



YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Committee Meeting Held: Tuesday, January 27, 2009, 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Committee Members Attending: Buddy Streit – Chair, Shayne Stewart and Scott Goyer.

Others Attending: Steve Urquhart, Dehryl McCall – WFI, Holly Carson – AWI, Terri Eggers - DJJ, Linda Sumblin – Region 2, and Gail Galbraith – Region 21.

Meeting Summary:

- Welcome & attendance – Buddy Streit
- Review of previous Summary
- Next meeting is scheduled for February 10th with a TBA conference call with the COO group concerning Summer Youth Programs.
- The Committee Chair and members provided a recap of the recent site visits to Career Academies, Embry Riddle at Choctawhatchee High School and Niceville Senior High School – Information Technology Institute as well as Juvenile Facilities, DOVE Academy for girls and Graceville Academy for boys. In attendance on the trip were: Chair - Buddy Streit, Committee Members - Shayne Stewart, Scott Goyer, as well as Dehryl McCall - WFI, Holly Carson - AWI, Terri Eggers - DJJ, and Catherine Heath of DCF.

Scott Goyer weighed in with his impressions of the trip. He was encouraged by the high caliber programs we saw and the enthusiasm of both the instructors and students alike. Buddy spoke to the pride displayed by the students in both the Career Academies and DJJ facilities. Shayne Stewart appreciated the opportunity for everyone to come to his neck of the woods and spoke to the excitement of the parents whose students were engaged in the Career Academies. He also spoke to the excitement of the girls in the DJJ facilities and their pride and genuine desire to learn. Shayne recommended that we look at funding those most at risk i.e. the DJJ kids. Buddy agreed, and spoke to the difference of the two populations and how 90% of the families at the High School had broadband at home and the advantages that those kids had over the DJJ kids. The Committee has a tough choice of how to best use the funds allocated to the committee for recommendation to the Council. Scott spoke to whether or not the programs could be replicable and what could be easily taken from the programs we visit. Buddy agreed that replicability should be one of the criteria for the proposed RFP.

- Funding - the Youth Opportunities Committee has 500K and a new allocation should be known in May. Steve Urquhart spoke to the potential funding coming from the Economic Stimulus package. Steve spoke to the 250K and how that was locked down for the pilot. The 500K is committed and available for the Youth Committee. Options out there to be considered are “Priming the Pump” for implementing a Summer Youth programs. Our region 8 partners are recommending a “planning grant” in order for the RWBs to get ready for the potential economic stimulus funding. The other option was to take a look at tackling the Literacy Numeracy challenge and look at pilot programs in regions and try to target key regions (12, 21, 22, and 23) which would have the biggest impact on the State’s performance. These are suggestions from staff and regional input but ultimately the decision is up to the committee and council. We need a proposal ready for the February Workforce Council meeting on the 18th and for this committee to spend the 500K. We don’t want to have these funds sitting as we argued for their need.

The Youth Opportunities Committee must now act and decide on a recommendation spend this 500K. Steve spoke to the examples of a Summer Youth grant application process and how a match would be incorporated in the proposal process and the example of Literacy Numeracy and stated that these were just examples.

The question of eligibility criteria came up and Steve spoke to the 500K being WIA funds and Dehryl weighed in on the WIA eligibility being 14-21, low-income with a barrier.

The Summer Youth concept was brought up again and Steve Urquhart spoke to the potential of the 1.2 Billion dollars coming to the States to spend on Summer Youth programs. If the regions are not ready to spend these funds, the monies will go to the States that are ready to spend these funds. The analogy of “Brewster’s Millions” was used in that we have to move these funds quickly and efficiently.

The Summer Youth programs must be developed months prior to the implementation. Terri Eggers mentioned that we could blend these initiatives. Develop Summer Youth programs with emphasis on Foster kids, DJJ Kids coming home from facilities. Buddy asked for additional input from the regions.

Linda Sumblin spoke to Region 2’s efforts to customize their Summer Youth programs to targets DJJ kids and she spoke to how some of the youth who were not work ready earned stipends to work on their Work Readiness and Literacy skills. They also incorporated a 6-8 week master apprenticeship programs so they could also learn a trade (carpentry, hospitality, electrical etc.). She spoke to the fact that they served a high percentage of DJJ youth and youth with barriers. They also worked with probation officers to work with these youth.

Scott agreed with the Committee that our RWBs needed to be prepared for the potential Summer Youth funding. There was mention of the eligibility process and how we might look at asking USDOL to reinstate the “reduced and free lunch” and how we might look at an ease of eligibility requirements through a Waiver or another process. Dehryl mention the data validation requirements and how now only the Date of Birth requires a hard copy document and all other eligibility items can be self-attested.

The Committee spoke to how we might merge the targeted populations into the implementation of the Summer Youth Programs. Perhaps the Summer Youth components could incorporate the serving of those kids returning from a facility. In the RFP we could ask how they plan to do this. Terri mentioned the idea of starting a Reentry team (RT) between the School District, Workforce Board, DJJ and DCF the RFP could be a fiscal incentive to promote this.

Buddy mentioned that we need to document this project/s and get them ready for the council and board meeting.

Steve mentioned that we could potentially see up to 50 million dollars coming to Florida. The COO group has already taken some steps and he recommended a joint conference call with a representation of the COO group. Buddy asked Dehryl to set up this call and would love to see a posting of what documents they have on the website.

Steve spoke to the availability of the Blog site and how we need to populate this site. We can push out the blog site link and ask them to share what they have electronically.

Dehryl will ask for electronic documents and post them on the Blog.

The Committee's goal is to have a proposal concept ready by the 10th to submit this to the Council at their next Meeting on the 18th of February.