

Centralina Workforce Development Board

Youth Council Meeting

Boys & Girls Club of Concord

247 Spring Street NW – Concord, NC

Thursday August 20, 2009 – 10:00 A.M.

Members Present (9)

Carol Johnson, Youth Council Chair
Linda Smith
Valerie Melton
Marion Kinley
Rick Brown
Lisa Conger
Erin Buckland
Jamar Still
Shalesa Jiminez

WDB Staff

David Hollars
Natasha Pender
Emily Clamp
Vail Carter

Guests (35)

Bob VanGorden, Centralina WDB Chair
Lynne Mitchell, Cabarrus Literacy Council
Liz Tennet, Rowan Youth Services Bureau
Erik Turner, Leading to Change
Eric Fulcher, Henkels & McCoy Training Services
Clarissa Henry, City Dive Inc.
Kathy Gardner, Stanly Community College
Claudia Covington, Resource Development Center
Holly Shaver, Resource Development Center
Summer Maiden, Resource Development Center (youth)
Sandra Witherspoon, I-CARE, Inc. (youth)
JoAnn Diggs, Salisbury-Rowan Community Action Agency, Inc.
Shenita Russell, Salisbury-Rowan Community Action Agency, Inc.
Almond Miller, Salisbury-Rowan Community Action Agency, Inc.
Chakia Dixon, Salisbury-Rowan Community Action Agency, Inc. (youth)
Alex McGuire, Salisbury-Rowan Community Action Agency, Inc. (youth)
Jasmine Thompson, Salisbury-Rowan Community Action Agency, Inc. (youth)
Jamel Tillery, Salisbury-Rowan Community Action Agency, Inc. (youth)
Roge Givens, Salisbury-Rowan Community Action Agency, Inc. (youth)
Arline Rechli, Salisbury-Rowan Community Action Agency, Inc. (youth)
Eunice McGee, Union County Community Action Agency, Inc.
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)
Semika Garmon, Union County Community Action Agency, Inc. (youth)

Debra Ervin, I-CARE, Inc.
Monique Phoenix, I-CARE, Inc.
Justin Spiegler, I-CARE, Inc.
Dulce McGuire, I-CARE, Inc.
Haigen Mosteller, I-CARE, Inc. (youth)
Tyler Littlejohn, I-CARE, Inc. (youth)
Bree Kell Wingate, I-CARE, Inc. (youth)
Kelly Smith, I-CARE, Inc. (youth)
Cedric Herndon, I-CARE, Inc. (youth)
Courtney Jenkins, I-CARE, Inc. (youth)

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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 Youth Council member and WIA participant Jamar Still (Salisbury–Rowan Community Action Agency, Inc).

Approval of new Youth Council Members

Carol Johnson announced there was one candidate for approval to join the Youth Council – Katrina Duke. Katrina Duke is the Executive Director of the Cabarrus Literacy Council in Concord, NC. Katrina’s educational background is in Sociology and her work experience surrounds elementary education and social work.

Katrina’s past civic experience includes a 30 year history of service in various human service roles such as: Director of Focal Point on Aging Senior Citizens in Western North Carolina; Department of Social Services case worker; Mission Outreach; CVAN; Crisis Intervention Counselor; Hospice Needs Assessment Counselor; Director of Meals on Wheels and American Red Cross DAT member.

Katrina is passionate about her current position as Director of the Literacy Council and is clearly devoted to serving her community.

Youth Council member Rick Brown made the motion to accept Katrina as a new member. The motion was seconded by Youth Council member Lisa Conger and unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the May 28, 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. Marion Kinley moved that the minutes stand as submitted and Lisa Conger seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, the motion to approve the minutes was unanimously approved

Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Update

David Hollars, Centralina Workforce Development Board (WDB) Executive Director provided the group with an update on WIA. David stated that the WDB is working with current youth contractors for the upcoming year. The WDB has been host to several monitors over the past few weeks and with all that has occurred with the implementation of the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act – all have done well in serving the community. David said that the new counselors that have been hired to help with the summer program are all doing an excellent job and that the Board is proud of the staff and all who work with youth in our region.

American Recovery & Reinvestment Act - Summer Youth Employment Programs

WIA-ARRA contractors were all prepared to share presentations regarding the outcomes and progress thus far with the ARRA Summer Youth Employment Program.

Mrs. Joann Diggs, WIA Director for the Salisbury-Rowan Community Action Agency (SRCAA) spoke on behalf of the Rowan and Cabarrus County programs. Mrs. Diggs began by thanking the Centralina WDB and also the WIA staff members at SRCAA for their commitment and hard work. Mrs. Diggs thanked the worksite supervisors where the youth worked this summer as well as the youth who participated in the program. Mrs. Almond Miller (SRCAA) shared a PowerPoint presentation that depicted further details regarding the summer program.

The official dates for SRCAA's summer program were June 29 to August 21, 2009. SRCAA served a total of 121 youth out of 126 that they were projected to serve. SRCAA used a total of 56 work sites and had ongoing communication with 66 site supervisors. Along with the work component of the program, SRCAA held Academic Enrichment on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. The academic portion was centered on helping youth develop computer and oral presentation skills and team work. Youth also were given instruction and guidance in career opportunities in "green" jobs as well as focus on the "sciences" as it relates to careers in engineering and technology.

