

**VERMILION COUNTY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
YOUTH COUNCIL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE TUESDAY, June 6, 2006 AT 1:00 PM
Vermilion County Court House Annex 6 N. Vermilion St., Danville IL**

Members Present: Muriel Barnes Lynn Childs Tamera Forthenberry
Nancy Hamilton Kevin Kegley Sandy Martin Betty Shaffer Amy Streuer
Dee Ann Ryan

Members Absent: Nancy Boesdorfer Thomas Fisher Scott Heatherton Brian Hensgen
Angela Joy Jean Norton Trisha Osterbur Kay Smoot Debbie Stark

Guest/ Staff/ Proxies: Tyrie Baltimore Frank Brunacci Barb Chotmon
Jeanne Housholder Mike Metzen Becky Osborne Kim Kuchenbrod
Rickey Williams Judy Woodall Lori Brewster

CALL TO ORDER – Dee Ann Ryan called the meeting to order. Introductions were done.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Motion to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2006 meetings as presented was made by Kevin Kegley, seconded by Amy Streuer. Approved by a unanimous voice vote. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM—YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP – Ryan extended an invitation to anyone interested in joining the Youth Council.

DISCUSSION OF YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES – Ryan gave a report on the information revealed during the 06-07 RFP meeting Ryan reviewed items from the handout, “Statistics / Issues from the Youth RFP Meetings”:

1. 100 students who began the 2005 / 2006 school year at Danville High School exited the school for reasons of non-attendance or expulsion. Only 16 of those were seniors.
2. About 28% of applicants to the CCS Youth Program have never finished a grade in high school.

Ryan informed that some of the youth are referred to The Center for Children’s Services (CCS). Ryan reported that MiMi Barnes, CCS was concerned that the Youth who come to CCS cannot pass the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) test or GED test. Ryan reported that Barnes had concern that 125 students out of the total referred for testing had been turned away due to not passing the TABE test and that many of the Youth may have an undiagnosed disability. Ryan reported that when the youth do not pass the TABE test, CCS tries to get the Youth back into the School District, or refers the youth to DACC for remedial education.

Ryan reported that studies done in juvenile justice system have concluded that 75% of the Youth in juvenile detention centers may have dyslexia or an undiagnosed learning disability.

The Youth Council discussed getting data on how many Youth were referred to DACC, how many stayed, how many completed and how many advanced. The Youth Council wants to find a safety net for these Youth, because these are the Youth who are staying in Vermilion County. The Youth Council wants to identify a way to diagnose what might be a barrier for Youth’s education and give the Youth an opportunity.

Ryan informed that the Shriners are going to open a Dyslexia Center in the Masonic Temple in the near future and are looking for a population to work with. Ryan spoke with the Shriners about working with the Youth that may be referred to them with dyslexia problems.

Frank Brunacci, WorkSource stated that WorkSource has developed a program with DACC for young adults that didn't make it in school; that dropped out. A GED would be appropriate, but realizing that the school didn't fail a good working relationship is lacking between the student and school for whatever reason, it is questionable to put the student back into another education program. WorkSource wants to address a combination of work skills, learning skills, social and vocational skills such as how to interview, and then coupling that with work, and using "earning money" as an incentive. Upon completion the student will receive a certificate. If obtaining a GED were appropriate, then a GED curriculum base would be used. The focus of the program is to help students understand what is going on in their lives, how to be appropriate on the job, how to get their needs met on the job appropriately, and issues such as grooming and hygiene. The curriculum for the program is currently being developed. Brunacci informed that realistically, the program is not going to save all the students who drop out. This program would also be available to older adults who have dropped out and don't have their GED, but need to be in the community working. The program is going to be a comprehensive program. The goal of the program is to stabilize the students' lives and mentor and encourage them to be successful in the community. Brunacci informed that for the next meeting, a curriculum would be prepared for review.

Becky Osborne stated that Dr. Jacobs should be commended for being open to a new program such as this. Osborne informed that a tentative name for the program is "College for Adult Living", because that seems to fit with the K-12 transition focused on Adult Living and developing those competencies. Osborne ordered the curriculum today. A positive aspect of the program is that it is very competency focused. The program is not focused on grades or in covering a certain amount of material, but is focused on creating the types of job skills and competencies needed to obtain and keep a job. The program is starting with the adult population, but there is potential for a different direction in the future. Osborne informed that WorkSource is the lead agency, and that Osborne facilitates the Corporate Education and Training. WorkSource will interview and provide the clients they feel are appropriate for and will benefit from the program.

