



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

The Youth Council of the Lower Shore Workforce Investment Board met on Thursday, November 20, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. in the meeting room of the Local Management Board in Salisbury MD.

Youth Council members present were: Patti Mannion, Chair; Taran Nance, Jim Brannon, Linda Hardman, Ruth Baker, Paula Erdie, Marva Greene, Warner Sumpter and Shawn Murphy.

Milton Morris, Workforce Director; Eileen Cross, Youth Program Coordinator and Carole DiPietro, Office Manager from the Lower Shore Workforce Alliance and Workforce Investment Board Chair Derek C. Bland also attended.

Guests included Jennifer Shahan and Diane Stulz representing current youth vendors and George Wooley from the Local Management Board.

Patti Mannion called the meeting to order and asked each person to introduce him/herself. Members were asked to review their contact information as printed and provide corrections or changes on the form provided in each packet. Feedback as to convenient meeting times was also requested.

On motion by Jim Brannon, seconded by Milton Morris, the minutes of the November 19, 2007 meeting were unanimously approved.

Members were asked to review a previously prepared Youth Council mission statement and two youth success stories, which had been provided by Worcester County and Telamon Corporation.

The Local Management Board is applying for an \$850,000 YouthBuild grant which would target out-of-school youth to provide education and jobs in the construction industry. Partnerships are being developed and letters of commitment are being drafted. The Salisbury area is the focus of the application, so construction companies based in Salisbury or doing business in Salisbury could benefit. Approximately 30 youth participants would be funded. A meeting to discuss partnerships is scheduled on December 3 at 9:30 a.m.

Another grant being pursued targets gang-related youth offenders who are returning to the community. Employers would be expected to provide in-kind services, such as supervision.

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A \$500,000+ grant has been received as the result of a collaborative effort between DSS and WIA to target approximately 30 youth who are aging out of foster care.

A Youth Council page currently exists on the LSWA website but is not viewable. It was suggested that Doug Church or Dana Seiler from Tech Solutions be contacted regarding updating the page and making it active. Some other suggestions including making the website interactive and using interns to do part of the work. Ruth Baker offered to provide contact information for Salisbury University's internship program.

In response to a question about the role and involvement of the Youth Council, comments centered around trying to keep youth connected from high school to college; trying to be proactive about future employment opportunities, perhaps in the areas of wind farm development, etc.; looking at high school drop-outs vs. youth who graduate but are not employed; including representation from alternative schools and chambers of commerce on the Council; investigate education opportunities through employers—for instance, Atlantic General Hospital will pay for higher education for their employed youth who qualify; provide computer literacy education for alternative school students; become more knowledgeable about the Salisbury Area Chamber's efforts to receive workforce development grants, etc.

Shawn Murphy volunteered to identify future work opportunities on the Eastern Shore and contact Blue Water regarding the proposed wind farm.

Even though the current plan is to meet quarterly, Youth Council members were encouraged to contact either Patti Mannion or Eileen Cross to discuss any issues, ideas, etc. during the interim.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole DiPietro
Office Manager

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