



YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Committee Meeting Held: Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Committee Members Attending: Buddy Streit – Chair, Scott Goyer, Shayne Stewart, Jim Baiardi, and Rod Love.

Others Attending: Dehryl McCall, Richard Meik, Charles Williams – WFI, Holly Carson – AWI, Catherine Heath, Tammy Workman - DCF, Mary Lou Reed and Linda Sumblin – 2, Rose Adams and Richard Williams – 3, Jennifer German – 4 , Debby Tharpe – 5, Bryan Stone - 8, Kathleen Woodring – 10, Alice Cobb – 12, Dawn Hamilton – 13, Shela Stewart – 17, Gail Galbraith – 21, Tracey Landsbury – 24.

Meeting Summary:

- Welcome & attendance – Buddy Streit
- Recap of 2/3/09 summary notes
- Update on the economic stimulus package – Senate passed their version at 838 billion. This will now head to the senate–house conference. President Obama hopes to sign this before Presidents Day. The senate bill language keeps the 1.2 billion for youth 14-24 targeting summer jobs.
- Recap of the USDOL Summer Youth workgroup – Dehryl was contacted by Brad Sickles to nominate two locals from Florida – Alice Cobb, president of the COO group and Bryan Stone of Worksource.
- Alice spoke about her participation on the call. Two questions were asked 1) what questions do you have? and (2) what are the most needed information of USDOL? The call was well represented by roughly 20 local and state staff. Timing is critical and planning is the most critical point. We are already way behind schedule. Many areas have not yet operated Summer Youth programs. There is an immediate need for guidance. The use of flexibility on eligibility. Request for guidance on assessment, procurement and acceptable outcomes i.e. remained in school as many are in-school youth. Allowable worksites and monitoring and a need for simplification. Many have already started planning and they need guidance ASAP. Most asked for maximum flexibility. Now is not the time for new program ideas, extensive paperwork requirements or holding on to current youth rules. Alice also received feedback from other regional calls. Feedback mirrored our call. They spoke to their being a 40 day delay for guidance and they expect

implementation within another 40 days. USDOL stated that it was their intent to get money into the hands of the youth via work experience from a Summer Youth program. Alice then spoke to the chairman and committee to encourage the committee that it is the COO's opinion that it's critical that a portion of these funds be equally distributed to the RWBs as a Summer Youth planning grant. This will give them the funds needed to plan and prepare the program that is expected to be fully operational within 80 days. They want the State to remain in the forefront of workforce development in the US, especially through this stimulus program which will be highly visible and to help them through this they need the committee's help now.

- Bryan Stone weighed in and spoke to the fact that USDOL spoke to their intent that there be a sizeable summer youth program. Someone asked what that meant. USDOL spoke to the fact that in previous summer youth efforts there was 675 million dollars for Summer Youth and this time around it is double that funding.
- On the call, Dehryl spoke to the fact that States will need special considerations for their reporting systems. Several states were talking about the change of age from 14-21 to 14-24. Dehryl spoke to the fact that Florida could use their Generic module of EFM.
- Bryan Stone offered up his opinion that the State could utilize the monies for planning purposes and also target the populations that the committee wanted to serve.
- Jennifer German stated that having the planning monies would allow the RWBs to go ahead and work with their partners so they can locate the DJJ and Foster Care populations so that they are ready to be served right away.
- Jim Bairdi and Rod Love joined us now and there is a quorum. Buddy recapped the Summary for the committee members and spoke about the proposed action items and asked the committee members to ask any and all questions. Rod Love spoke to the fact that his agency is taking major budget cuts and he would like to see the partnership strengthened and serve his kids to reduce recidivism. He also wants to minimize some of the hurdles when serving those kids returning to their communities and he wants to fast track this process.
- Buddy spoke to the Committee about having weekly calls, going on site visits and requesting regional workforce board feedback. There was an open discussion last week with the COO group on the Summer Youth programs. He stated that it was important to recognize the importance of the mission of the committee. The Committee has been charged with having a longer view and to develop strategies and models for our workforce system to better itself. It's not synonymous with the RWBs, but in support of the RWBs. The Committee has come up with a recommendation to support the priming of the pump for summer youth and also to target the DJJ and Foster Youth population. Buddy spoke to the timeline of 80 days looking being May.
- Buddy spoke to the proposed action item speaking to targeting three areas of the states.
- Dehryl spoke to the status of the funding and the history of the funding from the 12 million in recession, temporary loss of the PBIF funds, and stressed that the Committee was able to hold on to the 500K to target these key areas and that the committee fought very hard to keep these funds for these initiatives.
- Buddy asked the committee members to ask questions of the larger group. Buddy agrees that the mission is to get the funds into youth working and that there will be a large

