

Youth Council Meeting
April 6, 2010
Meeting Minutes

The Youth Council meeting was held on Tuesday, April 6, 2010, at the Wisconsin Community Bank in Monroe. Attendance was as follows:

Members Present:	Mr. Jeremy Brown Ms. Pam Jenson Ms. Mary Johannesen	Mr. Steve Michek Mr. Walter Orzechowski Mr. Gary Smith
Members Excused:	Ms. Darla Burton Ms. Lynn Daniels Mr. Steve Huth Ms. Imelda Majeski	Mr. Greg Quam Mr. Scott Stocker Ms. Brittany Weis Ms. Chris Wellington
Staff Present:	Dr. Robert Borremans Mr. Ron Coppernoll	Ms. Kathy Kessler

Dr. Borremans called the meeting to order at 1:38 p.m.

1. Youth Council Membership

Dr. Borremans explained that every two years, SWWDB is required to submit the names and representation categories of all Board members, to the Department of Workforce Development Board (DWD). He added that this year marked the first time that SWWDB has also been required to submit the names of the Youth Council members. DWD ruled that the SWWDB Youth Council membership was not in compliance with Federal regulations because it lacked a former participant and the parent of a client.

Ms. Imelda Majeski has joined the Youth Council as the parent representative. Dr. Borremans stated that Ms. Majeski is the mother of Ms. Olivia Majeski, who participated in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Summer Youth Employment Program in 2009. He added that Ms. Brittany Weis has also joined the Youth Council as the participant representative. Ms. Weis worked at Wyalusing State Park last summer while participating in the Summer Youth Employment Program. Dr. Borremans said that these names have been submitted to the DWD and final approval is pending.

Dr. Borremans outlined the statutory requirements for the Youth Council members as well as the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) definition of membership to the Youth Council. He added that Youth Council is the only group that does not require membership on the Workforce Development Board.

Dr. Borremans stated that DWD is scheduled to conduct their annual monitoring the week of April 26th. He added that the report will be shared with Youth Council members for discussion at the next meeting. Dr. Borremans described the three performance criteria for youth as numeracy/literacy, degree attainment and education and employment.

Ms. Majeski indicated to Dr. Borremans that she may have some difficulty attending the meetings due to her teaching schedule. He added that the Youth Council currently meets twice per year – March and October. He asked if there would be any issues if the time of the meeting were moved back until later in the afternoon. He said that SWWDB would also consider other options such as video conference for future meetings.

2. Summer Youth Employment Program

Mr. Coppernoll described last year's Summer Youth Employment Program experience that served 150 youth. He stated that due to the limited amount of time prior to implementation, assessments were conducted and efforts were made to match the job to the youth to the best of SWWD's ability. Mr. Coppernoll added that Job Fit assessments were conducted as well as pre-employment sessions where youth were taught work ethic, dress, attitude, first impressions, punctuality and the importance of these characteristics to successful employment.

Mr. Coppernoll stated that the age group of the selected youth was 16-24. He added that a majority of those who did not complete the program tended to be younger – in the 16-18 age group. The youth worked thirty hours per week and 70% stayed the entire time and completed the program. Youth were employed at various facilities in food service, construction and weatherization. The youth were placed in all six counties (Green, Grant, Iowa, Lafayette, and Richland & Rock) as part of the Summer Youth Program requirement.

Mr. Coppernoll indicated that two Summer Youth Programs components that were especially successful were the Energy Audit team, who conducted home energy audits meant to educate the home owner on ways to conserve energy and lower utility bills. Each of the fifty (50), low income homes in the Beloit area that the team visited were supplied with an energy efficient compact fluorescent bulb, low-flow shower head and aerator faucet head; all provided free of charge by the grant.

The second component was the Invasive Species program conducted with the DNR. The five (5) inspectors provided boaters with information about Wisconsin's Invasive Species Act and collected information regarding boater habits. This year, with more stringent controls, boaters that do not adhere to the law will be ticketed.

Dr. Borremans added that as a result of the State monitoring, it was discovered that there was one young man who did not register for selective service within the required time frame. He said that WIA regulations require a young man to register for the selective service before they are allowed to receive WIA services. DWD has ruled that because the person did not register prior to receiving services, he was ineligible for WIA/ARRA services and that all costs associated with services provided to the person are disallowed. SWWDB officially challenged this "finding" but DWD denied the appeal. CESA 2, the program operator, agreed to pay the disallowed cost.

