

## Centralina Workforce Development Board

# Youth Council Meeting

**Boys & Girls Club of the Piedmont  
1001 Cochran Street – Statesville, NC  
Thursday May 28, 2009 – 10:00 A.M.**

### **Members Present (10)**

Carol Johnson, Youth Council Chair  
Rodney Harrison  
Rudy Davis  
Marion Kinley  
Rick Brown  
Gisella Busse  
Dr. Lawrence Elliot  
Glenn Usry  
Jamar Still  
Kristina Stout

### **WDB Staff**

Emily Clamp  
Natasha Pender

### **Guests (19)**

Dr. Bricca Sweet, Statesville Housing Authority  
Chris Torrence, Statesville Housing Authority  
Teon Mauney, Statesville Housing Authority  
David Dutton, Resource Development Center  
Crystal Rogers, READ, Inc  
Brenda McMillian, READ, Inc  
Linda McPhatter, READ, Inc  
Monique Phoenix, I-CARE, Inc.  
Deborah Ervin, I-CARE, Inc.  
Justin Imes, I-CARE, Inc. (youth)  
Paula Holmes, Union County Community Action Agency, Inc  
Garrett Malone, Union County Community Action Agency, Inc  
Terrance Hinkle, Union County Community Action Agency, Inc (youth)  
Chambreal Duncan, Union County Community Action Agency, Inc (youth)  
Phylcia Duncan, Union County Community Action Agency, Inc (youth)  
JoAnn Diggs, Salisbury- Rowan Community Action Agency, Inc  
Almond Miller, Salisbury - Rowan Community Action Agency, Inc.  
Eric Rowles, Leading to Change  
Kathy Gardner, Stanly Community College

.....

Youth Council Chair Carol Johnson called the meeting to order. Carol welcomed everyone, allowed everyone to introduce themselves and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

### **Mission Statement Affirmation**

The Youth Council Mission Statement was read by WIA participant Jamar Still (Salisbury – Rowan Community Action Agency, Inc).

### **Approval of new Youth Council Members**

Carol Johnson announced there were two candidates for approval to join the Youth Council - youth participant Jamar Still and the Rev. Glenn Usry. Jamar is a youth participant in the WIA program at Salisbury – Rowan Community Action Agency, Inc (SRCAA). He participated in the panel for the 2008 Centralina Youth Services Summit; he emceed the 2009 NC Youth Summit in Greensboro, and he will be addressing the North Carolina General Assembly as a concerned youth on behalf of the Centralina region and NC Youth Summit planning committee. Jamar intends to enroll at the Rowan- Cabarrus Community College once he completes all GED requirements, and he plans to major in Biotechnology. Ultimately, Jamar would like to gain employment at the NC Research Campus in Kannapolis. When asked what he hopes to gain from the Youth Council, Jamar replied that he is looking to better his understanding/knowledge of the Centralina Workforce Development Board, the region as a whole and network.

Rev. Glenn Usry is a Pastor and Community Activist that is also the Program Director for the Iredell County Police Athletic League. He has a Bachelors Degree in English and a Masters degree in Religious Education. Other Boards and Committees that Rev. Usry currently serves on include the Success Institute Charter School and Christian Outreach of the Piedmont. He is a coach, mentor and teacher (language arts).

Carol Johnson asked the Youth Council to vote on approval of the two candidates by affirmation. All members were in favor, none opposed. Carol thanked Jamar and Rev. Usry for their interest and welcomed them to the Youth Council.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the April 16, 2009 meeting were mailed prior to the meeting. Carol Johnson waived the reading of the previous minutes and asked if there were any changes or corrections. Rudy Davis moved that the minutes stand as submitted and Marion Kinley seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, the motion to approve the minutes was unanimously approved.

### **Approval of Program Year 2009 WIA Youth Service Providers**

Carol Johnson asked Youth Council members to review the Program Year 2009 – Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Contract Continuation Recommendation handout in the meeting folder materials. Carol noted that the current providers projected allocations were in addition to funding disbursed under the 2009 American Recovery & Reinvestment Act.

The current WIA Youth service providers are as follows:

- READ, Inc – Anson County
- Salisbury-Rowan Community Action Agency, Inc. – Cabarrus & Rowan Counties
- I-Care, Inc. – Iredell & Lincoln Counties
- The Resource Development Center – Stanly County
- Union County Community Action, Inc. – Union County

A motion was made by Marion Kinley and seconded by Rudy Davis to approve the recommendation for contract continuation. The motion was unanimously approved. Dr. Lawrence Elliott (READ, Inc.) abstained from discussion and from voting on this item.

