

**PROVIDENCE/CRANSTON YOUTH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

**9:00 a.m. Monday Renaissance Room
February 4, 2008 Providence netWORKri**

The Providence/Cranston Youth Council met on Monday, February 4, 2008 with the following members in attendance:

**Chris Lombardi David Maher Lissa Dreyer Hillary Salmons Robert
Delaney
Joanne McGunagle Wendy Caputo Dennis Langley Alexis
Devine Alan Hochman
Emilio Colantonio Andrea Iannazzi Marcia Sullivan Kathi
Crowe Chace Baptista
Lori Norris Paul Williams**

The following members were not in attendance:

**Maryclaire Knight Frank Santos Davy Dy Harry Potter Johan Uvin
Frank Corbishley Joseph DiPina Gina Lopes Gary D'Orsi Joanne
Nanning**

Also in attendance:

**Sharon Petrarca, Mavis McGetrick, Robert L. Ricci, Esq., Tony Lucca
and Anne Walsh**

**Chairperson Hillary Salmons began the meeting at 9:07 a.m.. She
introduced herself as the new Chair of the Youth Council and**

explained it is a job she will be sharing with Alexis Devine and they will act as co-Chairs. Ms. Salmons then reviewed the policy regarding conflicts of interest in the upcoming votes for 2008 Program Year Funding and asked that members state publicly any connection to funding proposals before the Youth Council as well as signing the letter of recusal.

Robert Delaney gave the report for the Proposal Review Committee. Motion was made by Paul Williams and seconded by Kathi Crowe to accept the WIA funding package as recommended.

WIA RECOMMENDATIONS

While we have not yet received our WIA allocation for Program Year 2008, we have estimated that we will have a minimum of \$550,000 for programs that would be funded with WIA dollars. From this amount, it is recommended that funds be set aside to extend two programs that are presently operating and that have an extremely high degree of performance. These two programs are both with the Comprehensive Community Action Programs and include an Older Youth Program that would be extended to serve an additional 25 youth for \$140,000 and a Younger Youth Program that would be extended to serve an additional 36 youth for \$110,000. This would leave a balance of \$300,000 for new programs.

In the category of Older Youth, it is recommended that the following program be funded not to exceed:

- Urban League of Rhode Island 15 slots \$ 47,347**

In the category of Younger Youth, it is recommended that the following programs be funded not to exceed:

- Boys and Girls Club of Providence 40 slots \$125,222**
- Urban League of Rhode Island 15 slots \$ 47,347**
- Gateway Healthcare 20 slots \$ 50,000**

With respect to the Whitmarsh House, it was recommended that we withhold a funding decision until we are better able to measure performance of their current program.

Programs not recommended for funding were:

The Center to Advance Minority Participation in Construction \$233,697

Wm. Cooley Health Science Academy \$444,555

The total amount that would be allocated to these four new programs is \$269,916. Added to the \$250,000 set aside to extend the Comprehensive Community Action Program, the total would amount to \$519,916. This leaves \$30,084 that may be used for Whitmarsh or other WIA programs.

The amount funded with WIA funds would serve a total of 149 youth. The average cost per slot is \$3489.

Discussion ensued followed by a unanimous vote to approve.

Members recused: Emilio Colantonio, Joanne McGunagle, Dennis Langle, Andrea Iannazzi.

Motion was made by Chris Lombardi and seconded by Wendy Caputo to accept the State (JDF) program package as recommended.

JDF RECOMMENDATIONS

We estimate, at this time, that we will have approximately \$1,100,000 available for programs that would be funded with funds made available under the Job Development Fund (JDF) from the Governor's Workforce Board. It is recommended that we fund the following programs as identified under each of the JDF component categories. In the category of Summer Work Experience, it is recommended that the following programs be funded not to exceed:

- Central RI Area Health Education Center 20 slots \$ 25,000**
- Rhode Island Hospital – Lifespan 63 slots \$ 80,000**
- Goodwill Industries of Rhode Island 12 slots \$ 31,000**
- Volunteer in Providence Schools (VIPS) 50 slots \$90,000**
- Mayor's Substance Abuse Prevention Council 39 slots \$ 60,289**
- Cranston Chamber of Commerce 20 slots \$ 19,000**
- Providence Housing Authority 12 slots \$ 26,343**
- Mt. Hope Neighborhood Association 15 slots \$ 18,306**

In the category of Year 'Round Work Experience, it is recommended that the following programs be funded not to exceed:

- Year Up 20 slots \$ 80,000**
- Metropolitan Regional Career & Tech Center 50 slots \$ 60,000**

- Institute for the Study & Practice of Non-Violence 80 slots \$120,000**
- AS 220 80 slots \$ 80,000**

In the category of Work Preparation, it is recommended that the following programs be funded:

- Mt. Hope Neighborhood Association 12 slots \$ 30,000**
- Cody Foundation/Exchange City 150 slots \$ 80,000**
- Institute for Labor Studies 560 slots \$ 14,000**

In the category of Leadership Development, it is recommended that the following program be funded:

- Rhode Island Foster Parents Association 300 slots \$ 9,277**

The total amount that would be allocated to these 16 programs is \$823,215, which leaves a balance of \$274,785. The amount funded would serve a total of 1,483 youth. The average cost per slot is \$555.10

With the unobligated balance of \$274,785 we recommend continuing to fund our Youth Center located at the Providence netWORKri office at a cost of \$200,000 and set aside \$74,785 for a new initiative with the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) and the Exeter Job Corp Academy. This initiative is a pilot program that would serve

20 youth presently in DCYF custody at the Training School or on probation. These youth would participate in the regular program at the Exeter Job Corp Academy. They will be transported from Providence to the Academy each day. The funds set aside in this recommendation would be used to pay the youth stipends. The Academy will assume the actual program cost as well as transportation costs for the youth. These youth would be co-enrolled as WIA participants, utilizing JDF funds to increase WIA numbers and decrease the WIA cost per person, one of the goals of the Governor's Workforce Board's JDF initiative.

Programs not recommended for funding:

Joslin Community Development Corporation \$41,910

Sophia Academy \$48,266

West Elmwood Development Corp. \$90,738

Harken Productions \$49,250

Additionally, last year we had budgeted \$20,000 of JDF funds for Americorps/VISTA slots to assist with implementation. We were unable to create that program and would like to request reallocating those funds towards contracting services to facilitate youth involvement in further developing our youth agenda. The Americorps/VISTA discussion was informational only. No action was voted.

Discussion ensued followed by unanimous vote to approve.

Members recused: Lori Norris, Emilio Colantonio, Robert Delaney, Andrea Iannazzi, Kathi Crowe, Alexis Devine, Marcia Sullivan, Joanne McGunagle.

Administrator Robert Ricci brought forward a request to amend funding from last year's Project Hope program to change the contracted services for job coaching, documentation and file maintenance from Junior Achievement to the Youth Center, per the request of Junior Achievement. This would raise the cap of contract JDF # 720 from \$146,000 to \$193,900.

Motion to approve made by Dennis Langely and seconded by Chris Lombardi followed by discussion and a unanimous vote to approve. Recused: Joanne McGunagle and Alan Hochman.

Administrator, Robert Ricci, announced that the first year of the Youth Center is currently under evaluation and that he will come back to the Youth Council at a future meeting with the results of that evaluation and a proposal for providing continued services at the Youth Center.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35.