



YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Committee Meeting Held: Tuesday, January 13, 2009, 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Committee Members Attending: Jim Baiardi, Shayne Stewart and Kevin Neal for Monesia Brown.

Others Attending: Steve Urquhart, Dehryl McCall, Charles Williams – WFI, Holly Carson – AWI, Tammy Workman - DCF, Gloria Spradley – Brown, Linda Sumblin – Region 2, and Gail Galbraith – Region 21.

Meeting Summary:

- Welcome & attendance – Dehryl McCall
- Review of previous Summary
- Site visits on January 23rd and next meetings are scheduled for January 27th, and February 10th
- Welcome Gloria Spradley-Brown from Department of Education. Gloria is the Bureau Chief of Grants and Compliance for Workforce Education, primarily serving career and technical education programs and technical educational programs. She is an expert on Career and Technical Education and has been a member of Florida’s Strengthening Youth Partnerships.
- Shared Case Management Pilot first year outcomes – received data back from both DJJ and DCF. Agency for Workforce Innovation has provided WFI with the first set of numbers and an in depth analysis is being done with regards to verifying that data and the implementation of rewarding incentive funds. A first look at the data match shows that 4,042 Foster Care youth and 2,464 DJJ youth were served in the 2007-2008 program year by our regional workforce boards. These numbers are way above the self reported numbers which illustrates that our RWBs are serving more of these populations that they give themselves credit for. This data is still being analyzed as of yet and should be considered DRAFT until finalized.
- “Out-of-school” youth definition for DJJ youth in facilities issue: Dehryl has spoken to USDOL representative Brad Sickles and discovered no other states have asked for such a waiver. Additionally Brad felt that because these DJJ participants are considered “in-school” by Florida and the facilities are receiving FTE dollars, he felt like this would not

get approved. Steve Urquhart asked if there were any innovative tools or approaches being used to improve Literacy and Numeracy gains. Linda Sumblin responded by saying that Region 2 was utilizing the Ready to Work credential and that tool helped them improve literacy & numeracy scores in her region. Brad did mention that if these youth who were dropouts could be registered prior to becoming enrolled into the DJJ facility, then the regions could record them as “out-of-school”. Dehryl spoke to Terri Eggers of DJJ about this and she immediately emailed her staff in the field to alert them to contact the RWB when this situation occurs. Thanks Terri!

- The next Strengthening Youth Partnerships meeting is planned for Monday, February 23rd and will be held in Tallahassee. Dehryl and Holly have been working on an agenda and any agenda ideas should be sent to either Holly or Dehryl. Additionally, Florida is submitting an application to USDOL to be a host state for State Team Peer-to-Peer Forums. This will consist of hosting a minimum of three states with teams ranging from 5-15 individuals primarily representing Workforce, Department of Juvenile Justice, Health and Human Services (DCF), and Department of Education. A northwest location is being looked at as it would be closer to the southeastern States. This forum will take place prior to September 2009.
- Site visits planned for January 23rd:

Career Academies

- Embry Riddle, Choctawhatchee High School (begin at 8:30 CST) a group will leave Tallahassee at 6:30 EST.
- Niceville Senior High School – Information Technology Institute

Juvenile Facilities

- DOVE Academy for girls
- Graceville Academy for boys

So far confirmations for the trip are: Buddy Streit, Shayne Stewart, Scott Goyer, Kevin Neal (for Monesia Brown), Dehryl McCall, Holly Carson, Terri Eggers (for Frank Peterman/Rod Love), and Catherine Heath. Jim Baiardi is tentative and should know by this coming Friday.

Linda Sumblin and Shayne Stewart are excited to host the group which start us off at 8:30 CST at Choctawhatchee High School, and will include Principal Cindy Gates, Jeff Scroggins – Director of the CHOICE model career institutes and Superintendent Tibbetts. Linda has also invited Senator Gates and Speaker Sansom. There will be time allowed for the committee members/attendees to talk to the students about their involvement in the academy.

- Potential funding for this committee to spend this year looks like it will be around 500K. Our Performance Based Incentive Funds (PBIF) funds will be repaid and we should have those back to spend those over the next two program years (2009-2010 and 2010 and 2011). Steve Urquhart explained how we had to forfeit these dollars this year because of the budget shortfall. In fireman’s terms “We’ve loaned the State these monies this year”.

With a 500K budget this program year, we are looking at where we have the best ability to improve our performance in Literacy & Numeracy or look at another key targeted youth initiative having a quick impact on our youth programs. We also need to continue to ramp up our RFP process so once we have identified our initiative for the next year we are ahead of the game.

One challenge we are faced with is looking at existing programs or creating initiatives that will target key youth needs around the State. Linda Sumblin suggested that we look at using the 500k to ramp up Summer Youth programs for all 24 regions to use on planning and implementing these youth programs. Many areas are dusting off old summer youth program plans as there is talk about the new Administration and the direction they will take. An additional point was made that with a short timeline it would be difficult to issue an RFP, receive proposals, implement and obtain outcomes prior to June 30.

- Steve Urquhart spoke about the “Blog”. Steve mentioned that the Youth Opportunities Committee “Blog” has been created and there has been legal opinions researched as far as how we can use this new technology and not violate any State Sunshine Laws. This is in the works and the Blog will be looked at as being a repository for all of our information and should be made available by our next meeting/teleconference.