



State Youth Council
Meeting Agenda
June 14, 2007
9:00 am – 11:30 am

This meeting will be via teleconference

Conference Call Info

720-348-8441 (Metro Denver)

866-899-5399 (Outside Metro Denver)

6685926 (room #)

- I. Welcome & Introductions – Debi Holleman, Nina Holland, Julie Berge, Anne Baker, Mark Johnston, Sue Schierkolk, Steve Wright, Kelly McDougal, Melody Bolton, Kersten Hostetter

- II. Membership Committee – News/Update
3 new applications have come in for review, and all fit nicely into the membership plan. They will be sent out with the draft of the minutes to the SYC for review.

Applications came from Dedra Phillips with the Colorado Springs Police Department, Elizabeth Dickens with the Northwestern Community College in Rangely, CO, and from Andy Johnson, the Homeless Youth Coordinator from CDHS, Division of Supportive Housing.

All three help to round out the SYC's commitment to support the federal vision for neediest youth.

- III. Think Big 2007 Recap
First, special thanks were given to the SYC members that assisted in the planning and implementation of the conference. It was a huge success again this year, as evidenced by the overwhelming feedback on the evaluations. Many people stepped up and made this event rich in content and smoothly executed. Special thanks to AD Works for coordinating the volunteer piece and supplying so many volunteers.

We also had lots of help from local workforce regions in the planning and implementation (Larimer, Pueblo), and our state partners at the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Department of Education. CDLE did an excellent job leading the event, and produced wonderful & creative print materials.

Also, everyone that was able to contribute to the giveaways & raffle really did a great job considering our Amendment 41 constraints!

We had around 235 attendees this year. 35 workshops were offered on a wide range of topics. If anyone needs an electronic copy of the agenda to share with their organization, contact Steve or Julie.

CDLE is currently processing the bill from the Great Divide Lodge, and it looks like the SYC portion will come in around \$28,000. The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Department of Education also picked up portions of the hotel fees for their attendees, and CDLE picked up printing and give aways separately.

CDLE gave the Governor a Think Big lightbulb full of m&m's and he signed the cover of the paper from January 10 (with the Think Big quote), so we'll be able to use that as a prop at future conferences!

Next year's RMWFD conference is between May 12-16, so we will probably need to move the conference to a different time frame.

April or July would probably be best. Potential sites suggested: Pueblo (Marriott Convention Center), Colorado Springs (Doubletree or Cheyenne Mountain Conference Resort 800 428 8886 or Broadmoor), Grand Junction. CDLE/OWD will begin to make phone calls to check room rates.

The question was posed around increasing attendance. Discussion focused on making sure that facilities would be able to have enough space to keep workshops to around 30-40 attendees.

- IV. Governor's Summer Job Hunt
28,000 youth have signed up through workforce Centers state-wide, ahead of last year's registration; take a look at the GSJH website, www.coworkforce.com/sjh
Look in particular at the news desk and calendar of events! Nice job by Lorie Mitchell on the website.

The annual awards ceremony will be scheduled soon. Julie will get the date to the SYC as soon as it's available.

Kersten is working with getting 15 youth placed in summer employment and is interested in potentially linking with GSJH on a larger incentive, possibly Rockies tickets for an afternoon game later in the season. OWD will work with the Rockies member on the CWDC to check the possibilities, otherwise Kersten has a contact too.

V. OWD/Youth Projects Update

The Youth Transition Grant, administered by OWD and coordinated by Sue Schierkolk, is in its last year of federal funding. The CWDC committed to provide an additional year of support at 50% to the three sites that came on board in the second wave (Weld, Denver, AD Works). There will also be support for the technical assistance and evaluation aspects of the project from WIN Partners. We may be able to also develop some regional training for the State through WIN Partners to help support initiatives of the State Youth Council.

OWD also launched the Youthnet searchable database of services for youth on February 28, 2007. The database supports deliverables of the YTG, as well as the NGA project that is closely related, and helps to support the convener role of the SYC. You can view the site at: http://dola.colorado.gov/wdc_youth/introduction

If you are aware of organizations that should be included, encourage them to visit the site and to enter a profile by clicking "for organizations", and then they can follow the prompts to walk through several screens to indicate details about who they serve, what they do, etc.

Currently there are 159 organizational profiles, state-wide, on the database.

VI. Partner Updates

WIA Common Measures – Nina Holland, CDLE

Effective 7/1, it is likely that state will receive performance waiver and move on to common measures, which will shift the focus of WIA youth programs a little more to out of school youth, and will focus them on increasing math and reading skills of youth as a primary program outcome. 2 other states have also asked, and another 4-5 that have already transitioned. This is where USDOL would like us to be, but they cannot make that change until the law is changed.

DVR – Sue Schierkolk

Effective 7/1, DVR will assume leadership of the Disability Program Navigator initiative, and will contract with 11 navigators and take on the 9 rural navigators internally; DVR is also hiring 10 employment

outreach positions that will be doing outreach to employers and community agencies.

Eastern Region – Melody Bolton

Celia Hardin hired as new director from the Broomfield Region;

Youth Operators – The group is interested in the possibility of the SYC/OWD funding lodging for a meeting on July 19 in Collbran, CO. The suggestion was also brought up that the SYC could meet out there that same day. OWD will research with Jim Patterson at Collbran, check funding availability, and check with the SYC members for availability, and provide information shortly. We will have some representation missing if we move the date up by a month, as July 19 overlaps with the Workforce Innovations Conference in Kansas City.

LINKS for Mental Health – Anne Marie Braga

Steve forwarded the LINKS action plan out earlier this week. Please review and if you have any comments, please contact Anne Marie.

They are in the process of applying for funding to implement the plan, which is extremely exciting.