### **Presentation – Dr. Bricca Sweet: Collaboration & Sustainability**

Youth Council member Kristina Stout introduced the speaker, Dr. Bricca Sweet. Dr. Sweet currently directs a multi-site 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) program in Statesville, NC. She has directed a non-profit agency in Watauga County, Ed-LBEX, since 2002, providing design, grant-seeking, implementation, evaluation, and sustainability assistance to afterschool and other school reform programs, focusing on authentic experiential learning in active school and community collaboration. Sweet, a former teacher and school administrator, has directed both Federal and State 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs, TANF programs, and Juvenile Justice Afterschool grant programs. She has obtained millions of dollars in educational reform grants for over eleven northwestern North Carolina counties as well as in other states. Dr. Sweet has assisted with regional and national staff development and program evaluation. One of the nation's first ten Afterschool Ambassadors, she has provided training at several state 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC institutes. Her research targets family and community involvement and sustainability. Dr. Sweet is also a wife, mother of four children, and a former Army Intelligence Officer.

Dr. Sweet began her presentation with a group activity surrounding the purpose and the strengths of collaboration. From there she reviewed the proper structure of a grant proposal. She recommends that organizations have a clear objective. Dr. Sweet encouraged utilizing the “problem statement” – What’s the difference in the current state and the desired state? And how will the money being asked for move the program to the desired state? Dr. Sweet also encouraged potential grantees to always remember who the stakeholders are. In the youth services field the youth to be served are the most important detail behind any collaboration, any program. Always remember that it is all about the kids. She encouraged grant writers to get in to the shoes of the “funder”; focus on the audience; FOLLOW DIRECTIONS; write with articulate passion and be very, very specific.

Dr. Sweet concluded her presentation by asking for questions and comments. Carol Johnson asked for an approximate dollar amount that Dr. Sweet is responsible for bringing to Iredell County by way of collaborative grant funding. Dr. Sweet said that more than 2 million dollars has been brought into the county through grants by the Statesville Housing Authority since 2003.

Carol Johnson thanked Dr. Sweet for her presentation.

### **American Recovery & Reinvestment Act – WIA Summer Youth Employment Programs**

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, is intended to preserve and create jobs, promote the nation's economic recovery, and to assist those most impacted by the recession. The Act was signed into law in February 2009. Centralina and the other local areas received significant additional WIA funding to serve the youth in the region. Existing WIA contracts were amended to include extra monies specifically designated by the USDOL and NC Department of Commerce to be used for a Summer Youth Employment Program.

Carol Johnson asked Union County Community Action to present their plan for the summer youth employment program first.

Paula Holmes of Union County Community Action Agency, Inc (UCCA) began her presentation by introducing new UCCA staff member Garrett Malone. Garrett will be serving as a youth development specialist for the Union County agency.

In regards to the Summer Youth Employment Program under the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009, UCCA plans to serve 60 youth from June 15 to August 20, 2009. UCCA has had talks with each employer work site about considering employing youth after the summer, pending positive evaluations at the conclusion of the summer work experience. UCCA is holding employee orientation on June 5 and 6 and an employer orientation on June 10. A copy of UCCA's orientation manual was distributed to youth council members and guests. Regarding the breakdown of age groups to be served, UCCA will serve 5: 14-15 year olds; 26: 16 – 18 year olds and 29: 19-24 year olds. Paula commented that she has had no trouble securing work sites for the summer program. Some of those sites include: Carolinas Medical Center –Union, Habitat for Humanity, YMCA, YWCA, Vocational Rehabilitation, South Piedmont Community College, and more than 30 other employers.

Paula stated that Youth Council could assist their program by providing leads on *free* speakers or presenters, as they plan for their youth Leadership Development activities.

Next, Monique Phoenix and Debra Ervin presented on behalf of I-CARE (Iredell and Lincoln Counties). They stated that I-CARE's summer program will be pretty consistent with what UCCA is doing. They expect to serve 116 youth between the two counties. Some of the worksites in Iredell and Lincoln counties include: Iredell Department of Social Services, Iredell Memorial Hospital, Iredell Statesville Schools, Mitchell Community College, Statesville Housing Authority and more than 30 other employers. Most interestingly, Debra stated that a Lincoln County Blackberry farmer is interested in being a worksite!

Almond Miller of SRCAA presented their summer program. A handout was included in the folders/meeting material. SRCAA expects to serve a total of 126 youth between Rowan and Cabarrus counties. They will have an 8-10 week summer employment period which will include 4 days of work experience and 1 day of Academic Enrichment, Basic Skills, Work Readiness and Career Exploration. Some of their worksites will include: JobLink Career Centers (Rowan & Cabarrus), City of Salisbury, City of Kannapolis, NC Research Campus and Habitat for Humanity, as well as several others. Almond

asked that youth council members continue to “talk up” the summer employment program and continue to spread the good news about the WIA programs.

Crystal Rogers of READ, Inc presented the program overview for Anson County. READ plans to serve 40 youth over the summer. The program will run for 8 weeks. READ has had some trouble recruiting worksites. However, six sites have agreed to serve; they are: READ, Inc, Allen Hampton Public Library, Heritage Hill Living Center, WMJ Enterprises, Town of Wadesboro and IGA Foodliner. Crystal noted that READ is new to WIA and are interested in hearing what works and what doesn't work from other contractors and Youth Council members.

