



YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Committee Meeting Held: Tuesday, May 13, 2009, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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

Others Attending: Steve Urquhart, Dehryl McCall – WFI, Holly Carson – AWI, Darryl Olson, Rex Uberman – DJJ. Sharon Young – Young Persons Development Association.

Meeting Summary:

- Welcome & attendance – Buddy Streit
- Dehryl spoke about the March 31st summary notes and brief discussion from RWBs on April 29th.
- USDOL held a summer youth forum in Orlando for the south eastern states and invited Dehryl McCall, Holly Carson, Alice Cobb and Kathleen Woodring shared with rest of states what was going on in Florida in relation to the ARRA summer youth programs. Everyone representing Florida did an excellent job representing Florida and we received clarification on summer youth related policy issues and reporting issues.
- Discussed the Recovery Act website and the listing of each regional workforce board's. Scott Goyer stated that he was impressed with the information and the diversity of each region's approach in implementing summer youth plans. Buddy asked about the role that the committee should have in regards to the Summer Youth programs. Scott asked if we had a responsibility or was there a pass-through to the regions. Senator Wise spoke to existing programs in place who are working with youth. He spoke about programs not tied to the FDA's. Senator Wise spoke about his conversation with Bran Stone and how region 8 was going to expand existing contracts. Buddy asked if the RWBs could take any of the funding and contract with local programs? Dehryl spoke to the point that summer youth programs were not strange to the RWBs and how they have been with them since pre-JTPA days and because of the quick implementation and lack of planning time Florida asked for a waiver to expand on existing contracts. Buddy asked if any have contracted out. Dehryl spoke to the fact that the WIA requires RWBs to contract these services out and until recently with the passage of SB 428 some RWBs are now providing services directly. Scott spoke to the point that we are already taking advantage of the systems in place and this waiver expands this issue. Buddy felt like it would be great to get a pulse on which RWBs were contracting out these services. Holly spoke to the fact that the local plans were due on May 25th and once we compile and review the plans we can share this data with the committee. Buddy asked about the RWB

connections with programs like the CROP programs. Senator Wise spoke about this program and the fact that it is both federal and state funded for the last 25 to 30 years. Buddy asked if we know if they are cost effective. Senator Wise suggested we could get the data from the Department of Education. Senator Wise also spoke about the Orlando program titled "POPS". They had 200 kids last summer. Senator Wise spoke to the fact that they were not funded this time by the legislature. Buddy asked if they were connected with the RWB in Orlando. Alice Cobb, spoke to the fact that they met with the POPS staff on many instances and have never responded to any grant solicitations. She could not say why they have never shown interest in responding to the RFP. This year RWB 12 is running the program and therefore will not be sending out an RFP. Alice stated that POPS could submit themselves as a worksite, though. Steve Urquhart spoke up to the fact that POPS could not show through input of tangible outcomes. Senator Wise spoke about FETPIP and the fact we can follow these youth and record outcomes. Senator Wise stated that one problem area he saw with various programs was to make use of the existing data available. Buddy asked if we were using this data now. Dehryl stated that we now use FETPIP and are required to track our youth over time frames. Dehryl also spoke about how Florida is recognized nationally for its data base system. Rod Love asked if we had data available to show success and failure. Dehryl spoke to the fact that we were. Rod volunteered his data persons to contribute to the data. Rod spoke to the fact that their DJJ providers had great experience working with the high risk populations. Buddy asked if we knew the amount of areas that were targeting high risk youth. Alice spoke to the fact that the tight turnaround has made it very difficult to do an extensive outreach to special populations and programs. Some areas have, but with the tight turn around its been difficult. Rod Love asked that individuals get in contact with him directly to help get these partnerships moving. Rex Uberman spoke to the probation officers frustration about how in some areas the local RWBs have selected an age range above the 14 – 16 year old age range. Buddy asked if we could get together on the 27th and meet so that the next wave of funding comes through we can make sure these high risk youth are targeted. Buddy spoke to the fact that these high risk youth. Dehryl spoke to the fact that he has been encouraged and seen signs of partnership and increased attention placed on these high risk populations. Buddy stated that he would feel better when Rod Love is encouraged. Senator Wise spoke about a program in Alachua county using virtual assessment/training. This program had a 93% completion rate. This targeted the high school drop out alternatives. Senator Wise spoke about how the military is now requiring youth to have a high-school diploma. He also spoke about the fact that 1/3 of all DJJ youth are Foster Care youth and that all death row inmates were foster youth.

- Dehryl stated that the SYP Court-involved youth RFP grant application process closes on May 15th. Buddy asked how the award would be given. Dehryl stated that the award letter would come from WFI. Raters were selected to grade the grant applications and we were hoping to get data on the results by the next WFI Board meeting.
- Dehryl stated that the Executive meeting would be meeting on May 14th. There is a recommendation that the Workforce Readiness and Performance Council receive 3 million dollars. Buddy asked Steve Urquhart about the set aside dollars. Steve stated that the 3 million is coming from the 15% of the recovery act funding and that we also just got notification of the new year's allocation. The executive committee will be discussing this funding. Buddy asked that the funding links be sent out to the committee members as well as the RWB Summer Plans and the funding recommendations.

- USDOL Peer to Peer forum, Florida's SYP team was held on April 24th. School and Maine provided a facilitator and Dehryl wanted to thank Terri Eggers and Rex Uberman - DJJ, Holly Carson – AWI, and Bob Kellam and Terrance Clark from the Governor's Council of Indian Affairs. Our facilitator guided us through a process of targeting our state level partnerships and identifying our successes and our next steps. Typed up summary notes are forthcoming from School and Maine and will be sent to the committee members once received.
- Buddy asked about the status or need for a committee blog. Buddy Streit asked Alice Cobb if it would be appropriate for the YOC to have access to the COO blog. Alice stated that it had not yet come up due to summer youth programs taking a main focus. She also stated that the COO blog was developed for the COO's in order to brainstorm and that there may be others that might take their discussion out of context or consider it gospel before any authority was granted. Alice stated that as we grow as a state we needed to take several of these things into consideration. Steve Urquhart also stated that if we expanded this to board members then it would be subject to Sunshine standards. Buddy asked if the YOC could develop its own blog. Steve Urquhart stated that the Sunshine Laws actually would make this essentially into a daily meeting and board members would not be able to respond to it without public notification and recording etc. Legal representation is looking into the way in which the Sunshine Standards need to be modernized to incorporate this 21st century technology. Steve Urquhart stated that it "Chagrins him to no end". For now we are now parking the Blog idea.
- Buddy asked if there were any other issues and opened it up to non-committee members. Alice shared her feedback from USDOL's visit from Atlanta. Feds stated that they were glad to see that RWB 12 was implementing a full work experience program. Some areas they visited were implementing other services in addition or in substitute of the work experience. Alice asked if we had been debriefed by their visit. Alice asked if there was any detail about the funding. The councils will decide on the detail of the funding the day before the WFI board meeting.

Next Committee meeting is May 27th, 12 - 1pm in Tallahassee.