

State Youth Council  
October 12, 2006  
Jefferson County Workforce Center  
Golden, CO

Attending: Dani Crane, Steve Wright, Verlia Dexter Dutton, Sue Schierkolk, Nina Holland, Mary Lunder, Mike Wells, Debi Holleman, Kersten Hostetter, Melanie Bolton, Kelly McDougal, Caren Swales, Lance Carl, Lorie Mitchell, Ann Baker, and Melody Bolton.

Welcome and Introductions: Done

Review of Minutes: August minutes accepted and passed.

Membership and Bylaws: Sue – look at the term effectiveness list to see when your term expires. They refreshed the bylaws deciding on 25 voting members with 3 year terms each. They have everyone with at least a year and a half left at present. They still need to extend outreach to child welfare and youth assistance. For housing, they have that under control. They need to send a letter to Randy to see if he is still interested. Kevin Jonell from Starbucks has shown an interest. Robin Wise from Junior Achievement would be interested in becoming a member. Kevin Jonell may co-chair SYC. Nancy Lemein from the Governor's office may be interested. There are a couple of slots open for the voting membership. There should be a discussion within the next 3 weeks regarding the membership. Barbara Palmer is replacing Maureen Wirth. The SYC needs to make sure the Youth Corp Vision is being fulfilled so that they can report to the CDLE if needed. NGA project and grants should help. Housing is a categorical member. They added local workforce representation. The goal is to have the membership applications done by the next meeting.

Finance: Steve – He has a generic update. After Construction Days there is about \$2300 left in funds through OWD. No new news. Recommendation is to get workgroup updates and then discuss Think Big and other projects the need funding. They need to free-up some budget space. There has been in the past a call for grants and received has totaled several \$100,000. They need to decide what they would like to do. The US DOL budget has decided to hold off on the youth funds. It is not specific to youth but several areas. There may be more funds, probably less than \$6000 at the CDLE. They will try to free up some funds from Construction Days if someone else pays for what OWD sponsored. To do what we want to do in the next year we will need \$40,000. Will there be any discretionary funds? Take it to the SWIS Committee and talk to Booker. There needs to be a solid discussion to decide what projects are most important and then the members need to think about it. The workforce centers have had major cuts through CDLE and congress is threatening to cut \$4M to cover the rescission. We need to get the budget projection out and committed soon, before the end of the year.

What will the gubernatorial change do? All of the staff are untouchable since they are state classified employees. Policy level will probably change before the switch. The funds

need to be obligated before the change. The executive director level is not state classified. That could change commitments but probably not until after January.

Any new executive director can have an impact on this committee but most have an interest in Human Capital Development and a bipartisan opinion and are already thinking about the impact of the change. As members' terms are up, there could be a change but that would be a small impact. Some employment issues move to a new area. On the full council, there is a wide range of employers and the SYC needs to connect with them more as a subcommittee. There are 4 subcommittees and there are several new members that can join any subcommittee. The SYC needs to do outreach to some larger businesses. The Promises and Practices forum should include this.

There should be a membership list sent to the members for their outreach opportunities.

We will need to submit a recommendation and information for the full council for input. They are laying out a strategic planning document to be presented to the new administration. We should be able to influence them and their agenda. Steve explained the roles of Brian Vogt, Interim Executive Director of DOLA.

Marketing and Messaging: Steve – Annual newsletter; we helped with the annual report and got them to CDLE on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. They pulled text from the youth council to put an ad in the magazine for Construction Days and a new logo. The SYC sponsored hard hats, vests, safety glasses and plastic bags. There is a website on the materials that directs back to OWD's website. It should be redirected to the CDLE websites and should be updated to include a link to the Governor's Summer Job Hunt. The governor has ordered that all state websites should be reformatted to look uniform. Steve and Glenn had started but IT asked them to wait.

A newsletter to target youth agencies is on hold for now but they will have a conference call and hope to have one quarterly newsletter by the end of the year. The estimate for the newsletter is \$10,000. They need to revise the numbers and get estimates.

Performance Management & Measurement: Sue – They met a month ago and reviewed the goals: develop a fact sheet but need \$1,000 to do that and they will make sure they don't duplicate other's efforts; continue with the efforts to recognize promising practices and need to see what's out there to see where they met the blue ribbon level and want to know how they move forward for that (\$6,000), work with the sites they recognized last year and push them to the national level; they have monetary and tracking goals by looking at different projects and what the council wants to have recognized. They will ask the committees what they need.

Per Nina, it might benefit the council to do an annual report for the new administration and should include everything they have sponsored in the last eight years and what is expected in the future and how all of that it supports the local community and why it's important to carry on in the future. Perhaps the newsletter can reach statewide. You can

do a “report card” on the discretionary grants to present and if it leveraged the funds. Success stories are important to present as well.

A report should be on the governor’s desk before the new governor takes his place. They should budget for a 3 to 4-page brochure or report with color. The circulation should target business partners, major partners, councils, etc. and should be about 500 – 1000. Dani will work on that with several people who offered to help her. The state print shop could possibly turn it around in five days.

The Council should have a budget separate from the discretionary funds but Nina is wondering if they can give money to the council rather than the workforce centers non-competitively with limited choices on spending. Another possibility is that some youth programs have been cut but some can be pulled back into place due to the recession.

Local Strategies: – The biggest one was the conference and addressing the performance standards. They are asking for ideas from the council. Nina has staff that may be interested in being here. The youth areas were hit and miss in performance but were weak this year. “The youth programs are in trouble” per Nina. They are trying to put together an FAQ sheet. The other goal was the discretionary funds and Think Big. Think Big was a huge success but was already in place, which made it easier than some events. If you look at the big picture, WIA is a big part of it but they need to decide what they want to know and to plan and support others. Dani will send something out to help them decide what the council should talk about such as a fact sheet or areas of discussions.

