

Youth Council Meeting
March 23, 2011
Meeting Minutes

The Youth Council meeting was held on Wednesday, March 23, 2011, at the Wisconsin Community Bank in Monroe, WI. Attendance was as follows:

Members Present:	Mr. Steve Huth Ms. Pam Jenson	Ms. Chris Wellington
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Members Excused:	Mr. Jeremy Brown Ms. Lynn Daniels Ms. Imelda Majeski Mr. Steve Michek Mr. Walter Orzechowski	Mr. Greg Quam Mr. Gary Smith Mr. Scott Stocker Ms. Brittany Weis
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Staff Present:	Dr. Robert Borremans Mr. Ron Coppernoll	Ms. Katie Gerhards Ms. Rhonda Suda
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Guests Present:	Ms. Mary Johannesen
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Ms. Suda called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

1. Youth RFP

On March 1, the Youth Request for Proposal (RFP) was published for the in-school youth program. It was published in local newspapers and on SWWDB's website. All proposals are due April 25 with proposer presentations to follow on May 10. The award announcement is planned for May 20. If more than one (1) proposal from each area is received, a few members of the youth council will be asked to help in the formal evaluation process.

Ms. Suda explained that under the old definition of younger youth, the process has been to exit clients after they have received their degree. It would be considered a negative outcome if a client does not either enroll in (or be in the process of enrolling in) post-secondary education, enlist in the military, obtain employment, or pursue any type of advanced training at the time of exit. Now, the CESA organizations are required to ensure that clients are at a positive outcome level at the time of exit.

Dr. Borremans added that SWWDB has been pleased with the services the CESA organizations have provided over the last few years. It has been about five (5) years since SWWDB last published an RFP for the in-school youth program. The reason a RFP was not published is due to the fact that SWWDB anticipated Workforce Investment Act (WIA) reauthorization and it did not make sense to engage a program operator and then have to cancel the contract or redirect services because of a new law. Therefore, a change did not seem practical as long as performance outcomes were being met. SWWDB finally reached a point where simply extending the contracts was not reasonable.

Additionally, the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) is moving away from using the terms younger and older youth to in-school youth (younger) and out-of-school youth (older).

2. Literacy/Numeracy

The Literacy/Numeracy, a common performance measure, is the one measure SWWDB failed last program year. SWWDB has received guidance from DWD on the basic concepts and administrative

requirements of this performance requirement. It is applied only to out-of-school youth who TABE tested with basic skills deficient (less than 9th grade). A requirement is that these clients must be retested within one (1) year to be at or above the 9th grade level. Clients must show they are making regular strides towards achieving that 9th grade level and how long it takes them to get to that point.

Ms. Suda discovered that prior case managers had not entered clients correctly into the SWWDB database. The client would be entered as a basic skills deficient, out-of-school youth with no recording of tests. Therefore, the client would be in the measure but there would be nothing to measure. This would result in a failure. New program operators have corrected this process and testing is occurring.

3. **Positive Outcomes/Placement**

SWWDB has seen additional emphasis on positive outcomes and placements. For in-school youth, a positive placement is considered entry into employment, post-secondary education, the military, advanced training or other occupational skills training after they have received their high school degree or equivalency. SWWDB strives to provide needed services to clients in the WIA program until they achieve positive outcomes.

Return on Investment (ROI) is coming down from the federal level as justifying the outcomes of the system. The fact that SWWDB is providing services in itself is not viewed as a positive outcome. Everything is heading towards a placement orientation. SWWDB will be evaluated on how well program operators get clients into some type of job.

Dr. Borremans added that there has been a shift in attitude at DWD with the Walker administration compared to the Doyle administration. Secretary Manny Perez is a private business owner who also used to work with Manpower. His primary focus is to get people back to work and off of unemployment. It has been discussed that SWWDB should no longer be training people for occupations, but should be training people for jobs. The point is that training should be focused on the needs of the employer.

4. **Federal Budget Update**

Dr. Borremans presented council members with a PowerPoint of the federal budget. It paints a picture of what is going on at the federal level. Topics included:

- Debt
- Discretionary Funds
- Mandatory Funds
- Continuing Resolution – HR1
- FY 2012 Budget Overview

The House of Representatives passed a Continuing Resolution and considered a deficit reduction plan – HR1 for 2011. They are proposing to cut \$3.8 billion out of job training programs. Of which, \$3 billion would come from WIA. They believe that there is enough money in the system and HR1 does not allocate any new dollars for WIA beginning July 1, 2011. There would have to be some other kind of reallocation process from around the country. Any new funding would have to be delayed until July 1, 2012. This has since been changed. The House is also talking about a rescission of existing funds that are already a part of the program that were given in advance to the start of the year.

