



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

The Lower Shore Workforce Investment Board Youth Council met on Wednesday, March 18, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at the One-Stop Job Market in Salisbury, Maryland.

Youth Council members present were: Patti Mannion, Chair; Linda Hardman, Jackie Gast, Paula Erdie and Ruth Baker.

LSWA staff present: Milton Morris, Eileen Cross and Carole DiPietro.

Guests: Derek C. Bland, E.C. Townsend, Carl Reavis, Jeff Wooten, Conal Turner, Orville Penn and Jennifer Shahan.

Youth Council Chair Patti Mannion called the meeting to order and welcomed guests.

On motion by Paula Erdie, seconded by Ruth Baker, the minutes of the November 20, 2008 meeting were unanimously approved.

A program review committee consisting of Patti Mannion, Paula Erdie, Jackie Gast, Shawn Murphy and Eileen Cross reviewed the youth program proposals that were submitted. Those submissions were from the current program providers and reflected the same basic programs that are now in place. The question of funding still remains unanswered, as allocations are not expected until late April. The Committee suggests that funding be distributed equally and would be interested in making recommendations if that is not possible because of decreased allocations.

Milton reported that an estimated 1.3 million dollars in stimulus funding is slated for the Lower Shore: \$268,000 for adults; \$400,000 for dislocated workers and \$682,000 for youth. Participants will need to be WIA certified; the mandate from DOL is to spend the money quickly and wisely. The only performance measure for summer youth employment will be some type of work readiness experience. However, if services are extended beyond September 30, 2009, all performance measures will apply. Age limit for youth is extended to 24 rather than 21; the goal for that age group is year-round work rather than just summer employment. A mix of public and private employers will be recruited.

More staff will be hired to help with project administration, interviewing and certifying for WIA eligibility, etc.

"Providing workforce policy, planning and oversight for the Lower Shore of Maryland"

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A sub-committee will meet on Monday, March 23 to discuss the various vehicles to utilize for communication. Ideas included holding a public meeting within the next two weeks, press releases and interviews, public service announcements, etc. The development of an RFP to be distributed at the public meeting was also discussed.

Since the Workforce Investment Board meets on April 8th, Derek asked the group to provide information to him for at least two projects employing youth that would be ready to start.

On behalf of the LSWA youth program, Eileen Cross reported the following:

1. Youth Council website is being developed with the help of TCC IT staff. One of its capabilities will be to link all youth council sites.
2. A youth symposium will be held on April 3 at Wor-Wic Community College. It will include workshops, tour of Wor-Wic, etc. Approximately 100 youth are expected to participate.
3. Two case managers have been hired for the foster care youth employment program. Participants will begin the program on April 12th.

Jennifer Shahan reported that a response to the YouthBuild proposal is expected during the first two weeks of April; a second round of funding is possible.

Linda Hardman announced that the Local Management Board has received a grant in the amount of \$129,000 to serve up to 24 high risk gang-related youth.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Carole DiPietro
Office Manager

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