Brunacci commented that WorkSource is excited about the program and the different opportunities for working environments throughout the communities. There are also some opportunities that are going to be available at WorkSource. New work areas at the WorkSource are going to be similar to going to a job. For clients who may not be ready to go out into the community and work under supervision, the WorkSource work areas may be used to acclimate them. When the client becomes successful and receives their certificate, WorkSource will help place them in the community. Brunacci is confident that as a result of interacting and relating to many different agencies, there will be successful placements in the community, with adults who are successfully working long term.

Betty Shaffer questioned where the referrals go and secondly, is this for all of Vermilion County. Brunacci answered that it is for all of Vermilion County and referrals go to WorkSource. Shaffer inquired about the age group. Brunacci answered age 17 and older. Brunacci added that a 16 year old would be considered only if they were of legal age and on their own

Ryan informed that WorkSource is part of the solution, but there is still the dilemma of a suspected disability or barrier of some type with youth referred to the Center for Children's Services. Ryan requested Nancy Hamilton to explain the Department of Rehab Services' (DRS) involvement in the testing. Hamilton informed that DRS works with individuals who are 16 and above to look for employment. Testing is not done on students at 16 or 17 if they are in the school system because that's the school system's responsibility. After individuals are out of the school system and will not be returning, that have a suspected learning disability and want to go to work, those individuals can come to the DRS. The DRS will do some testing to determine if the suspected disability is, in fact, a learning disability. If it is a learning disability that causes them functional limitations to employment, the DRS will assist in working towards a possible placement. Hamilton informed that the DRS works with people with physical, emotional and learning disabilities, or any type of disability that causes a functional limitation.

Brunacci informed that the student must have a disability of some type not necessarily a learning disability to be eligible for the Worksource program. Martin inquired whether a 504 plan would work. Explanation was given of a 504 plan. Brunacci answered that a 504 plan would work.

Lynn Childs informed that dyslexia or ADHD is something the schools cannot identify – those issues are physical and a physician must diagnose those disabilities. Ryan informed that a lot of the youth do have dyslexia and ADHD diagnoses.

Brunacci informed that because the WorkSource receives local and state funding which is targeted for people with disabilities, the program couldn't take a person who dropped out of school without any disability. However, if the person's case is questionable but no diagnosis can be determined, and the referring agency informs WorkSource that the person is in need of help, WorkSource will work with that agency to help get the person into the program. Brunacci added the program is not going to be open for any young adult that wants to drop out and go to WorkSource and then to DACC and then get a job. If an agency refers a person whose case is questionable, but no diagnosis can be determined, WorkSource will work with those cases. Brunacci added that he doesn't want agencies to think that if the diagnoses are not approved, the person can't be accepted. Brunacci informed that WorkSource receives County funding for cases that fall through the cracks. Brunacci informed that there is no fee to the individual. Dee Ann Ryan summarized the original issue is that individuals get through school and are not identified with an educational or mental health disability. Those are the ones who need to be tested psychologically and educationally. Those that have been identified/diagnosed may be the ones to refer to WorkSource.

Nancy Hamilton informed that DRS and WorkSource work together. DRS can provide job placement, training, physical restoration, or what is needed for the person to become employed. DRS does not just test people for the sake of testing them; there has to be some likelihood that there is something there for the individual not to become employed. Employment must be the outcome and the individual must want to go to work.

Ryan clarified that the WorkSource program will need to have an identified disability. Ryan informed that individuals would be referred after they were tested at DRS and found to have a disability and then would be referred to WorkSource. There was discussion on special education and the term "Special Ed" and what the goal is of the group.

Brewster asked Jeanne Housholder with DHS-TANF to attend today's meeting, because several times the mobility rate has been brought up and the concern of tracking these students and if the TANF office could help to track these students. Housholder informed that TANF is not verifying that youth are in school or their school attendance; TANF is verifying that these youth are actually living with their parents. Housholder could give a name and address and contact number of a family coming to Vermilion County. Housholder informed that the mobility rate is a big problem especially when it results in truancy. Ryan asked Housholder to consider whether TANF could be of any assistance, and that she would be contacted in the future to see if any arrangement could be worked out. Housholder informed that the only time TANF verifies school attendance is for new applicants; verifying that they're in school, but TANF is using school as a tool to verify that they're living with a parent.

