

**VERMILION COUNTY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
YOUTH COUNCIL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE TUESDAY, September 12, 2006 AT 1:00 PM
Vermilion County Court House Annex 6 N. Vermilion St., Danville IL**

Members Present: Muriel Barnes Lynn Childs Nancy Hamilton Sandy Martin
Dee Ann Ryan Kay Smoot Amy Streuer

Members Absent: Nancy Boesdorfer Thomas Fisher Tamera Forthenberry Scott Heatherton
Brian Hensgen Gary Ludwig Trisha Osterbur Betty Shaffer Debbie Stark

Guest/ Staff/ Proxies: Barb Chatman proxy Kevin Kegley Judy Woodall proxy Frank Brunacci
Mark Combs proxy Jean Norton Lori Brewster

CALL TO ORDER – Dee Ann Ryan called the meeting to order at 1:08 PM. Introductions were done.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Motion to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2006 Youth Council Meeting as presented was made by Muriel Barnes, seconded by Sandy Martin. Approved by a unanimous voice vote. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM—YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP –Motion to approve resignation of Angela Joy, U of I Extension was made by Lynn Childs, seconded by Muriel Barnes. Approved by a unanimous voice vote. Motion Carried.

REVIEW AND DISCUSS TIMELINE OF COLLABORATION CHARTER – Ryan reviewed youth project to provide and create a safety net for youths that dropped out of school that are unable to pass the TABE test at the 8th grade level as identified during the RFP process through the Center for Children Services. The Council has been working on a collaboration charter listing existing programs and alternative programs to refer youths for services and identify sources to refer for those suspected of a learning and / or emotional disability. Ryan informed that Barb Chotman has completed a new alternative program listing.

It was discussed under New Relationships that WIB provides funding for the CCS program; CCS refers to Division of Rehabilitation if testing is needed. DRS will refer to WorkSource and Employers. CCS will refer to DACC, Job Corps, Lincoln Challenge or back to High Schools who may refer to alternative schools. There was discussion that youths may not have a learning disability or emotional disability, but may have missed enough school and have fallen behind that appears that a youth may have a learning disability. Barnes informed that sometimes there are youth that have not dropped out of school, but are thinking about it and will come to CCS. Barnes will try to get those youth back into the school system and work with the school system looking at the barriers that a youth may have. CCS will also refer youths to DACC that are not eligible for CCS program to obtain their GED.

There was a question of what is the goal of testing. If the goal of testing is due to a special circumstance because of the GED test or is it to provide services within the reflection of testing. A youth can be referred to DRS and identified with a disability if the youth has an employment goal. If the youth does not have an employment goal than, DRS will not do testing. If the outcome is to identify a disability and the youth has employment then there may be special accommodations provided for the youth for employment.

Ryan stated that there is a large population of youth that have dyslexia that is never identified; if not identified the youth will not be successful. The goal will be to get the youth to be employed and find out why youths are not passing the TABE. DRS stated if the youth has a work goal then yes, testing can be done to find out why the youth is not passing the TABE, but if the youth just wants to get on social security than DRS cannot not assist with testing.

Question was asked if the youth is referred from CCS back to the school districts does CCS request an evaluation for a learning disability. Barnes replied that she encourages the parents to request this, but she does not request this of the school district. It was informed that CCS could refer to the school districts for an evaluation.

Ryan suggested that any dropouts that do not pass the TABE test at the 8th grade level be tested. It was clarified that Job Corps and Lincoln Challenge can test youths for a learning disability. Brewster would double check previous meeting minutes of Job Corps presentation to identify what testing Job Corps provides.

It was discussed that just because a youth does not pass the TABE test at the 8th grade level does not mean that a youth has a suspected disability. The youth may just need to study a little bit to get caught up. Several Council members did not agree with testing every individual that does not pass the TABE test at the 8th grade level. Question was asked how you define suspected disability.

Ryan stated that we need to make sure there is a reason that a youth cannot read. Former Mayor Jones will be present at the FOCUS meeting on Thursday to inform on what the Masonic Temple is doing for those who have dyslexia.

