

State Workforce Investment Board Youth Council

February 10, 2009

Gateway Center
1710 National Ave.
Helena, MT

DRAFT MINUTES

Council Members Present: Marty Copps, Chair; Margret Bowles; Marcella Buster; Curt Campbell; Daniel Dolan; Karen Duncan; Jake Gustin; James McDonald; and Mike Nephew.

Council Members Absent: Tescha Hawley; and Warren Means.

Guests: Drea Brown, Connie Kinsey, Kelly Chapman, and Dave Morey.

Staff: Dan Bernhardt, Danielle Nettleton and Leisa Smith.

I. Welcome & Introduction

Chair Marty Copps called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. She welcomed staff, council members, and guests. She reminded members that the council conducts business under Roberts Rules of Order. Members introduced themselves and identified their affiliation. Leisa Smith introduced Lindsey Woolsey, Co-Director of Business and Industry Strategies, Corporation for a Skilled Workforce, and discussed her recent work with the State Workforce Investment Board.

Roll Call

Danielle Nettleton conducted roll call and confirmed a quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda

Chair Copps reviewed the agenda; Jake Gustin made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Dan Dolan seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chair Copps asked if there were any changes to the November 30, 2009 meeting minutes. With no proposed changes, Jim McDonald made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Dolan seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

II. Montana Shared Youth Vision and Youth Transitional Services

Margret Bowles provided a PowerPoint presentation covering the Montana Shared Youth Vision. The presentation covered the following topics:

- Background and development of the Montana Shared Youth Vision
- Development of the Core Team
- Project Outcomes and Preliminary Actions Steps Established:
 - Education was chosen as the priority performance outcome
 - Action steps include education obtainment and transition to higher education or other training
- Statistical data:
 - Median earnings in Montana by education attainment
 - Potential taxes earned in Montana based on education attainment
 - Montana labor force participation rate by educational attainment
 - Montana unemployment rate by educational attainment
 - High school graduation rates compared to GED attainment rates
- Development of the Vision and Mission Statement
- Survey results of recent GED recipients
- Listing of pledged partners
- Challenges the core team faced
- Core Team Proposal: Develop An Aggressive and Dramatic Outreach Program
- Goal for today's Youth Council Meeting: Discuss bringing youth back into the pipeline, help them attain a GED to get into a career pathway, move into lifelong learning, and become a productive member of the 21st century.

Curt Campbell asked how the team expects to reach out to youth and provide them with information. Ms. Bowles stated the team ran into this dilemma when previously discussing the Montana Shared Youth Vision; she stated it is currently part of their charge and a large piece of what needs to be figured out.

The council discussed partnerships with the education department (i.e. School Administrators.)

Ms. Woolsey announced a recent study that determined that GED test is more rigorous than the SAT test. Employers need to be educated on what it means when a youth has put in the time and effort to earn a GED.

The original target group for the Shared Youth Vision was 16-21 years old but recently expanded the age to 24. Once an individual turns 19 years old, a school is not required by law to accept them; many older individuals are turned away.

Kelly Chapman, Student Assistance Foundation, expressed her interest in the project and would like to become a partner.

Chair Copps announced the council recently chose to make the Montana Shared Youth Vision and transitional services their main goals. The council discussed the connection between the two areas.

III. Facilitated Discussion

Ms. Woolsey facilitated a four question discussion among council members. The following are the results of the discussion and the identified next steps:

#1 - Where did Montana Share Youth Vision project get stopped and why?

- Passion from partners was there – ideas for next steps were not
- Not enough guidance beyond information sharing and partnership development
- Leadership entity not there
- Expected more idea inputs
- Needed stronger framework/clearer plan
- Needed to identify resources/money
- Needed more concrete plan to invite the resource conversation
- Need long and short term planning
- How to reach youth who don't know there is a door
- Rural outreach
- Lack of trained GED instructors
- Partner buy-in i.e., Tribal partners
- Context of Youth Council and SWIB (no strategy or focus) – Council now empowered to be a driver versus reactive to State or Federal mandates
- Common Approach – need youth buy-in
- Other states must be addressing this issue as is a National concern. Need to understand other State and Federal initiatives

#2 - What would Outreach Strategies look like, both good and bad?