Mr. Brown asked how kids are identified to participate in the Summer Youth Employment Program. Mr. Coppernoll replied that they are generally identified through the school system. Mr. Coppernoll added that the participants all had to have some barrier to success to qualify for the program. Dr. Borremans stated that there were no open solicitations of eligible youth and that due to limited implementation time only participants already involved with the system were enrolled.

Dr. Borremans concluded by stating that the House passed a "jobs bill" that included Summer Youth Employment programming, but the Senate did not pass a similar bill. At this time, the lack of Senate action effectively kills a Summer Youth Work Experience opportunity for this summer. The House has now passed a scaled down version but that bill is still awaiting Senate action and there is no assurance when that might be.

3. WIA Reauthorization

Dr. Borremans explained that WIA was originally approved for five (5) years in 1998. Reauthorization should have occurred in 2003, but still has not happened. He added that approximately a year ago there appeared to be some movement towards reauthorization. The healthcare debate has refocused

attention away from WIA reauthorization. Dr. Borremans said that community colleges have expressed an interest in taking over the WIA activities. Concern has also been expressed regarding the effectiveness of the workforce boards.

Dr. Borremans added that once reauthorization is approved it is likely that the workforce boards under the leadership of private sector employers will continue. Dr. Borremans added that WIA shifted from a job seeker focus to an employer focus. The shift allows workforce board to address employer job skill requirements and focus training on employer skill needs.

Dr. Borremans explained that another concept that has become more prominent in the workforce system is regionalization. With tightening budgets, the need to share resources has developed. He added that the CESA organizations have demonstrated how working cooperatively on a regional basis can result in the effective sharing of resources for the betterment of the broader group.

4. Request for Proposals (RFP)

Dr. Borremans asked whether the group thought SWWDB should publish a RFP to solicit new program operators for youth activities. He added that Rock County represents approximately 52-53% of the population in the southwest region while the remaining five counties represent 47-48%. Dr. Borremans said that in the past SWWDB awarded 8 separate contracts – two (2) each for younger youth, older youth, dislocated worker and adult programs.

The last RFP was contracted with Job Service which provided services across the service district. This allowed the number of contracts to be reduced to one contract with Job Service. CESA 2 and CESA 3 continue to be the young youth providers. He added that Job Service has decided not to rebid for WIA reversing creating a need to solicit a new program operator for the adult, dislocated worker and older youth activities.

Dr. Borremans asked if there is a need to solicit new program operators for younger youth activities. Mr. Smith asked if it is required to solicit a different provider for the delivery of services. Dr. Borremans added that he does not believe that there is a need or benefit to soliciting a new provider. He stated that both CESA 2 and CESA 3 have been providing services for at least seven years successfully.

Dr. Borremans stated that the allotment for Wisconsin showed a 30% increase in youth funding and should result in some additional funding for SWWDB.

The group agreed that there was no need to circulate an RFP to solicit new providers for youth services.

5. Virtual/On-Line Schools and Students

Mr. Coppernoll discussed that there is a segment of the population that has been growing and not being served due to the limit that the state has placed on the number of students that may be served. He added that in 2003 there were two virtual schools in Wisconsin. Beginning in the 2009-10 school year the total number of students attending virtual charter schools through the open enrollment program in any school year may not exceed 5,250.

Ms. Jenson stated that they currently work with the charter schools in both Janesville and Beloit. It is her experience that the on-line opportunities create issues with structure and these are often carried to the jobsite. She added that there seems to be more success having students attend classes at Blackhawk Technical College versus the on-line classes. She said that students come from poverty situations and are experiencing at least one additional barrier in their lives and have not always had educational opportunities.

Dr. Borremans added that on-line opportunities create issues with accountability and performance. He said that there are enough other options for students with education and employment barriers to receive services through their “home “school district rather than through the workforce system. Mr. Brown stated that his experience has been that some students do benefit from the on-line opportunities.

Dr. Borremans said that SWWDB has obtained a new computer based training program that contains employability skills instruction. This may be a good tool to use with youth because it could provide a fast-paced educational experience that could be interesting to young people.

6. Other Topics for Discussion

None

7. Adjournment

Dr. Borremans adjourned the meeting at 2:43p.m.