Joint Ventures: Steve – Kersten has been in Italy and Santa Fe and is done traveling now until February. The goals were: identify existing joint ventures, identify stakeholders and identify groups that serve youth. Survey youth councils to see what they have, what they do and what they know and if they have anything new or ideas. There may be more surveys for businesses. Steve and Kersten can talk about the surveys.

Dani – could they work with other groups to get back to the Youth Forum collaboration? Steve will look at past communications to see if there is anything they can pull and he can put it on the next agenda for discussion. He will send Mary and Lance formats to look at.

Construction Days: Held at Douglas County Fairgrounds for 2 days. There were about 1400 kids that showed up from all over the state. There were a lot of employer, educational and informative booths and heavy equipment for the kids to learn how to use. Perhaps next year the workforce center will start earlier and recruit more kids through the workforce centers in addition to the high schools. Some of the school districts have given positive feedback. Some complaints were that the workforce centers didn’t get early enough feedback to recruit more kids. Transportation was an issue. They need to measure if it was a good use of funds with taking staff out of the offices, etc. The US DOL has an emphasis on out of school youth and they need to be included in the event through the workforce centers and various organizations for youth. They had mentioned that the SYC

would be publicized in all publications. In all, it cost \$9,000 from the SYC and about \$11,000 total from the OWD.

E3 Recap: Steve – Everyone thought it was hugely successful. The employers were stunned at how well it went. Parking was an issue. There was positive feedback from people visiting.

Summer Job Hunt: – The appreciation ceremony was good and awards were given. Energy Days in Rifle was successful. It was geared toward mining and natural gas, etc. There were high level people from HR to drillers to mechanics and the kids were very interested. There was an event held in Ft. Collins at the workforce center with 200 kids for everything from pipe fitting to hairdressers and workshops, a Career Days event. It started out with 60 kids the first year. There was a career fair in Limon with different schools that covered everything from chemical engineers and doctors, lawyers, a judge and heavy equipment operators, collaborating with 10 agencies. Each youth could choose 4 sessions to attend. There has been positive feedback on that as well.

Nina will send the State Annual Report to the Marketing group so they can see what the 6 workforce areas have done. The report for the new administration should include these events.

Youth Transition Grant: Sue – She just received the award letter. It included youth with disabilities and Hudson Gardens. There is a little bit of carry-over funds. They have hired Diana Huerta from Voc Rehab to revamp the website. It should be done by the end of November. Hudson Garden sponsored a program through the local youth council at Arapahoe/Douglas Works! They did training for 8 weeks at Hudson Gardens, which similar to Botanic Gardens. They worked on budgeting and leadership activities. Partners included Swap, Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, and Arapahoe/Douglas Works! and Hudson Gardens. All the kids got recognized for completing workshops. Six of the kids have jobs now and 2 have gone on to college. They are getting ready to mimic that event with Denver Health and Hospitals in December. They have brought on Aspen Diversified Industries to provide workshops and training for 12 weeks.

Each region had the latitude to create their own programs and in Boulder they did internships to sponsor kids for employers who cannot afford to sponsor a youth. Each region has committed to work with 15 kids. A lot of kids are being affected and we are getting glowing results. The folks who are funding are recognizing the work that is being done as a positive youth program. Colorado is getting a lot of national recognition and has been asked to be a presenter in San Diego next month.

Arapahoe/Douglas Works! is opening the youth room November 2<sup>nd</sup>. The colors are bright and youth focused. There is a lot of equipment and the facility is focused toward helping youth.

US DOL will be inviting the Dallas Regional Office and their youth specialist. She has also worked on the Youth Tax Credit. She is coming November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

US DOL has a national initiative, the “National Business Learning Partnership” to build their business services programs with the workforce regions. There have been 3 Colorado regions accepted. November 1 – 2 workforce centers from around the country will be here. The Metro Workforce Initiative Board will partner with Indiana to be a mentor and Arapahoe/Douglas Works! will be a learner for staff development, Denver will be a mentor on demand-driven workforce system. It’s a learning opportunity and has earned national recognition.

Updates: There will be a big event at Colburn called ICU to go to whatever industry they choose and observe students, teach students a new skill and talk to employers about equipment.

Mary – She attended Rock Jam; there was Lynard Skynard and Guess Who and several other bands. For Country Jam she didn’t know the names of the bands.

Lance – He has been attending a lot of Daylight College Fairs around the state.

Sue – Job Fairs are transitioning youths successfully. There were good speakers at all of them but at one Tyron Braxton from the Denver Broncos spoke and the recognitions including Hudson Gardens and Alamosa High School Tigers.

Dani – The local youth councils are looking at trying to be more global. They pulled out the SYC documents from last year’s objectives and it was nice to be able to apply the good sense and it’s broad enough to look at the system. It will be a great help to them so they look at it more broadly.

Steve – the goals seem to get dry but if you look at it, they are reinvigorating the grants and goals, and things are moving globally by using other’s ideas.

The Workforce Conference will be held in May 2008. Think Big is in April and should be examined as an opportunity to train youth for summer. That way they can tap into CDLE early. What is the purpose and is it specific or broad enough? Is there a need for more performance strategy training for youth and adults? \$30,000 was budgeted the Think Big and the Summer Job Hunt may be able to pick up \$10,000 or so with all included. The Summer Job Hunt picked up the lodging for this year. Some regions that paid last year may not have the funds this year. The total could be as high as \$70,000. There are several other conferences going on at the same time that may require funds as well.

Steve handed out grant updates to those who wanted them.

The next meeting is December 14<sup>th</sup> at Micro Business Development at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 A.M.