

GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD RI
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 26, 2013

MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Robin Coia, Chair, Timothy Byrne, Sharon Moylan

GWB Staff Present: Rick Brooks, Elizabeth Jardine, Dan Brown, Sherri Carello, Hillary Feeney, Amelia Roberts

DLT Staff Present: Carlos Ribeiro

Others Present: Malcolm Baxter, BIS; Meghan Nhar, Deana Pecchia, CCAP; Sherman DeShields, CVS; Anne Walsh, Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston; Jay Visnjic, Hampton Inn; Sean Nolan, Hampton Inn Summer Youth Participant; Melissa Peguero, CVS Summer Youth Participant

Location: RI Department of Labor & Training, Conference room 73-2

Chair's Call to Order

Chair Coia welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 8:32 am.

Minutes of the Youth Development Committee

Chair Coia asked for a review of the meeting minutes of the 3-7-13 Governor's Workforce Board Youth Development Committee (YDC). She asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

VOTE: S. Moylan motioned to approve, seconded by R. Coia. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Coia took a moment to welcome new committee member, Timothy Byrne.

Summer Youth Employment Program Update

Chair Coia asked Carlos Ribeiro to give an update on the Workforce Partnership of Greater RI Summer Youth Employment Program. C. Ribeiro referred to the Blackstone Valley Community Action Program (BVCAP) Summer Youth Employment Program handout and gave a brief description of the job-training program. He noted that five students from the Rhode Island Nurses Institute (RINI) Middle College were chosen to participate in the 100-hour summer job-training program at the Rhode Island State Health Laboratories. Carlos referenced preliminary data on GRI Youth Performance, which was detailed in the program packet.

C. Ribeiro introduced Jay Visnjic, General Manager at Hampton Inn and Suites. J. Visnjic discussed the company's expectations and commitment to the summer youth program, reporting that he was very impressed with the youth. He stated that 18 individuals were offered summer jobs. He explained that his only expectation of the participants was their dedication to give 100% of their willingness to learn. J. Visnjic stated that his approach to the program was not to view the youth as "free labor," but to mentor and guide the youth to become more employable. He noted 16 Hampton Inn hotels will be participating in meetings to discuss the program. Sharon Moylan inquired about the age-range of the youth and skills that were gained through the experience. J. Visnjic stated the youth were between the ages of 16-21 and becoming employable was the main outcome of the work experience. Chair Coia commended J. Visnjic on his outlook and expectations of the program and thanked him for investing his time and efforts to mentor the participants.

Deanna Pecchia (CCAP), introduced Sean Nolan, a Hampton Inn Summer Youth participant and explained the process of how the youth are evaluated and prepared for interviews. She noted Hampton Inn hired some of the youth, including Sean, for year-round employment. D. Pecchia thanked Jay Visnjic and commented on his great leadership. She added that five Hampton Inn customers left positive reviews about their interactions with Sean on Trip Advisory.

Sean Nolan shared his experience of working at the Hampton Inn. He thanked the staff from CCAP and Jay Visnjic for their commitment and dedication. He discussed several of his responsibilities and roles at Hampton Inn and highlighted many of the positive outcomes from the experience. S. Nolan expressed his desire to continue mentoring youth who are faced with similar barriers and challenges. He noted that he will be taking college courses next semester. S. Moylan was impressed with S. Nolan's communication skills and humility, noting the lack of communication skills among today's youth due to technology.

Chair Coia asked Ann Walsh to provide an update on the Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston Summer Youth Employment Program. A. Walsh referred to the Summer 2013 JDF program statistics handout for the committee to review at a later time.

Meghan Nhar (CCAP), introduced Sherman DeShields, manager of the Cranston CVS. S. DeShields explained the process of hiring the summer youth participants, noting that 18 were placed in Cranston, 4 in Warwick, and 4 participants in Pawtucket. He mentioned that a district meeting was held to encourage other managers to get involved and inform them of the program. S. DeShields described his excitement about coaching and nurturing the youth to develop soft skills and customer service skills.

M. Peguero, a CVS summer youth participant, described her experience working with CCAP to prepare for the interview with CVS. She noted their commitment to developing her interview and resume skills. M. Peguero stated she is currently working for CVS. R. Brooks asked M. Peguero what skills she's learned from the experience. M. Peguero stated her customer service skills have greatly improved.

R. Brooks discussed recognizing and honoring businesses and leaders who have had an impact on youth and the community through a "Breakfast of Champions" event.

Connecting Youth and Employment

What Happens After Summer Youth Employment

Chair Coia asked Elizabeth Jardine to provide an update on the GWB Summer Youth Performance Reporting. E. Jardine referred to handout B and highlighted the target and actual numbers for expenditures and enrollment. She noted the target expenditure was \$1,500,000 with an actual expenditure of \$1,125,319. The remainder of the funds, \$374,681, has been invoiced and is pending. She stated that the enrollment target was met and exceeded (101%).

A discussion followed regarding the LDA story and the various data systems across the state. E. Jardine discussed the need to analyze the methods of tracking long-term youth data to determine what systems work. Chair Coia inquired about including the summer youth employment data. E. Jardine stated the summer youth data is not currently part of the DLT agreement but the plan is to incorporate it and create a more comprehensive view. She discussed the possibility of agreements with other agencies and if that would require approaching the legislature.

Other Possibilities for Funding Summer Youth Employment

Due to time constraints, Chair Coia tabled the discussion for the next Youth Development Committee meeting.

Work Immersion/Internship Updates

Chair Coia asked Rick Brooks to give an update on the Work Immersion Program. R. Brooks reviewed program details with the committee and noted that the program was launched within the last 2 to 3 weeks. He stated that participants in the program must be 18 years or older and many of the youth programs provide services for young adults over the age of 18. Discussion followed on how to communicate with youth centers about the program.

Adjournment

With no further business, Chair Coia asked for a motion to adjourn.

VOTE: S. Moylan moved to approve, seconded by T. Byrne.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amelia-Anne Roberts