New youth development specialist David Dutton presented on behalf of the Resource Development Center (RDC) in Stanly County. David stated that their program will run very similar to everyone else. They have had very little trouble securing worksites, and would like to extend a very gracious thank you to Stanly Community College and Stanly County Schools. RDC plans to serve 40 youth through the summer work experience program. David stated that one employer has already voiced an interest in hiring participants full time after the summer program is over, that is if the participants work experience is positive.

Carol asked the contractors how they have gone about handling the large number of applicants versus the available slots for participants. Almond Miller stated that they have an application and interview process, very similar to what would be expected for an actual job. Through that process they are able to choose who will be participants in the program. Paula Holmes added that the youth in Union County are expected to complete a pre-assessment. Scoring on the assessment is what dictates who fills the positions.

Carol thanked the contractors for their presentations and wished them the best of luck for the summer.

### **2009 NC Youth Summit**

Natasha Pender again extended thanks and appreciation to the youth contractors for all of their hard work. Natasha then directed members and guest to the Just 4 Youth handout in the folder materials. Natasha reviewed information on new Centralina WDB member and Youth Council member Gisella Busse and also on Youth Council member Rick Brown and his recent win of the International Association of Workforce Professionals (IAWP/NCAWP) Citation Award.

Natasha stated that in regards to the NC Youth Summit, the purpose extends beyond networking and fun. The original goal of the first Youth Summit held in 2007 was to convene youth from across the state to prepare an agenda to take before NC Legislators during the General Assembly. The actual trip has been three years in the making, but it appears that youth will be visiting Raleigh in the near future to finally have their voices heard.

Natasha noted that one youth from the Centralina region, Jamar Still, was specifically requested to attend the General Assembly by the NC Youth Summit Chair, Lashuana Parker, following the

outstanding leadership he displayed during the 2009 Youth Summit. Jamar submitted an essay stating what he hoped to gain from the experience. His essay was included in the folder/meeting materials.

Natasha also stated that three youth from Centralina participated in the “Youth Summit Idol” contest, Jamar Still won the contest. The other participants were Tavon Knox and Justin Imes (I-CARE). Jasmine Phillips from I-CARE was also on the agenda and she introduced the speaker on the second day of the conference.

Natasha presented the youth with certificates and key chains engraved with their name and the Summit logo and theme “Yes We Can” as a token appreciation for great leadership and representation of the Centralina local area.

Carol asked if any of the youth present wanted to share a comment about the Youth Summit experience. Jamar Still stated that it was the best experience of his life; never in a million years did he expect to ever be able to be a part of something so big. Justin Imes stated that great things have happened to him since returning from the Summit. He has a job with Auto Bell Car Wash and will be moving into his own place soon. The Youth Summit helped to give him the confidence and the motivation he needed to take those necessary steps in life.

UCCA youth Terrance Hinkle stated that the WIA program itself has helped him tremendously since he enrolled. He has matured a lot, his attitude is much better, he is keeping focus and he values his education now. Terrance also stated that once he completes his GED he will be going into the ARMY.

Carol congratulated the youth on their accomplishments and stated that this is what WIA is all about. She encouraged the youth to keep working hard and to keep the Youth Council informed on their progress.

### **Youth Council Members and Guests Speak!**

Carol asked that the usual review of folder contents, newspaper headlines and other announcements be omitted due to the lateness of the hour. She did encourage attendees to take the time to review the contents at a later time, as it is always useful information. Carol asked if any other news should be shared. Eric Rowles of Leading to Change stated that he has resources for training for the Summer Youth Employment Program available for anyone who is interested.

### **Folder Items/ Handouts**

Items included in the Youth Council folders:

- Brochure – Men’s Empowerment Conference June 20, 2009
- Brochure – NC REAL Training Opportunities
- Article: How to write winning RFP’S and Proposals for Youth Programs
- Article – “ACEC’s first graduating class looks back” – *The Anson Record*
- Article – “Anson Early College students prep for life after high school” – *The Anson Record*

- Article – “CATA students take second in automotive competition” – *The Enquirer Journal*
- Article – “Motivational speaker, fashion show part of program for girls” - *The Enquirer Journal*
- “Just 4 YOUth!!! Handout
  - Youth Participant spotlight: NC Youth Summit
  - New Centralina WDB and Youth Council member – Gisella Aparicio - Busse
  - Youth Council member spotlight – Rick Brown

### **Updates and Upcoming Events**

The Centralina Workforce Development Board is scheduled to meet at the Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce in Kannapolis on Tuesday June 9, 2009.

Carol Johnson reminded attendees that the Centralina Workforce Development Board E-Newsletter has a section titled “Youth Corner.” This section highlights youth related articles from around the region as well as upcoming events. She asked that members submit articles to Emily Clamp at [eclamp@centralina.org](mailto:eclamp@centralina.org).

**The next meeting of the Centralina Youth Council is scheduled for Thursday August 20, 2009 at 10:00 am, location to be determined.**

**Carol stated that anyone interested in touring the facility would be guided by Boys & Girls Club**  
There being no further business, Carol Johnson adjourned the meeting at 12:15 pm.