatively new Youth Council he is here to get a sense of where we want to go and help us decide the direction. He said that by next winter/spring we would have to work on the FY'08 Annual Plan and therefore need a strategic plan and set of choices.

John distributed a Tool Kit that he said would be helpful in understanding the role of a Youth Council that we can use for the strategic planning day. He also distributed a decision list. He said that the narrow short-term goal is to set the focus on how to set policy and direction for youth funds. He noted some barriers are not enough opportunities to connect with other youth and how to expand and build a larger system.

Discussion followed on the history of the Youth Council and the role of the WIB. Also discussed was what the WIB's expectation is for the Youth Council. Chris Shannon said that the WIB has basically said that the Youth Council needs to define itself and bring recommendations back to the WIB.

John Niles said that it is important to get a chairperson. He also answered questions on other Youth Councils.

Megan Shea said that it is important for business people and youth to be at the table. Discussion followed on the barriers for youth attending Youth Council

meeting such as transportation and the time of meetings. She also mentioned that the youth we work with are the hardest to serve youth.

Chris Shannon said we could look and see if there are any existing youth groups we can tap into.

John said that going forward we will need to set the budget and allocation for professional staff, decide on framework services, content services, the procurement process and performance as well as follow up services.

Jenny Pickett talked about youth with disabilities and connecting them to resources.

John Niles said that DOE would be providing a new perspective on dropouts in March and that might present a new opportunity to partner with schools. He also asked how the Council wanted to proceed.

Chris Shannon mentioned that at the next half-day training we decide how often we meet, set a schedule for the year and then we could devote 15 – 20 minutes of each meeting for further instruction.

Ed Warnhuis said that we should start with the decision list and get a clear definition of what we are trying to accomplish.

Janet Allison said she would like to look at the current budget and baseline increments as a way to assist her in setting the budget for FY'08.

The consensus was that we would set priorities, a mission, and long and short-term goals for year. Information will be sent out the week before Thanksgiving to give members and opportunity to review information in preparation for the November 30th meeting.

John Niles said that his task is to organize, condense, simplify and inform.

IV. Adjournment

Having no further business the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be Thursday, November 30th from noon to 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kivell
Recorder