When the first continuing resolution was presented, it was passed for two (2) weeks starting on March 1. It has now been extended for another week until April 8. Now, the expectation is that the two parties are close enough that they will be able to have a resolution for appropriation for 2011.

The Senate has defeated HR1 and passed their own Continuing Resolution that contains cuts primarily in programs that the administration planned on cutting in 2012. These programs included youth build and senior employment. It now goes to a conference committee. Even if the two houses of Congress come together, the President still has the opportunity to veto it. The President's budget is being used as the framework for budget planning as this point.

While the budget's base amounts remain virtually the same, the areas that are calling for increases are infrastructure, energy and education. Overall, within the Department of Labor (DOL), there will be a 5 percent reduction. The Employment and Training Administration, which are the programs SWWDB operates under, will see a 6 ½ percent cut; a \$9.9 billion budget. Additionally, a workforce innovation fund would be created that would be jointly administered by DOL and the Department of Education.

"Green" jobs are being proposed to expand, while competitive grants for high growth and emerging industries, which has been used as a way of bringing community colleges into the DOL system, is being proposed for cuts.

Wegner-Peyser will receive an increase, but after taking off the amount that would go to the workforce innovation fund, it is level funding. In addition to cuts in Wegner-Peyser, which affects Job Service, there are also cuts in the amount of money that would go to state funded activities. Currently, 15 percent of WIA allocation can go to the Governor's discretionary fund which pays for staff at DWD. It is proposed that this will be cut from 15 percent to 7 ½ percent.

It appears that, based on the preliminary allocation figures, Wisconsin will fair pretty well. It is too early to know, but SWWDB could lose 4 – 5 percent in dislocated worker funds. On the other hand, there could be a slight increase in adult and youth funding. SWWDB is expected to know around June 1.

If any council member is interested in a copy of the PowerPoint presentation, please contact Dr. Borremans.

5. Work Experience Update

Ms. Suda explained the concept of work experience and the difficulties there are in placing students into a successful work experience situation. The primary goal of work experience is to expose the client to the world of work. Although preferred, work experience does not have to be in an area in which the client shows a career interest.

Ms. Jenson noted that some of the difficulties she has seen with the work experience program are that by the time funding for contracts is received, schools already have a set schedule for students. As a result, if a student starts work experience in September, this makes for a difficult first semester. Therefore, the student usually begins work experience in the second semester.

Ms. Johannesen added that one difficulty she has seen is that although students want to participate in the work experience program, it is hard to find employers willing to provide opportunities. Youth normally do not have a work background, and employers need to provide comprehensive orientation on the job which can be very time-consuming. Most employers do not want to deal with it. Ms. Wellington included the fact that employers are under a lot of pressure from schools at every level to do more.

Ms. Wellington has found that factory workers, trying to make the transition into a professional setting, do not know how to act within that work environment. The student needs the right attitude and motivation to change their habits from one setting to another.

6. Yearly Monitoring

Ms. Suda stated that SWWDB staff conducted annual program monitoring of the youth programs in January. Overall, the results were very good. One (1) finding related to enrollment of work experience was identified and has been addressed.

7. CESA 2 Relocation to Whitewater

Due to financial reasons, CESA 2 relocated to Whitewater in February 2011. This move will not affect services being provided to in-school and out-of-school youth in Rock and Green counties. Ms. Jenson will continue to serve clients in these counties.

8. Other Topics for Discussion

A. Youth Council Membership

Dr. Borremans updated council members of membership changes.

- Mr. Gary Smith – Mr. Smith has resigned from the council as his schedule did not allow him time to participate.
- Ms. Darla Burton, CESA 3 – Ms. Burton is no longer at CESA 3. A possible replacement for Ms. Burton would be Ms. Johannesen.
- Ms. Chris Wellington, Blackhawk Tech College – Ms. Wellington will be retiring. A replacement will come from Southwest Tech College as a member of Blackhawk Tech serves on the SWWDB Board of Directors.

9. Adjournment

Dr. Borremans adjourned the meeting at 3 p.m.