



Serving as the workforce investment board for the Lower Shore of Maryland

The quarterly meeting of the Lower Shore Youth Council was held on Wednesday, June 17, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in the Smith Room at the One-Stop Job Market, Salisbury MD.

Youth Council members present were: Patti Mannion, Chair; Jim Brannon, Jackie Gast, Warner Sumpter, Andrea Coughlin, Jennifer Shahan, Diane Stulz, Paula Erdie, TiErra Johnson and Linda Hardman. Guests included Derek C. Bland, WIB Chair and Teri Robinson from Shore Transit. LSWA staff included Eileen Cross, youth program coordinator and Carole DiPietro, office manager.

On motion by Jackie Gast, seconded by Eileen Cross, the minutes of the March 18, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved.

On behalf of the WIA youth programs, Eileen reported:

- that WIA funding allocations have been received and are very similar to last year's funding. Local program allocations have not yet been determined.
- Recent fiscal and program monitorings included Carl Reavis, the DLLR monitor for the Lower Shore. Carl concluded that while the initial case notes should be done in BROCRIP format, it is not necessary to continue that format with subsequent case notes.
- Allocations for summer employment programs funded through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) have been distributed. Telamon has some youth already employed; certifications for in-school youth are taking place now.
- A program sponsored by DNR has received ARRA funding; Diane Stulz will be referring some Worcester County youth to that program.
- Over 100 youth in Worcester County have been involved in the certification process
- The youth symposium held in June was a great success; approximately 120 students attended; Wor-Wic hosted the event at no cost and provide guides for campus tours.
- Joe Giordano has provided 8 work readiness workshops for youth; Telamon has also participated.
- Wicomico CTE participants went to the ROPES teambuilding course; it was a successful day and great tool for bring the group together.

Grant updates:

- Jennifer reported that they did not receive the Youthbuild grant but are planning to reapply and utilize the partnerships that were formed.

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- Eileen reported that the F.O.C.U.S. program has 15 active youth; one has completed instruction for a GED; 6 more youth are expected from Worcester County; 2 are ready for employment.
- Linda Hardman announced that the gang-related grant is scheduled to begin July 1; referrals will be made by Choices and DJS; a total of 24 youth could be served in the 12 month program.

Teri Robinson from Shore Transit explained the voucher program and asked everyone to include transportation when writing grants. Partners for the voucher program are still being sought; a meeting will be held in July to establish the program. Each partner agency will decide on eligibility and will receive tax credits. A coordination meeting is expected to be held in October. Shore Transit continues to look for ways to provide innovative services.

Eileen updated the Council regarding the youth website. John Donnegan, Tri-County's IT director, is in the process of obtaining a *Lower Shore Career Guide* file format that can be downloaded from the site. A resource directory for the State of Maryland including youth is being implemented; all Youth Councils will be linked to that site. Derek recommended that a Face Book profile be created; Face Book and Twitter could be used in follow-up.

The Council was asked to think about distribution sites for the *Career Guide*; Paula Erdie suggested including information from Virginia in the next edition.

Eileen asked for input regarding the establishment of terms for Council members. It was suggested that the Council follow the terms established for the WIB, which is four years for non-mandated members. Have current terms expire on a staggered basis, so that non-mandated members would be leaving and beginning at different intervals. A copy of Youth Council requirements from the Federal Register was distributed, and members were asked to think about goals or a focus for the Council. Eileen will have information about other Youth Councils around the state at the next meeting.

Warner Sumpter will contact UMES regarding hosting a luncheon for all of the WIA participants and ARRA summer employment participants. The Youth Council, WIB and employers will also be invited. TiErra believes that this type of activity is not only enjoyable for youth but allows them to see the number of participants involved and provides an opportunity for networking.

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Warner asked about targeting youth from the alternative schools, since many are repeat offenders and lack direction. It was felt that literacy is a key issue. More discussion will be planned at the September meeting.

Also, Stacy Bobak, case manager for the F.O.C.U.S. program and some participants will be invited to the September meeting.

Derek distributed a brochure about a conference and exposition in Ocean City on November 12-14 which will focus on economic development. It is sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Green Technology Association.

Additionally, on behalf of the WIB, Derek thanked the Council members and vendors for the work they do for the youth of the tri-county area.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole DiPietro
Office Manager

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One-Stop Job Market ■ 917 Mount Hermon Road, Suite #10 ■ Salisbury, MD 21804
Phone: (410) 341-3835 ■ Fax: (410) 341-3735
www.lswa.org