

Centralina Workforce Development Board

Youth Council Meeting

Boys & Girls Club of Concord

247 Spring Street NW – Concord, NC

Thursday January 28, 2010 – 10:00 A.M.

Members Present

Carol Johnson, Youth Council Chair
Linda Smith
Katrina Duke
Rick Brown
Pat Woods
Sharon Allen
Jamar Still
Chiquita Miller
Dr. Lawrence Elliott

WDB Staff

David Hollars
Natasha Pender
Vail Carter

WDB Board Members

Bob VanGorden, Centralina WDB Chair

Guests

Trishana Jones, Youth Advocacy & Involvement Office
Amanda Graham, I-CARE, Inc.
Debra Ervin, I-CARE, Inc.
Monique Phoenix, I-CARE, Inc.
David Dutton, Resource Development Center
Almond Miller, Salisbury-Rowan Community Action Agency, Inc.
Paula Holmes, Union County Community Action Agency, Inc.
Brenda McMillian, READ, Inc
Linda McPhatter, READ, Inc
Inez Williamson, DSS/Work First – Independent Contractor
Ruth Brooks, Community Multi-Cultural Student Center
Angie Mallard, Union County DSS
Laura Herrick, Pfeiffer University
Wilma Means, Logan Community Optimist
Sheila Phifer, Cabarrus County Schools
Sam Elzie, Youth Motorsports Education & Training (YMET)
Talisa Ramseur, I Care, Inc. WIA Youth participant

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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 Minutes

The minutes from the November 30, 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. Pat Woods moved that the minutes stand as submitted and Linda Smith seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, the motion to approve the minutes was unanimously approved.

Presentation: Youth Advocacy and Involvement Office – Mrs. Trishana Jones

Carol Johnson introduced Talisa Ramseur, a WIA youth participant from I-CARE, Inc. Talisa is currently a student at Mitchell Community College who plans to attend University of North Carolina at Charlotte in the fall to study Early Childhood Education.

Talisa introduced Mrs. Trishana Jones. She is an Advocacy Specialist for Youth Advocacy & Involvement Office, a state advocacy agency under the auspice of the NC Department of Administration. Trishana Jones has worked in the field of social work for the past nine years. Her areas of professional experience consist of domestic violence advocacy work and the child welfare arena of foster care and adoption. She obtained her Bachelor's of Social Work degree from Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, GA in 2002 and received her Masters of Social Work degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2005. In addition, Mrs. Jones is an alumni scholar of the North Carolina Child Welfare Education Collaborative. Her role is to advocate for services pertaining to the well-being of youth as well as serve on numerous initiatives and collaborative groups that focus on the needs and resources for North Carolina's youth and families.

Trishana discussed what Class Advocacy is, how to advocate, and who the audience is for an advocate. She provided tips for successful advocates and also resources for any one or any group planning to advocate on any particular action. Trishana stated that the Youth Advocacy and Involvement Office has staff dedicated to advocating on behalf of youth and the issues affecting them. One of the major issues that the office is involved in is changing the North Carolina laws that currently charge ANY 16 or 17 year old youth who commits a crime as an adult. The office is working hard to get that changed to age 18.

Trishana also discussed the Youth Legislative Assembly, which is a three day weekend for youth interested in learning about the legislative process. It is a competitive program for students grades 9-12, that is patterned after the North Carolina General Assembly.

Natasha Pender stated that the presentation and information shared by Trishana was timely due to the fact that the NC Youth Summit was quickly approaching and the major goal of the Youth Summit is to prepare youth to take their issues before the NC General Assembly.

Trishana finished by taking questions from the audience. Carol Johnson thanked her for her presentation.

Other Business

Natasha Pender stated that the survey that Youth Council members had opted to send out to gather information on work readiness programs in the region had gotten little response. Carol stated that with the holidays it may be a good idea to send it out again. Natasha agreed and will do so prior to the next Youth Council meeting scheduled for March.

Natasha Pender reported that planning for the 3rd Annual North Carolina Youth Summit is underway and that the 2010 event is scheduled for Friday and Saturday April 23-24 at the Embassy Suites in Greensboro. The process for choosing attendees from our region will remain the same – interested parties should submit an essay detailing why they want to attend and what they hope to gain from the Summit. She stated that each youth service provider should be thinking about who they want to send to the Summit. The Centralina WDB will cover the costs for up ten youth to attend. An e-mail detailing the essay guidelines and other information regarding the Summit will be sent prior to the next Youth Council meeting.

Natasha also stated that the Youth Summit was not exclusive for WIA participants, but due to limited space, youth and/or providers interested in sending youth to the event need to notify Natasha of intent to attend as soon as possible.

Members & Guests Speak

Almond Miller stated that Salisbury-Rowan Community Action Agency (SRCAA) had seven recent GED graduates from their WIA Youth program since the new year began. Rick Brown stated that the cities of Concord and Kannapolis are accepting applications for summer jobs for youth aged 16 and up. Linda McPhatter stated that Anson County youth are still very excited over the opportunity they had over the summer to work and are hopeful that they will have another opportunity in 2010. Wilma Means stated that the CIAA and MEAC conferences were holding their annual High School Days for February 24, 2010 and March 11, 2010 respectively. Also the CIAA will have its Career Day on February 25, 2010. David Hollars stated that Natasha will send out a “special edition” Just 4 Youth newsletter with those dates and other pertinent information as a reminder.

Carol Johnson recognized Youth Council member Chiquita Miller and congratulated her on her recent appointment as director of the Boys & Girls Club of the Piedmont in Statesville.

Folder Items/Handouts

Items included in the Youth Council folders were:

Centralina WDB
Youth Council Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2010

- R3 Center Re-Employment Bridge Institute
- Invitation to the NC Youth Summit
- NC Employment & Training Association Spring Conference Registration Form
- NC Workforce Development Training Center Youth Employment Issues Training schedule
- 2010 Design Camp Brochure
- Casey Family Programs - Scholarships for students in Foster Care
- Disney Institute Brochure – April 29, 2010
- SaySo – Strong Able Youth Speak Out Program Brochure
- Pfeiffer University Summer Job & Internship Fair
- Rowan – Salisbury Schools receive Golden Leaf Foundation Grant
- Stanly Community College wins NC Community College Adult Educators Association 2009 Innovation Award
- “Boys & Girls Club has new leader” – *The Statesville Record & Landmark*
- “Stanly Early College” – *The Stanly News and Press*
- “High Schools students adjust to college life” – *Independent Tribune*
- “Students explore futures at career fair” – *Independent Tribune*
- Funding Opportunities: Connect for Kids www.connectforkids.org
- “Just4YOUth!”: FAFSA Day & Farewell
- Brochure: SETA – Career Development Facilitator Training
- Newsletter: NC Center for Afterschool Programs

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.

The next meeting of the Centralina Youth Council is scheduled for Thursday March 18, 2010 at 10:00 am at the Cabarrus Boys & Girls Club in Concord.

There being no further business, Carol Johnson adjourned the meeting at 11:25 am.