

REGION VII YOUTH COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 7, 2009

The Region VII Youth Council meeting was held on October 7, 2009 at the Martinsburg One Stop. The meeting was called to order at 11:05 am by T.J. Van Meter, Region VII Executive Director.

Those present: Elizabeth DePue, Chris Cobian, Pamela Shrader, Grover Duling, Bob MacPhail, Larry Searcy, Megan Hauser, Rochelle Price, Mike Ferrari, T.J. Van Meter.

Mr. Van Meter thanked those in attendance for their participation. He stated that the Council would need to select a Chair and Vice Chair as soon as practical. He also stated that the contract with the current youth program services provider, C.O.A.T.E.S., would end in June 2010 and that it would be necessary to issue a Request for Proposals, as policy mandates that a contract cannot be extended beyond two years (and C.O.A.T.E.S. will be completing their second year in June)

Bob MacPhail, CEO for C.O.A.T.E.S, gave a report on program activities. He handed out an information bulletin and stated that C.O.A.T.E.S. remains "focused on measurable outcomes". He stated that 100 youth have participated in the online IT courses offered through EWVCTC. Caseworkers are tutoring youth in preparation for GED testing. Five tons of materials were donated this past summer through the e-cycling program in Moorefield, providing employment for eight youth. Another twelve youth have received paid internships. Youth have also received OSHA certification. Grover Duling stated that he feels the online courses are a great incentive and result in participants feeling "empowered" to continue with their education. Megan Hauser stated that she would be interested in working with C.O.A.T.E.S. in connection with a job shadowing program her agency is starting.

T.J. Van Meter stated that the contract amount for the youth program had formerly been \$200,000. The new allocation for PY 2009 is only \$190,772. After subtracting 10% for administrative costs and costs associated with the two One Stops, the final amount available for the youth program is \$150,000. The current enrollment in the youth program is 129.

Given the reduction in funding, there was much discussion about how best to proceed. Chris Cobian had questions regarding the OSHA training. Mike Ferrari expressed concern regarding program outcomes and purpose. Grover Duling asked how any contractor would be able to run the program with 25% less money and stated that he was concerned that lack of funding would make it impossible for C.O.A.T.E.S. to run the program. T.J. Van Meter stated that a larger company could absorb a reduction in funding more easily and that he felt it was necessary to begin to seek funding sources outside WIA to supplement WIA dollars. Larry Searcy stated that perhaps an "umbrella agency" could defer some costs and leave more money available for the program. Mr. Searcy also felt that additional funding must be sought and stated that he is pursuing grants in different areas, including health care careers and the department of agriculture. Chris Cobian mentioned that some youth may be able to be co-enrolled with

DRS. There was also discussion concerning splitting the available funding equally between the South Branch and Martinsburg service areas. Bob MacPhail asked if the youth program had to be contracted out. T.J. Van Meter responded that regional staff cannot provide direct services and that the accepted practice is that the program is contracted out. Mr. Van Meter has queried Charleston concerning this and is awaiting their response. Grover Duling asked about the availability of youth stimulus monies. Mr. Van Meter stated that those monies were utilized for the summer employment program.

T.J. Van Meter asked for a decision on the funding amount and the structure of the Request for Proposals (one regional youth services provider vs. one for each One Stop vs. one for each county). Grover Duling made a motion that the \$150,000 funding figure be accepted, Chris Cobian seconded, motion passed. The Council decided to defer their recommendations on the structure of the RFP until the next meeting.

T.J. Van Meter stated that he would like the Youth Council to meet monthly at least until the end of the year, with meetings held at alternating locations and the Request for Proposals issued in January 2010.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 17, 2009 at the South Branch One Stop at 10:00 am.

Grover Duling made the motion to adjourn, Mike Ferrari seconded, motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 12:40 pm.