

State Youth Council
October 11, 2007
Jefferson County Workforce Center

Attending: Steve Wright, Verlia Dexter Dutton, Andy Johnson, Dani Crane, Julie Berge, Judy Emery, Elizabeth Dickens, Lori Smith, Kelly McDougal, Bob Coulson

On phone: Debi Holleman, Mark Johnson, Melody Bolton

Welcome & Introductions were made.

Governor's Summer Job Hunt

There were 38,719 youth (14 – 21) served as of September 1 in the Governor's Summer Job Hunt and about 1500 that were seen without SSN. Final stats will be available in February.

Julie Berge will check into whether the youth were attached to the juvenile system or foster care system if possible. It would be helpful to see if the kids are in special programs, i.e., homeless, TANF, food stamps, economically disadvantaged, ex-offender, limited English, disabled, etc. for WIA. Job link has the capability to track these categories IF the youth disclose that they are participating.

Most regions will again do job fairs and events. CDLE and local regions are beginning the planning process for next winter/spring.

OWD youth update: Youth Transition Grant funding expires at the end of September. CWDC is funding the second 3 sites (AD Works, Denver, Weld) at 50% for an additional year, as well as technical assistance and evaluation. Final reports are in progress, due at the end of December. Regions have reached out to partners not originally connected to the workforce system, but serving the same clients. The six locations have embraced the Guideposts for Success/Evidence Based Principles that this project was built around. Locally there is lots of blending and braiding of funding happening, and much more cross-agency education and commitment. Several regions have developed formal agreements and MOU's to work together.

The NGA youth transition project wrapped up at the end of July. Three goal areas were Policy, Collaboration, and Data Sharing. The Youthnet searchable database was an important deliverable. Also, data experts from CDLE visited several other states to see how they are sharing data at the state level (Utah, Florida, Oregon). In August, Representative Morgan Carrol hosted a transition town hall where individuals representing 6 state level agencies and initiatives presented briefly and did Q&A with the attendees.

SYC related events included Construction Career Days in Adams County, nearly 1600 kids attended; and Energy Career Days in Rifle. Several State Representatives attended the Construction Career Days and took the VIP tour. Representative Nancy Todd was

interested in how the state & local workforce systems are working with youth. There are DVDs from Construction Days available if anyone is interested in checking one out. Steve has 4 – 5 available and it will be made available on the e-Colorado website.

CNCC and CDLE are making a DVD of the Energy Career Days that will outline education and the careers available. The DVD should come out in January. They should go to schools and CDLE but there will be a limited number available for others. There is an energy website coming up of which the link will be included on the DVD. This will take the entire state working together to get the youth into these careers.

Larimer County is hosting a Youth Career Summit for 250 youth attending for ½ day with career professionals (network, training, break out sessions) October 23rd 8:00 a.m. at the Lincoln Center in Ft. Collins. The author of “1,000 Things Went Right Today” will be speaking.

The Best Practice Symposium is next week. Several region programs will receive awards including Boulder. Jeffco and Eastern got honorable mentions.

Ann Marie Braga is leading a state-wide youth leadership initiative, with a goal of drafting a white paper on behalf of state agencies working with youth with leadership outcomes or focus. There is an event planned for November. She is working with several SYC members that work for State government as a kickoff point.

Bob would like to bring in state organizations who are interested in serving the youth to begin to shift public policy at the state level and would like to get the youth involved with the policy making. “Program management level” is the term being used. They would like to shift the paradigm and make the programs more helpful for the youth and bring the youth in to get their vote for the programs being put into place with the legislature. They need to have people see the youth in a more positive youth development framework.

October 19th there is an event for the homeless at Invesco Field at Mile High. There will be a youth area.

The Kaleidoscope Conference on Nov. 2nd in Denver and will include sessions for the disability and workforce services for youth. There is a PowerPoint that will be used for presentation. It is a statewide conference. Dani Crane will be attending/presenting.

Also November 2nd is a runaway Youth Symposium at the Colorado Convention Center through Urban Peak. This will bring more awareness to the youth and the services offered to homeless youth and their needs.

Listed on www.coworkforce.com is a calendar that lists everything the workforce centers are planning. Any events to post are welcome.

Jeffco is hosting “No One is Unemployable” training next week.

Colorado Homeless Youth Action Plan is trying to create a housing unit for young adults getting out of foster care and another unit for youth coming out of foster care with disabilities.

US Senate passed a resolution that November is National Homeless Youth Month and National Youth Runaway Month. They are working on getting a governor's proclamation for the same.

Advisory Council for Homeless Youth is working with United Way to help homeless youth get the documentation needed so they can go to work and keep a job. Andy is putting together the annual report on the Homeless Youth Action Plan and will distribute when it is completed, probably December. This is a very important issue that affects youth accessing the workforce system as well.

There will be a disability demonstration project in Jefferson County for youth 14 – 25, funded by the CWDC and CDLE, to see how the workforce system can serve this population effectively.