amount of funding coming down the pipe very quickly. The question is “Would it be best for the Committee to look at the best models or just split up the funding where some will do a great job and some will do a not so great job. There is no disagreement that we want the best product possible.

- Shayne Stewart made the comment that one model might not be beneficial to certain areas of the state as the state had very different areas. Buddy spoke to the question of “should we spend all the 500K on Summer Youth initiative or split it up on the Summer Youth and the High risk youth”. Shayne wanted us not to be so stringent. He gave an example of how he might target the funds on the areas that the RWBs lack strength in.
- Buddy went back to the recommendation on the table. Target the Summer Youth and RFP the DJJ and Foster Care populations to RWBs and other entities. Shayne wants to be cognizant of the regional differences. Doesn’t want to go with a one size fits all package. Shayne recommends looking at performance based funding.
- Buddy wants to know “do we split the funding?” Jennifer German agreed with the one size does not fit all. She agreed with a split of maybe 100K. She spoke to the short term urgency. Buddy asked about how we could do it. Jennifer spoke COO group and the sharing of best practices and to the need to hire additional staff to help coordinate the Summer Youth planning. She spoke about the development of a manual to better work with their DJJ and DCF partners.
- Alice restated that there could be a compromise on the funding. Buddy asked “Why do we need a committee”. He stated that what he is hearing is that all we need is a calculator. Alice spoke to the idea of instead of doing a three region split there be a compromise on that portion but that the committee keep their # 2 project. Alice stated that the value that the committee members brings us invaluable, just like her local board.
- Buddy spoke to the point of trying to get down to a funding question and “what would it costs for a 2 and ½ month staff person”. Jennifer spoke to her needs of being around 16K to fund a full time person and possibly a low level clerical position.
- Richard Williams spoke about his conversations with his local board members and to the point that many regions do their cost allocations differently. Richard is down to the wire on youth money as they didn’t prepare for this initiative to come down the pipeline.
- Buddy asked the question of the committee “what did they want to carve out of their budget”. The 16K per region would eat up most of the funds. Buddy asked about the availability of existing program documents and manuals. Alice spoke to the efforts of the COO group and their blog site sharing their materials. They are getting as many examples as possible although many would have to be customized as some agencies are for profit, not for profit, etc. There is no one manual.
- Buddy asked if any other RWBs have resources. Alice went on the record as saying that her region would not ask for any funds as they will use their current monies but that the small regions didn’t have the same luxury. Buddy asked about how many RWBs would be defined as a small RWB that did not have the resources. Dehryl stated that the small regions made up a third to a half of the RWBs. Buddy asked input about the idea of targeting 10 small low funding regions getting 15K. They would utilize these funds. Shayne proposed 12.5K for all RWBs except for those who did not need the funds. Buddy stated that was double of what he is proposing. Buddy wants to go ahead and put

out what they would get and not ask as he felt many would take the funds even if they didn't need it.

- Buddy proposed a modification of action item, option 1 targeting the 10 neediest regions to help them start up the planning of the Summer Youth Programs and tapping into the available best practices and sharing of information. The Committee would take the remaining 350K to target the high risk youth through the RFP and competitive bid process.
- Buddy asked that we put this to a vote and a quorum was present. Jim Baiardi moved to vote on the action item. Rod Love seconded the motion. Buddy, Rod and Jim voted yes on this motion and Shayne voted no. The motion passed.
- Dehryl will type up summary notes to share and we will implement. Buddy stated that “this was a great introduction to the world of workforce boards” and he really appreciated the level of input from the RWBs.
- Buddy thanked all and the meeting was adjourned.