



YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

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

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

Others Attending: Steve Urquhart, Richard Meik, Dehryl McCall – WFI, Holly Carson – AWI, Catherine Heath, Clarence McKee, Lillian Lima - DCF, Mary Lou Reed, Will Miles and Linda Sumblin – 2, Debby Tharpe – 5.

Meeting Summary:

- Welcome & attendance – Buddy Streit
- Review of the recent Workforce Florida Board meeting. Scott Goyer spoke about his delivery to the Council. He clearly communicated the Youth Opportunities Committee's goals to the council. The Council recommended that the committee add a business partner. Scott spoke about the 15K to the regions and the fact that there were a few questions about how "needy" was determined. Dehryl followed up with more specific information on the recommendation and the council approved the recommendation.
- Per the recommendation of the Youth Opportunities Committee, the ten neediest regions were targeted with 15K each to ramp up their summer youth efforts. This funding went out to the RWBs last week. Several regions are hiring additional staff to help coordinate this effort. The funding is good until June 30 2009. Buddy asked that we follow up with the receiving regions to find out how they are expending these funds. Buddy asked if there was a mechanism for the RWBs to share their materials/best practices prior to the release of the Summer Youth Stimulus funds. The Chief Operations Officers group has already built a mechanism to share documents and best practices. Additionally a Summer Youth Workgroup is being formalized which will include WFI, AWI, and RWB staff. The YOC will be kept up to speed on current issues and will be floated any policy recommendations.
- Clarence McKee asked about the Summer Youth efforts and how it relates to the Strengthening Youth Partnerships. Dehryl spoke briefly about the tie in and how this would be covered with more detail later on the agenda.
- Economic Stimulus update – Barbara Griffin of AWI recently gave an update to the RWBs and WFI after returning from Washington and Dehryl shared the following highlights: Approximately 43 million dollars will be available, main focus will be used on summer youth opportunities (summer jobs) rolling out and spending these funds as quickly as possible. Funding can be used year round but we need to stick to the "spend it

or loose it” mentality. This is a big opportunity and we will include all of our partners. New information forthcoming on or around March 17, 2009.

- Youth Portal – there is currently a Silver portal to target job seekers aged 50+ as well as those employers who are looking to hire more experienced workers. This can be found at Silver.EmployFlorida.com. The idea came from several folks to build a youth portal using this same technology. Since the shelf has been built it should be cost effective. Attached to the agenda is a proposal to fund through the technology committee. Buddy opens it up for discussion. Scott Goyer asked how this site was populated. Dehryl and Steve responded stating that it would use EFM as the backbone and anything users put in would be populated in EFM. Steve looked at using the community outreach approach to market. The Committee members voted to move forward with this. Geographic Solutions will scope it out. Steve suggested a possible co branding opportunity with Florida Trend’s NEXT as a powerful partnership. Dehryl will check with Adrienne Grant at WFI about advertisement possibilities.
- Strengthening Youth Partnerships meeting held on 2/3/09 had over 30 participants including our interagency partners and RWBs who shared their best practices. We did agency updates: highlights included a DJJ Leon Pilot project with DCF and Workforce Plus, PACE Center and the Marine Institute targeting 49 “crossover youth” involved in DJJ and DCF. Warren May from Ready to Work announced that they had 32,000 ready to work assessments for the month of February, we had an update from the Department of Community affairs, Economic Stimulus Update and possible waivers. Operation from DCF was highlighted as a goal to hire 100 youth transitioning from Foster Care. They are currently at 83 and continue to make great strides at meeting their goal. USDOL Peer to Peer initiative asking Florida to be a host states for other state teams to develop action plan and assist other states. Buddy asked what is Peer– to Peer. The Federal partnership held several forums where states with their state partners collaborated and planned strategies. Sharon Reed from Florida’s Children and Youth cabinet gave an update on several reports and wanted to speak to the group about the State of the Child report should be released soon. Holly and Dehryl were asked to speak to the Cabinet on June 16th. Donna Munday spoke about the High School High Tech program which served disabled youth and how she has partnered with many regions. The SYP website is close rollout and we have received feedback from youth in DJJ and RWBs. The Youth Portal can build on the website and host a site for RWBs to share their information.
- The 350K pilot targeting DJJ/Foster Care populations is being written and is on track to be released for competitive bid on May 1, 2009. The grant will last up to one year. Feedback is being solicited from our DCF and DJJ partners to ensure we use the current verbiage.
- The Shared Case Management Pilot first year data was released in Draft and only a few questions from the RWBs were asked. The document attached to the agenda shows the performance. Regions 2, 3, and 10 ranked the highest earning over 10k each in incentives; however many other regions were able to show increases in serving the DJJ/Foster Care population and were also eligible to receive incentive funds. An 8% increase of DJJ numbers was attained. This was funded with local pass through funding and the incentives are funded with 15% funding i.e. the 250K. Linda Sumblin spoke up and stated that they were sharing with the other 23 RWBs and they would be glad to report on how they will be using the 15K summer “prime the pump” youth funds. They are also using their year round youth WIA funds to review the SYP website.

Next Committee meeting is scheduled for March 31st @ 2:30 p.m.