WIN Partners: Judy Emery attended today to discuss the services and availability of WIN Partners to assist the SYC in any training and technical assistance that may be needed as goals are developed. WIN has been working on several successful projects and has been selected by the US DOL and the CWDC repeatedly for their expertise in evaluation, training, and technical assistance. Also, WIN Partners was recently approached by US DOL to analyze and recommend how youth with disabilities can be included and benefit from WIRED initiatives and activities. CO and CT were the only states to be invited to participate. The SYC has access to WIN Partners over the next year to assist in any training and technical assistance that the SYC decides to pursue to benefit the state or local regions.

Please visit their website at <http://cowinpartners.org/> to learn more about their successes and abilities.

Goals for the next year:

From the meeting agenda: The co-chairs met recently to revisit prior SYC goals, re-align with the CWDC goals, and get a starting point for the SYC to build upon. Prior components and work groups were considered and still make sense, but need updated. Two major themes to be considered, based on the direction of the CWDC, were:

1. Talent Development
2. Regionalism

President Matkowski did a great job recapping the conversation, and the SYC can build from this:

Mission: The State Youth Council (SYC), led by Co-Chairs Bette Matkowski and Dani Crane, paves a pathway that leads to economic success for youth. The SYC provides policy recommendations to the Workforce Development Council and the Governor of Colorado that extend support and technical assistance to local youth councils. They also make recommendations on how Youth Discretionary Funds should be invested to ensure that Colorado's young workforce is well-positioned to achieve success via a variety of skill development opportunities, resulting in attaining both jobs in the short term and a capacity for increased earnings over the long run.

"The Colorado State Youth Council in alliance with the Colorado Workforce Development Council is dedicated to supporting the growth of Colorado's youth. Empowering youth today with resources in Education, Employment, and Economic Development will ensure success of Colorado's future leaders."

Strategic Objective (2008): To develop talent of both service providers and service recipients.

Operating Principles: In striving toward the strategic objective, the State Youth Council and local Youth Councils are encouraged to abide by the following principles:

- * Services are delivered locally and regionally;
- * Services are demand-driven;
- * Services meet local, regional, and/or state needs;
- * Services are delivered across agencies and organizations;
- * Outcomes of services are performance measured;
- * Services are marketed and messaged;
- * Best practices are shared throughout the state;
- * Services align with both federal and state priorities.

To assist in the development of talent in Colorado, the SYC proposes two major activities:

1. Invitation to chairs of all local youth councils, as well as to members of the SYC, to share state and local priorities, organizational structures of local youth councils, and major initiatives already underway in local or regional areas. A full day meeting.
Purpose of the Meeting: To introduce members of SYC and chairs of local youth councils to one another; To share local and regional initiatives with one another; to discuss and agree on strategic objective and operating principles for 2008 SYC; to share

organizational structures of local youth councils with one another; to heighten awareness of best practices among local youth councils and SYC.

2. Think Big Spring conference

Purpose of Think Big:

Specifics that we discussed:

Build better connection between child welfare and workforce development (talent development for workforce professionals)

Sponsor 'no one is unemployable'-cross-agency talent development for many workforce professionals

Sponsor leadership development for youth (in concert w/ LINKS?)-talent development for service recipients

Update workforce professionals on opportunities of WIRED-talent development for workforce professionals

Launch worker certification for training employees to work with youth-talent development for professionals

Additional discussion from today's meeting:

- There is a need for a local needs assessment with the youth councils and transitions teams; especially in rural areas
- Create higher expectations for youth (from service providers, and from youth, themselves)
- local youth councils aligning with the state youth councils; creating accessibility for disadvantaged youth to the workforce system;
- Better connection between the workforce centers and child welfare, DYC, the homeless youth, youth with disabilities, parents, etc. The opportunities are unknown to the youth, especially in the rural areas and the internet would connect the youth with the awareness of the opportunities through links that they can relate to
- identify specific industry websites;
- connect youth initiatives with WIRED; youth exposure to emerging industry; encourage rfp's, create incentives
- create a calendar for the next year's events;
- align with the Governor's promise;
- investigate and utilize youth communication networks, such as myspace, youtube, etc

- workforce to reach out to the relatives who are taking care of children (“relative care”). Extended families, grand parents, aunts, uncles, etc.
- Bob would like to see a navigator program for the youth programs, especially where the \$5,000 ETV (education training vouchers) through foster care are concerned and an online job fair through the workforce centers as well as access from school, etc.
- Positive youth development as a theme
- Information related to progress and services to legislators and others that can open doors or bring more attention to issues facing youth and to the barriers that youth service providers encounter

Next Meeting Dates:

There will be a pre-planning meeting the last week of November. Anyone interested in participating, please provide available dates to Steve Wright @ steve.wright@state.co.us

Next SYC meeting will be December 13th.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:31 a.m.