

YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 12, 2008

RI Department of Labor & Training

Cranston, Rhode Island

Members Present: Everett Amaral, Sue Babin, Joe Cannon, Vanessa Cooley, Joseph Crowley, Alberto Deburgo, Joseph DeSantis, Alexis Devine, Joseph DiPina, Sharon Gainey, and Michael Montanaro

Absent Members: Andrew DeTora, Lissa Dreyer, Elizabeth Gilheeneey, Dorothy Mattiello, Kathleen Stoddard, Andrew Tyska and Johan Uvin

Staff: Patrice Cavanaugh, Arthur Jodoin, Dottie Miller, Carlos Ribeiro, Nick Ucci and Karen Waters

Guests: Paula Kleniewski (Lifespan)

With a quorum present, Chairman Joe Cannon called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Minutes of the November 19, 2007 Meeting

Chairman Cannon asked the council to review the minutes of the November 19, 2007 meeting.

Joseph Crowley motioned to accept the minutes as written, Sharon Gainey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PY2007 Youth Programs Update

Carlos Ribeiro reviewed the status of enrollments for the current youth programs. He noted that total WIA youth served for PY06 were 126, while the target number of WIA youth served for PY07 is 220. Carlos stated that GRI is currently serving 91 WIA youth with more applications coming in daily. In addition, he reported that the recently opened Pawtucket Youth Center had enrolled 24 JDF clients, and that some of those youth were WIA eligible as well. Carlos also reported that the WPGRI had committed to serve 892 JDF youth, and that as of January 31, 2008, we were serving 515 youth. He also stated that there was one program that started in November 2007, which, as of February 11th, had enrolled 54 youth.

PY2008 Youth Services RFP

Chairman Cannon stated that Youth Council members with a potential conflict of interest regarding the funding of the 2008 Proposals would need to recuse themselves from participating in this discussion. The following Youth Council members submitted recusal forms and removed themselves from the table: Alexis Devine and Joseph DeSantis.

Carlos reported that a total of 41 proposals were received and were divided into four levels which included Youth Centers for the East Bay and West Bay regions; WIA Programs; Summer Employment/Work Opportunities; and Components. Carlos stated that the RFP Sub-Committee had met to review the proposals and

was prepared to present the Youth Council with their recommendations for each of the four levels.

Youth Center Proposals

Carlos informed the council that six proposals were received for Youth Centers in the East Bay and the West Bay areas. He informed the Council that, based on the scores, the RFP Committee recommended negotiating with East Bay Community Action for the East Bay area and the Comprehensive Community Action for the West Bay area.

Joe Crowley motioned that the Youth Council accept the RFP Committee's recommendation to negotiate with East Bay Community Action for an East Bay-area Youth Center for up to \$200,000 in JDF funds and up to \$75,000 in WIA funds; and to negotiate with Comprehensive Community Action for a West Bay-area Youth Center for up to \$200,000 of JDF funds and up to \$75,000 of WIA funds. Sue Babin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Carlos reported that the RFP Committee also recommended that the current Youth Center contracts with South County Community Action, Tri-Town Community Action, and Family Resources Community Action be modified for continued Youth Center services.

Joe Crowley motion to accept the RFP Committee's recommendation to modify the current Youth Center contracts with South County

Community Action/Tri-Town Community Action for up to \$200,000 of JDF funds and up to \$75,000 of WIA funds; and Family Resources Community Action for up to \$200,000 of JDF funds and up to \$100,000 of WIA dollars. Sue Babin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

WIA Proposals

Carlos reported that seven WIA Program proposals were received, and that the South County Community Action, Family Resources, and Tri-Town would have WIA clients incorporated into their Youth Center Contracts. Carlos stated that, based on rating scores, the RFP Committee recommended that staff negotiate with My Turn, the next highest-ranked proposal received, for a total of up to \$110,000 to serve fifty younger in-school youth in the East Bay and Northern Rhode Island areas.

Joe Crowley motioned to accept the recommendation from the RFP Committee to negotiate funding the My Turn WIA Proposal for up to \$110,000 in WIA funds. Joe DiPina seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Carlos reported that the RFP Committee also recommended a modification of Comprehensive Community Action's current WIA Older Youth and WIA Younger Out-of-School Youth contracts for up to \$180,000 in WIA funds per contract.

Members of the Council discussed the contract modification and extension process and its impact on the competitive RFP process. Carlos stated that none of the proposals submitted for PY2008 services included the geographical area being served by CCAP's contract. He also noted that the process was open to all vendors. Dottie Miller stated that standard contract language stated that modifications can be given provided that the vendors are meeting all performance measures. It was agreed that staff would review these procedures to ensure the process remains competitive and open.

Joe Crowley motioned to accept the recommendation from the RFP Committee to modify Comprehensive Community Action's current WIA Older Youth and WIA Younger Out-of-School Youth contracts for up to \$180,000 in WIA funds per contract. Joe DiPina seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Summer Employment/Work Opportunities Proposals

Carlos reported that fifteen Summer Employment/Work Opportunities Proposals were received and that the RFP Committee recommended that staff negotiate all proposals, based on their ranking, to fund up to a total of \$400,000 in JDF-funds..

Vanessa Cooley motioned to accept the recommendation from the RFP Committee to negotiate Summer Employment /Work Opportunities proposals in the order that they ranked up to \$400,000 of JDF funds has been obligated. Joe Crowley seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Components Proposals

Carlos explained that the four component areas included in the RFP were: Job Development and Placement, Work Preparation, Leadership Development, and Adult Mentoring. Carlos stated that these component programs would complement the Youth Centers and that youth could be referred to these programs when appropriate.

He explained that the RFP Committee recommended that up to \$200,000 of JDF funds be used to fund component programs that passed the rating threshold and met program design requirements. The RFP Committee recommended that if any of this money was not obligated in Component programs, that the difference be directed toward funding additional Summer Employment/Work Opportunities programs.

Joe Crowley motioned to accept the recommendation from the RFP Committee to negotiate Component proposals based upon the rating score threshold and program design for up to \$200,000 in JDF funds and that, should this amount not be fully obligated, any remaining dollars be used to contract additional Summer Employment/Work Opportunities programs. Joe DiPina seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

Joe DiPina commended the staff for their effort and hard work during

the RFP process. Sue Babin suggested that the Youth Council members visit program sites to gain a better understanding of how the youth system works.

Youth Council members who recused themselves returned to the table.

New Business

Dottie Miller provided a brief explanation of the USDOL STEM Grant, which would provide better integration between the adult and youth programs, and possibly allow STEM mentors that would be located in the One-Stop Centers to work with youth participants. Dottie stated that a joint proposal between WPGRI and WSPC was being discussed.

Joe Cannon welcomed and introduced new Youth Council members Alexis Devine and Alberto Deburgo, and asked them to provide the Youth Council with a brief description of their job duties.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrice Cavanaugh

Employment & Training Assistant