- Where does the Youth Council want to be, what outcomes, what products, action steps, numbers goal, timelines
- Plan in place in 3 to 6 months (How will this happen, Who will do this, and Who is to be involved

- Identify Best Practices
- No power to move forward without a plan
- Staff can put together a template/recipe of other state examples
- List essential/critical ingredients
 - What is in it for me – engagement of youth, tribal, legislature, SWIB, pledge partners, Governor, etc
 - GED Instructors – capacity issue (engage, recruit, train)
 - Local infrastructure – down and out
 - Slide on page #7 (Margaret Bowles, OPI)– GED outcomes (This is a transition piece – GED to Jobs, Pathway choices in between)
 - What is next after GED ties in with the Lifelong Learning Committee (What can the Youth Council bring to them and SWIB)
 - Target parents, layered and broad population also include employers, higher education, military
 - Buy in and what will work methods and creation of different messaging
 - Target drop-outs and talk to them and their motivations
 - Identify counties with high numbers i.e., drop-outs, UI, poverty, etc.
 - Drop-outs – where are they, what are they doing
 - Talk to School Boards, PTA's, Chambers, Law Enforcement agencies
 - Engage in distance learning i.e., rural communities
 - Earlier interventions and engagements with education – K – through middle school (more integration and relevance)

#3 - How do we ensure integration with Youth Transition Services?

- Integration – where does it need to happen
- Which gaps/barriers remain to be highlighted or not yet addressed
- Turf and competition issues
- More connection with Truancy Officers and Law Enforcement
- Special needs population falling through the cracks
- Do we need better mapping
- What is in it for ME
- Will need complete wrap-around services (need many partners and services)
- Funding limitations/Capacity Gaps
- Cultural issues/barriers i.e., schools (linear not a lot of alternative paths), family culture “fear of success”
- Population clarity for marketing a) Lost and hard to recapture b) Motivated and come to the centers on their own – Both of these of one (Both) Outreach and Celebration
- Intensive Focus Groups – Research required
- Must understand the culture, have to interface and engage where youth are – different youth of today with different tools i.e., cell phones, Facebook, texting, twitter, Skype
- Research element key ingredient for plan i.e., Arizona and Colorado States
- School Counselor's seen a barrier and also a resource – they are part of the Interface Access

#4 - Identify the Tools/ Power Tools available to the Youth Council.

- Tools as leverage for change
- What can the Youth Council do that other groups cannot:
 - Connection to SWIB and membership representation
 - Bring key stakeholders to the table
 - Local One-Stops, Community Management Teams, Job Service Employer Councils
 - Connection to the Governor and his vision
 - MT SYV implementation is a question asked during Federal monitoring

NEXT STEPS:

1. Work on partner expansion after plan (pre-roll out)
2. Research other State Initiatives/Best Practices
3. Identify Gaps and Services (Transition) i.e., what are they, where are they, options
 - a. Kelly Chapman, Student Assistance Foundation (GED attainment gaps specifically both statewide and local) Commented to what extent to we want or need to know the depth and breadth of issues; to much may bog us down.
4. Narrow filters (i.e., data on counties with higher drop-out rates, higher unemployment, find commonalities, what services are offered in that area. Can collect some data from R & A, OPI etc.)
5. Next meeting goals and agenda: Have a skeleton plan developed prior to the meeting for the council to add elements to and develop a final version. The Core Team will develop the skeleton plan with the assistance of staff and staff will assist in developing a roadmap.
6. Shared Youth Vision Core Team will meet March 24th at Office of Public Instruction in Helena @ 9:00 a.m. to develop the skeleton plan and submit to SWIB staff for their review and distribution.

IV. Unfinished Business

The youth council discussed current term limits and decided to leave membership as is with no term limit. Ms. Cops announced she will appoint a Vice Chair prior to the next meeting.

V. New Business

Next Youth Council meeting will be held on April 15th in Billings @ 9:00 a.m. Place is yet to be determined.

VI. Adjourn

With no further discussion, Dan Dolan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jake Gustin seconded the motion which passed unanimously.