Ryan informed that there is another question that came up in some of the Challenges, especially when we talk with the Truancy Review Board: Judge Anderson wanted us to find out if it's possible to sanction a parents TANF or food stamps if their children do not attend school? Housholder reported that there is a program called "School Attendance", which is developed within counties. Rock Island County had a strong connection with the regional area and there was a truancy plan for the elementary and middle school, but not high school. Truancy was tracked very tightly and there was a protocol in place for someone in the regional office and the school district to let the local office know if the child is truant and

the DHS office would call the family. If there wasn't an improvement in that area, DHS could sanction by putting the name of the school as payee of the clients check, at the regional office, and then the client would have to go to the office to pick up the TANF check and talk with the school officials. Metzen informed that that was done here at the Township, but it was only a small target population. Ryan inquired whether it only worked with TANF. Housholder reported that it was a TANF program, and was not aware of it existing right now in Danville. Ryan stated before looking at a program like that again, the need to look at the number of truants and how many are on TANF to see if it's even worthwhile to do that. Housholder informed that she could find out.

Ryan reviewed the sheet on Statistics and Issues from Youth Grant Hearings. The paragraph titled "Opportunity" states that originally the project was to develop a project to "catch" the drop outs who may have a learning or behavioral disorder and who will not be able to pass the pre-GED testing or hold a job if successful with GED due to lack of emotional functioning. After that, Brunacci, Worksource developed his project, as a response for part of those kids. Some of these kids who do not have IEP's, (with an IEP, transitional planning is supposed to start at age 14) and who have not had any transitional discussions may go into WorkSource, but some of them may need additional support to be able get into a GED or an educational program or even to get back in school. Ryan informed that other options would be Job Corps and Lincoln Challenge

Tyrie Baltimore informed Job Corps recruits students between the ages of 16 to 24 to attend the Federal Education / Vocation Training Program, Job Corps. As of January 1, 2005, 16-year-olds no longer can drop out of high school. It does affect 16-year-olds enrolling in Job Corps. There are high schools that are still dropping 16-year-olds to come to Job Corps, however, those 16-year-olds will have to show a drop slip and they also have to have a letter of recommendation from the high school to get into the program. If an individual age 17 to 24 drops out of high school, then it is determine if Job Corps is suitable. Job Corps deals with high school drop outs, high school graduates, students who have their GED and also students who have attended college who are interested in a vocational training program instead of finishing their college education. Baltimore informed that there is a lot of information in the packets distributed to the Youth Council. The packets include Spanish speaking information, as well.

Baltimore informed that there is an ESL program in the Chicago Job Corps Center, for students who need an ESL program, it is available to them in Job Corps. There are four Job Corps Center pages in the back of the packet that talk about what is offered at each Job Corps Center as far as vocational training. Job Corps has a GED and as well as a high school diploma curriculum. For students who want their high school diploma, they can still receive a High School diploma if there are 8 credits on their high school transcript. If the student does not have 8 credits on their transcript, then is only eligible for the GED. Job Corps is a program for low income individuals that utilize the standard Illinois Poverty Guideline when looking at income eligibility requirements. Job Corps does criminal background checks on their students looking for felony and misdemeanor charges. These charges will not hinder from getting into the Job Corps, but will be taken into consideration. The safety of Job Corps campuses is assured for students and staff. There are major offenses that can hinder a student from entering Job Corps, they're on probation or parole, a probation or parole agent will have to relinquish face to face contact before the individual is eligible, and if that does not take place then the individual is not eligible. All legal issues must be resolved before coming into the program. If there are fines still owed to the County, the fines must be paid in full before being accepted. Students with pending court dates are not eligible until legal issues are resolved.

Baltimore informed that she comes to the IETC once a month and will be back at the IETC in Danville on June 21. Brewster informed that the orientations are listed on the Vermilion County IETC website at vermilioncountyietc.com. Ryan inquired about the location of the Job Corps Centers. Baltimore informed that there are 3 Job Corps Centers in the State of Illinois: The Paul Simon Center in Chicago and centers in Joliet and Golconda. Golconda is on the border of Illinois and Kentucky. There are centers in Edinburgh, Indiana called the Atterberry Job Corps Center and Blackwell Job Corps Center in Laona, Wisconsin.

There is a single parent program in Denison, Iowa, which allows students to bring up to 2 children between the ages of 6 weeks to 12 years of age. Apartment-style living is provided and the individual pays \$400 per month. If children are school age, Job Corps provides a school for them. If the children are infants, there is a daycare provided on campus. In Region 5, there is a Job Corps Center in St. Louis, Missouri, and in Morganfield, Kentucky called Earle C. Clements. Baltimore informed that the Job Corps focuses are careers, placement and an education, which are vital to placement. If during the screening and application process Job Corps suspects that a student may have a disability, the Center will assist in getting the student tested upon arrival. Ryan inquired whether this would be an option for kids who were referred from the CCS to DRS for testing and it was determined that they have a disability. Baltimore concurred. Ryan inquired whether the student could go from CCS to Job Corps and receive testing. Baltimore concurred. Transportation is provided by Job Corps. The students receive an allowance, being paid bi-weekly. The students have health insurance with basic medical physical and vision coverage on the campus. For those students who do not have their driver's education, Job Corps has a Driver Education program and focuses on students getting that education before leaving Job-Corps. The student will be TABE tested within 60 days after arrival on campus, plus tested on basic reading and math. Baltimore informed that referrals are made by phone. Upon receiving a call, Baltimore will schedule the student for the next available orientation. Baltimore informed that in the orientation it is communicated with the students individually and gauge what their interests are. Students will job shadow every trade on campus within the first 30 days of arrival.