Sandy Martin suggested clarifying test. TABE test for achievement and other test for psychological to test for underlying problems. Dyslexia is a medical condition. It was clarified if a youth is suspected of a learning disability and can refer to a physician for diagnosis for dyslexia.

Ryan read from an RFP submitted to the VCWIB that stated a need to create a capacity for formal assessment of cognitive and behavioral barriers to employment and for development and implementation of remedial support for the youth having these deficits and use standardized test to access cognitive, behavioral and motivational issues that inhibit employability.

Questioned was where is the statistics to show that the cognitive ability that is keeping the youth from getting and keeping employability; most of the time it is more emotional and social that keep a youth from getting and keeping employment.

Discussed that there needs to be a stand alone place to refer the youths to be evaluated that will not cost a parent or an agency. The cost is around \$495 to be evaluated for LD testing. If you go to DRS the goal has to be work, the goal may not be that.

Brewster reviewed that the goal was to identify and provide a safety net for those 125 youths that were turned away that were not able to pass the TABE. CCS has identified that when a youth is at a 3rd for 4th grade level, than the youth is referred for additional testing.

Barnes suggested that maybe this Project is not about the testing but to identify a programmatic approach to getting the youth work and maintaining educational opportunities as ongoing learning or adult learning.

Ryan questioned is how are you going to know if a youth is able to read. It was discussed that there are lots of jobs out there that employees read at a third grade level and individuals are able to get jobs. The Council stated that the issue is about testing it is an issue of services. There may be an issue of testing for a few, but it opens up a door for some kind of service.

Barnes identified that when CCS refers to DACC, the youth do not have a back up plan and because the car didn't work and the youth was unable to get to class the youth will drop out. Barnes tries to refer Youth to DACC Downtown because of the Open Entry. Brewster informed that part of Challenge C was to help those who need supportive services in DACC Adult Ed to help find supportive services either through VCJTP or additional funds.

Ryan stated that there is a need to correct what did not happen. You see kids expelled or suspended and are labeled as having behavioral issues, most of the time the youth do not get a IEP or BD and the youth are not reading anything and are going to jail or juvenile justice.

Questioned was why are the youths not being tested early on. Sometimes the youth are not there and sometimes the youth are good hidiers and no one suspects it. There is a certain amount of services to be provided and there is a money cap that is never mentioned and youth are not getting identified.

Ryan states that it is not being done well enough. There are national studies that are testing those that go into juvenile detention for dyslexia and are finding out that 75% of those youth have learning disabilities that have never been identified.

There was discussion that the schools get in trouble for over identification. Who is getting support that is not Special Ed the intervention before 504 Plan or a PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Strategy). This support is only starting to happen in Vermilion County.

There was discussion of providing a safety net / services to those who were not able to pass the TABE at the 8th grade level. Ryan suggested a pilot study to collect data to see what is going on with the 100 youths. Brewster stated that the Council was to identify those services that were out there that the youth could be referred to that were falling through the cracks. The Council informed that the Mission/Purpose/Reason is to: Identify and serve public and private school dropouts that are unable to test above the 8th grade level using TABE.

Hamilton stated that the first step would be to identify the youths and then figure out how to serve them. Brewster reminded that the Youth Council is to identify the gaps, identify those services to address the gaps and then if that is not enough to look for addition funding to address the gap. Ryan informed that this issue was identified in 2003 and nothing has been done about it. Brewster responded that is not true, the WIB has been working on this issue through the Challenges.

It was suggested that the Council may identify where the youths are falling through the cracks it may be that some youths are able read and some don't, some have family problems contributing to their depression and there may be other factors that contribute. It was suggested that CCS be

the source to begin collecting data. Brewster informed that CCS provided at the August meeting the test scores. DACC would also have test scores. Brewster would contact DACC Adult Ed to attend the next meeting.

It was discussed if you are going to collect data then does the Council wants to look at all drop outs or just those referred to CCS.

Ryan stated that CCS has youth that are not passing the TABE; the Council wants to know why. The Council needs to collect the data on what is going on so we have the programs to serve them. The data would give a base of what is going on to identify grant funds to address the situation and also to take to the high schools to figure out a better way. It was suggested to collect additional information at the end of the school year, the schools know how many drop outs there is and the raw data can be collected from the State Board.