Mrs. Miller shared newsletters and photos of youth in action during the summer program. Upon the conclusion of her presentation, Mrs. Almond again thanked the Centralina WDB for the opportunity to provide the summer program and stated that she is hopeful that they will have the opportunity again next summer.

WIA Director Claudia Covington and Holly Shaver of the Resource Development Center (RDC) in Albemarle shared a PowerPoint presentation depicting the summer youth employment program in Stanly County. Mrs. Covington began by extending a special thank you to Stanly Community College and Stanly County Schools who were instrumental in the implementation of the summer youth employment program.

Mrs. Shaver said that the program began with a Job Fair held on June 22, 2009 at Stanly Community College. Worksite supervisors were present. Youth received information on the program, were interviewed on the spot, and placed in open positions. RDC used eight work sites to provide work experience for 34 youth over the summer. Academic enrichment was provided on August 6, 2009 at Stanly Community College, at which time youth were taught job seeking skills. The summer program also concluded on August 6th. Youth heard from a motivational speaker and enjoyed a pizza lunch.

Mrs. Shaver said that the RDC summer program was featured on the local news channel (Time Warner News 14), as well as in the Stanly News and Press, and that feedback from youth participants, supervisors and the community was overwhelmingly supportive. She added another special thank you to all the worksites and supervisors that made the program successful and prepared participants for the workplace. Holly also gave a special thanks to Stanly Community College and its staff for going the extra mile and to Nathan Sanges at the Stanly County JobLink

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Career Center who also helped with recruiting, and to all the participants, and to Centralina WDB and staff.

Natasha Pender shared information regarding READ, Inc – WIA provider for Anson County youth. Natasha stated that READ collaborated with 12 local businesses and agencies to provide summer work experience for 46 Anson County youth. During the program, 20 out of 25 youth tested received their Career Readiness Certifications through South Piedmont Community College. Participants received life skills training from the Anson County Partnership for Children as well as trainings on topics such as Barriers to Employment and Job Search from the Department of Social Services, the Anson County JobLink Career Center and Child Support Enforcement. Cynthia Hampton of Anson County Schools provided youth with information on career paths.

Paula Holmes of Union County Community Action (UCCA) shared information on the Union County WIA program. The program began with an employer orientation held on June 10, 2009. UCCA provided summer work experience for 64 youth participants. The summer program for youth actually started on June 12 at which point youth began a two day orientation session that covered the rules, regulations, and expectations of participants in the program. Work readiness training classes ran from June 15 to June 26 and youth were assisted in improving their work related skills. Youth were also given a job shadowing opportunity. Work experience for UCCA youth began on July 6, 2009 and will conclude on September 30, 2009.

Mrs. Holmes provided photos of youth during the summer program and also had two youth in attendance, Samika Allen and Terrance Hinkle, who shared testimonials regarding their work experience. Both participants were happy to have had a chance to make money and network.

The final presentation was by Deborah Ervin and Monique Phoenix, both WIA staff members from I-CARE, Inc. in Lincoln and Iredell counties. They addressed Youth Council members and guests with several of their participants, all of whom shared their thoughts on the summer work experience.

Staff at I-Care approached the summer program with much creativity and themed the program “The Experience”. The Experience began on June 22, 2009 with a participant orientation in both counties. For the summer program, 38 youth were enrolled in Lincoln County and 69 youth were enrolled in Iredell County. During orientation, youth were provided with details on the rules, regulations, and expectations for the youth employment program.

Youth were provided with more than work experience. They each took part in an activity aimed at helping youth to make better choices. Each of four sessions during “Choice Theory/Reality Therapy” was taught by Joseph Dixon of the William Glasser Institute.

Youth consulting team “Leading to Change” led by Eric Rowles came in and did team building exercises focusing on learning and understanding personality types. Youth work experience followed all the “fun” activities and lasted for 9 weeks. I Care, Inc. utilized 33 worksites during the summer.

Youth participated in money matters courses and resume writing classes. A total of 28 youth received their Career Readiness Certifications. As the finale, youth participants took part in an activity similar to the popular TV show "The Apprentice". Youth were challenged to divide into teams, choose whether to "own" a lemonade stand or car wash, find a location for their business, market their product, sell their product, and evaluate each team member. Each team was then evaluated on their customer service skills, location, advertising techniques, team name, and presentation of site.

On August 17, 2009 youth participated in a dress for success banquet complete with summer program superlative awards, and CRC recognition. The summer program is scheduled to end on August 21, 2009.

Youth Council Chair Carol Johnson thanked each of the presenters and thanked the summer youth participants and staff members for doing a great job in a very short period of time. She added that each youth will leave this summer "workforce ready".

Other Business

Natasha Pender stated that the invitations for the upcoming Youth Services Summit would be sent via e-mail during the first week in September. She stated that brochures had been mailed to youth service organizations across the region and that a high turnout is expected, so early registration is recommended.

Carol Johnson omitted the review of folder contents due to the length of the meeting. She did mention that the NC Workforce Development Partnership Conference will be held in Greensboro from October 7-9, 2009; that the next Centralina Workforce Development Board meeting will be October 13, 2009; and that the next Youth Council meeting will be on Thursday October 22, 2009 at 10:00 AM at the Boys & Girls Club in Concord.

Carol Johnson adjourned the meeting at 12:40pm.