

**VERMILION COUNTY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
YOUTH COUNCIL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE Monday, May 15th, 2006 AT 9:10 AM
Vermilion County Court House Annex
6 N. Vermilion St., Danville IL**

Members Present: DeeAnn Ryan Nancy Hamilton Lynn Childs Muriel Barnes

Members Absent: Nancy Bedsore Thomas Fisher Tamera Forthenberry Sandy Martin Jean Norton
Trisha Osterbur Betty Shaffer Patricia Shedlock Kay Smoot Debbie Stark Amy Steuer
Scott Heatherton Brian Hensgen Madonna Hightowe Angela Joy Kevin Kegley

Guest/Proxies/Staff: Frank Brunacci Judy Woodall Lori Brewster

CALL TO ORDER – Dee Ann Ryan called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM as an informational meeting, quorum was not present. Introductions were done.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Approval of Minutes was post-poned until next meeting

DISCUSSION OF COLLABORATIVE PROJECT FOR YOUTH WITH DISABILITES

Dee Ann informed that the discussion would be about addressing the needs of kids with learning, reading, and / or social and emotional disabilities. There are a high number of students coming out of the high school that are unable to pass the TABED test or GED test. This population does exist in Vermilion County and the County will be in trouble with the workforce with individuals who do not have a diploma or GED if the problem is not addressed. A lot of factors that lead into social or emotional disabilities:

- Acting out in classrooms / getting into trouble so they don't look stupid
- Kicked out of classrooms / missing out on education or are not in the classroom
- Kids can't be tested because they are not in school long enough.
- Reading levels are low and kids don't pass GED

Recently Ryan heard a presentation from Lincoln Challenge. Lincoln Challenge does not have entrance exams, 68% of students do pass, but there is trouble with kids reading level and that the individuals do not pass the GED test.

Ryan stated that in reviewing the proposals for the youth programs there was discussion on what if students are not able to pass the class. Center for Children Services (CCS) sends students to DACC. DACC can provide remedial education, but students are not tested for disabilities.

Nancy Hamilton, Department of Human Services – Division of Rehabilitation Services (DHS-DRS) informed that they can do testing for working age kids 16 and older that are not in school.

Frank Brunacci stated from past experiences that a program with strict classroom instructions does not work for Special Ed students, but a more successful program would be to work

vocational- interaction. Part of the day students work on their GED and the other half of the day work out in the community with other people to make money.

Brunacci informed that Worksource could do more to segregate developmental to help individuals in classroom instruction. Worksource has external job placement with supervisors but to be able to do developmental help would probably need to have a Therapist (in house Counselor /Educator) and would need to hire that person.

Instead of letting the individual drop out, Worksource would need to catch them before this happens. Student would need to be identified in the school system and Worksource could be involved immediately. Worksource does receive funds from the 708 Mental Health Board and could work with those that are not identified with a disability.

Lynn Childs, said some times this is not a disability but environmental or emotional.

Childs questioned Barnes at what level does CCS not take students on the "TABE". Barnes responded that CCS accepts the 8.0 level or the 8th grade level and up. Barnes stated that the kids can make it at the 6th grade level, but is very long term and the CCS grant does not cover this level also Barnes does not have a big enough place to do this.

Hamilton clarified that Barnes does do some testing that identifies the individual's reading and math level. Barnes responded yes. Hamilton stated that this testing would identify a possible learning disability. Barnes stated that some times kids are sent back to the school districts and Barnes informs the district of what the tests say. Kids are going to be far better off staying in there own schools.

Brunacci stated that he would not be working with the 6th and 7th graders this would be inappropriate for the program Worksource is thinking of.

Ryan stated we are going to need more data before we start this.

Barnes suggested speaking with Mr. Metzen

Brunacci stated that Worksource could work with a population ages 16 to 21 for youths with disability and Worksource is looking at disabilities with a very broad brush.

There was discussion on the National GED, which the state has to apply for.

Ryan stated that once the population is identified then what components are essential and what agencies does the that the component the best and then put a collaboration together. This will not be a stand-alone or a one-agency program.

Brunacci stated that the goal with this program would be a GED and employable skills. Work with someone to handle anger management, be appropriate with supervisors; know how to get their needs met, where to go to get help. Brunacci informed that Worksource wants the program to be affiliated with DACC for the educational piece.

Hamilton stated that DHS-DRS look at functional limitations identified with the disability and the thresholds of the disability as how the individual can function with a disability at work with disabilities such as: mobility, self care direction, communication and work skills.

Lynn Childs summarized that the Council is looking at students who are 16-21 and score below 8th grade level on TABE test, and may or may not have an IEP, that are drop outs or thinking about dropping out.

Barnes informed of individuals that have come to CCS, that some are identified with IEP's, 19% had documented disabilities, but 72% were below grade level and are not documented with IEP's.

Childs informed that it is much more difficult to identify the students with IEP with the restricted environment.

Ryan stated that you also have to show that interventions have been done, and if the kids are not in school long enough to have anything done could qualify for the IED.

Barnes informed that individuals that at 17 the kids on there birthday would be sent to the counselor, told that they did not have enough credits and be told to leave to go DACC to register for there GED.

Brewster informed with one of the Challenges that there was discussion with the schools working with the DHS-TANF office with the mobility rate. Brewster would ask for a representative from the TANF office to attend the next meeting.

Ryan asked Barnes to provide some data at the next meeting.
Ryan asked Hamilton for some numbers on data on those tested.

Mike Metzen and Dr. Coleman will be invited to the next meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR –None

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR – None.

NEXT MEETING –June 6, 2006 at 1:00 PM

ADJOURNMENT -Meeting was informally adjourned.