Suggested to find if there was 100 kids that dropped out of school and did not pass the TABE and of those how many were identified with an IEP or how many need to be tested and are tested that have been identified with a learning disability.

It was discussed of doing a referral form or a collection form / survey to those youth that do not pass the TABE. It was also discussed as far as providing services and a safety net by identifying DRS and other agencies that are available to test kids that the safety net is already beginning to happen.

COUNCIL EXCHANGE – No Comments

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR: Dee Ann Ryan congratulated Center for Children Services for their award. Brewster explained that every year the Workforce Investment Board nominates individuals for the Individual Achievement Award to be recognized at the “Illinois Workforce Conference” formerly known as the “Governor’s Conference”. This year there was a new category for “Outstanding Youth Program” and CCS has received the “Outstanding Youth Program Award” for the State of Illinois. The Workforce Conference is October 26th and 27th in Springfield. Brewster informed that Dr. Michaels, Chuck Brooks, Brian Hensgen and she will be attending. CCS will be sending Muriel Barnes, Sarah Petch and William Miller. JTP Staff attending will be Pat Shedlock and Jonathan Jett.

Ryan informed that she will report to the WIB that CCS is referring to DRS and other service providers have been identified to refer youth to for services for those with suspected disabilities. That the Council will back up and develop a data collection form for those youth that do not pass the TABE. Smoot strongly encourage to collect data that is already that in existence whether the Juvenile Justice System and DACC. There is data being collected by schools annually, the drop out rate for one. Brewster informed that the WIB did collect the drop out rate for the past few years when writing WorkKeys grant, which is another way the WIB is addressing this issue by doing the WorkKeys Assessment for all freshman and sophomores in Vermilion County. Smoot added that Vocational System purchased the WIN Systems and distributing to every district in the County. This will be the pilot study this year to see if the districts want to continue the use of it. Identified in every high school is a person to be responsibility to take the WorkKeys information and how to use the software to do to build the skills of the students. The WorkKeys is an intervention before juniors take the ACT test. There is curriculum with the software to assist this.

Ryan suggested is hiring a consultant to do the data collection with the TAT Grant. Brewster stated that the Accountability Committee could look at that. Brewster suggested Ryan to submit her ideas of exactly what she wants to do. An RFQ will have to be put for bid to hire a consultant. It was discussed that the Council do their own analysis. There may be drop outs in the Detention Center to include in data collection. Suggestion was made to pilot with Mimi this year and then the following year to branch out to other areas.

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR – No Discussion

NEXT MEETING – There will be no Youth Council meeting in October, the Youth RFP Sub-Committee will meet instead. Brewster will send an email asking for volunteers and of meeting date set. Brewster reviewed that the Council upon review of last years RFP's through the Council and Evaluation Team discussed developing a second RFP or a second RFP for a smaller amount of funding for those that want to begin a new youth program and then as the Council started working on this Youth Project it was discussed maybe to design an RFP to address this population. Distributed today is the Youth Plan which is outlined in the RFP and last years RFP. The RFP is written within the WIA guidelines and is very broad and could address this youth population. Does the Youth Council want to approach the WIB with a smaller dollar amount of RFP i.e., \$20,000 for a new youth program as discussed during last years RFP process. Ryan stated that the Youth Council should collect data for a year before looking at a program to address this population. Brewster stated that a new program does not have track record like a program that has gone on for years i.e., CCS. Brewster informed that the State just released the 06-07 allocation Vermilion County received more funding. The funding is for two years and so there will be more money for 07-08.

The Council agreed to request from the WIB a smaller amount for a second RFP with the evaluation rating scale varying differently for experience in the second RFP and that if there was no successful applicants than the funds will be rolled back into the original RFP. A quorum was no longer present to take a vote. It was suggested the Sub-Committee look at two RFP's and bring it back to the Youth Council to vote on at the November meeting. There was concern with a smaller RFP amount if a program will be able to make the outcome goals.

Ryan informed that the State of Illinois is doing Ready for 21 and is coming to Vermilion County to train the trainer program a save the date November 2, 2006 was distributed.

ADJOURNMENT – The Council was informally adjourned.