The results of the TABE tests and job shadowing are tools used to assess whether a student can enter a vocational trade and successfully complete. Ryan inquired whether Baltimore had any data on the TABE scores on the kids from Vermilion County who enter Job Corps. Baltimore informed that she does not have that data, but would find out if it were available. Baltimore informed that it takes 8 to 12 months to complete the Job Corps program; however a student can stay in Job Corps as long as 2 years. Once the student completes Job Corps, the student will be transferred to a Career Transition Specialist. The Specialist will work with the student on a placement making sure that the student is placed in their field or making sure the student enrolled in College or the Military. Those are the 3 options after completion of the Job Corps. The Transition Specialist will work with the student for a year after completion of the Job Corps, students receive completion bonuses: \$250 is received for earning their GED or High School Diploma, \$750 received for being certified in their Vocational Trade and if they are successful graduates, a total of \$1200 is received for completion of Job Corps. Fifty percent of the bonus will be issued to the student on the day they graduate; the other fifty percent will be issued upon job placement. Ryan inquired whether there is a waiting list or limits on the number of enrollment. Baltimore informed that every Job Corps Center has a waiting list, with a usual wait of 2 to 8 weeks. Baltimore informed that students are made aware that just because an application has been completed, acceptance is not guaranteed. A Job Corps Center will receive the application and review every document, whether it is a medical, an IEP or a criminal background check. A determination will be made at that time whether that student is suitable for that campus. If the Center denies a student, or if it automatically goes for Regional Review and the Region denies a student, the student is not accepted into the Job Corps but is given other resources. The Region can also override a Center's decision and the student will be accepted into the Job Corps.

Ryan inquired about the "other resources." Baltimore informed that she refers a lot of students to Lincoln Challenge. Baltimore works with a lot of students with behavioral issues. Baltimore refers those students to Lincoln Challenge first; for discipline and structure. Job Corps takes 16 to 24-year-olds. A majority of the students are geared to leave Job Corps and go out to gain employment. Baltimore informed that she recruits Lincoln Challenge graduates and has worked with the CCS, the Department of Children's and Family Services. Baltimore informed that she has more resources in Champaign and Decatur. Ryan asked Baltimore if she would share her resource book. Baltimore informed that she would. Baltimore informed that a typical stay is a year on a Job Corp campus; sixteen-year-olds take less than a year to complete Job Corps, but they are kept until they are 18 with placement being the issue. Most seventeen to 24-year-olds take at least a year. Brewster reported that Baltimore's phone number is also located on the website.

COUNCIL EXCHANGE – Ryan reported that the workshop with Dr. Harkin last week, on educating children with emotional disorders was very helpful.

Ryan reported that the speaker at the Meth Rally was phenomenal. The low attendance was a disappointment.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR – Ryan stressed that the goal of the Youth Council project is to create a safety net and saving the kids who are going to be in Vermilion County and make sure that they are employable and not criminals. There are a lot of reasons that an individual may or may not have been identified in the public school system.

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR – Jeanne Housholder has received 24 pallets of hair care products that are being stored at the township warehouse. They are available to anyone who wants them; just call Roger Bowen at the Danville Township.

Kim Kuchenbrod reported that there are 2 conferences coming up: IETA Conference on the 27th and 28th of July and the IWP Improvement Conference in Springfield, Illinois at the end of June.

Ryan informed about the Rights Law Training at the Hawthorne, by C-U Autism in October.

During the week of June 12, Ryan and Nancy Fahey from the Juvenile Justice Council will be attending the Disproportionate Minority Contact Conference in Peoria. The Conference focuses on the disproportional of minorities with the law and suspensions and expulsions. Ryan expects to receive numbers on Vermilion County at the Conference and what should be done to decrease that disparity. And will report on the Conference at the next Youth Council.

Ryan will get information from CCS and DRS related to the pilot project and present the numbers at the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING - The next Youth Council meeting is scheduled for July 11, 2006 at 1:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT - A motion to adjourn was made by Lynn Childs, seconded by Amy Streuer. Approved by a unanimous voice vote. Motion carried.