

**Minutes of the
Joint Workforce Investment Board
Youth Council**

**Indiana State Library, History Reference Room
315 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, Indiana
Wednesday, September 5, 2012
10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Eastern Time**

Members Present: Lydi Davidson, Robin Landrum (via phone), Jennifer Osterholt, Marilyn Pitzulo, Pat Sutton, Cheryl Musgrave, Bernie Faraone (via phone)

Members Absent: Representative Suzanne Crouch, Cheri Jones, Paula Pinkstaff, Hollie Sullivan

Joint Workforce Investment Board Staff Present: Lucy Houchin, Executive Director; Jessica Borza, Thomas P. Miller and Associates

Others Present: Becky Branham, Interlocal Association; Cindy Donnelly, JobSource; Mary Beth Goldsmith, JobSource; John Corcoran, CLJ Associates

Jennifer Osterholt, Youth Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00am and noted a quorum was not present.

Minutes

The Council reviewed the minutes from the May 10, 2012 meeting. Ms. Musgrave asked why the votes were not reflected on the meeting minutes. The Council recalled there was not quorum at the May 10 meeting and therefore, no votes were taken.

Discussion Items

Ms. Houchin introduced herself to the Council members and provided an overview of the work plan she will be focusing on over the next year. Ms. Houchin provided background information about Thomas P. Miller and Associates and emphasized the organization's focus on aligning workforce development and economic development as well as securing additional funds. She explained the staffing structure and shared that the priorities for work will include: 1) meeting with the Regional Workforce Boards, 2) identifying best practices, 3) providing appropriate technical assistance, 4) ongoing board development and education, and 5) administrative duties.

Ms. Osterholt updated the Council that the State Workforce Innovation Council was considering changing the composition of the local workforce service areas and having all Regional Workforce Boards transition to Workforce Investment Boards. Ms. Osterholt explained that if this occurs, there will no longer be the need to have a Joint Workforce Investment Board or JWIB Youth Council, but the new WIBs will each operate a Youth Council. Ms. Musgrave asked if there have been any discussions about transitioning to regional Youth Councils. The Youth Council discussed that one of the challenges for the JWIB Youth Council has been getting everyone to attend the meetings as members have to drive at least an hour or more.

Ms. Musgrave shared that her organization, Keep Evansville Beautiful, has been considering pursuing a workforce development grant to engage WIA eligible youth and/or ex-offenders in jobs that will assist in beautification efforts and utilizing GIS to plan and monitor progress. The program would provide jobs, training and would help participants develop work experience and soft skills.

The Youth Council discussed that this could be a program that is transferrable to all regions if they are interested. It also provides a sense of accomplishment and future employers could check a candidate's experience. Ms. Musgrave shared that federal grants could be pursued from the justice, labor or transportation departments.

Mr. Faraone noted there are similar re-entry programs for adults and private re-entry programs for juveniles that are in Boys/ Girls Schools. Ms. Osterholt also mentioned that housing authorities might also have programs.

Ms. Houchin told the Council she would work on developing a concept paper around the idea. If it is something the Council wants to move forward on, regional buy-in can be sought by the end of the year and be ready for funding opportunities in the spring of 2013. The lead organization would depend on the funding source.

The Youth Council then discussed what they would ideally focus efforts on if they had more funding. Ms. Pitzulo noted that there is a need to concentrate on remediation for youth. Ms. Osterholt shared that she believes the Regional Workforce Boards should be contacted to determine how the Youth Council can best support them. Ms. Pitzulo commented that the Council should be careful not to duplicate any efforts that might already be occurring within the regions.

The Council discussed that in the JAG program, there are some youth that do not qualify due to income levels but who still would benefit from the program. It would be helpful if additional funds could be found that can help expand the program to more than WIA eligible youth.

The Council directed Ms. Houchin to gather information about corporate giving from AT&T regarding their drop-out prevention efforts and Dollar General, focused on literacy.

Other Business

The Council asked that Ms. Houchin research the new legislation that will allow the group to vote electronically. The group briefly discussed the options for meeting telephonically – the preference will still be to meet in person, but the Council will not place a limit on the number of people who must meet in person. The topic will be discussed further at the next meeting. The meeting adjourned at 11:55am

The next meeting is set as follows:

October 25, 2012
Bloomington Housing Authority
1007 North Summitt Street
Bloomington, IN 47404
10:00am – 11:00am