

Saint Louis County
STANDING YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

February 4, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Committee Members Present:

Clay Ware	University City – Adult Education and Literacy
Karen Musemic	Ritenour Adult Education and Literacy
Amy Siekerman	Vocational Rehabilitation
Laura Dorsey	Infinite Scholars
Mary Grott	Parkway School District
Shernetta Bouier-Blue	Divine Daughters
Lynda Partee	Ferguson Florissant School District
Melva Paden Moore	Salvation Army

Committee Members Absent:

Pat Gaertner	Parkway-Rockwood – Adult Education and Literacy
Barbara Fraser	Educational Liaison, for Saint Louis County Executive
Dave Baker	St. Louis Job Corps
Tashanna Rucker	Big Brothers Big Sisters of South East Missouri
Heather Bond	Saint Louis County Youth Program
Cenia Bosman	CAASTLC
Antoinette Boyd	STLCC – Florissant Valley
Danyelle Adams	Saint Louis Youth Build
Leslie Keaveny	University City Adult Education and Literacy
Rick Gaines	St. Louis County Courts

Saint Louis County – Workforce Development Staff Present:

Greg Laposa, Michele Williams

Partner Staff Present:

Darron Collins-Bey (Employment Connection)

Partner Staff Absent:

Kevin Jones (FWCA), Barbara Wheatley (MWA)

Michele Williams called the Youth Committee meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. She welcomed all in attendance and asked for introductions. Clay Ware moved to approve the minutes and the motion was seconded by Karen Musemic. Minutes were approved.

University City School District-AEL

The biggest concerns are computer devices and hotspots. The first face-to-face classes were just held and proved successful. University City AEL has also started a partnership with the University City Fire Department. This partnership assists their students with earning credentials needed within this occupation. University City AEL

also has a partnership for EMT credentials as well. They are also involved with the MoOptions program and continue to work with Kevin Jones (FWCA).

Vocational Rehabilitation

Amy reported they are currently reaching out to school districts for potential youth to participate in their upcoming summer work program. Despite last year's pandemic, the summer program was successful. This year the program is six weeks long and youth are able to work twenty hours per week for a total of 120 hours. The salary is \$10.30 per hour. Youth will qualify if they are juniors going into their senior year of high school, lack successful work experience, have an IEP, 504 or documented disability. Vocational Rehabilitation is also work with Paraquad for a different program.

Infinite Scholars

Laura Dorsey reported on behalf of Mr. Ousley and Infinite Scholars. The pandemic has not slowed Infinite Scholars. They have adjusted by moving the scholarship fairs online (virtual). They have 100 colleges in their network and the scholarship fairs are providing direct access to those institutions. The fairs are typically a 1 ½ hours but contain a plethora of information. They have hosted 35 virtual fairs since September 2020. The next fair is February 27, 2021. Parents are encouraged to attend since it is virtual. In addition, Infinite Scholars is providing the institutions with the participating youth's information so they are aware of all attendees beforehand.

Ritenour School District-AEL

Karen is proud of her team's virtual transition. Although enrollment is down, they are serving the same percentage of adults and youth. They are serving customers better, there are enough Chromebooks for everyone in each program and internet connection has not been a barrier. The district has also partnered with CAASTL because they are able to provide hotspots and pay HiSET testing fees. Karen provided her contact at CAASTL's information for the other members. Keith Jones krobinson@caastl.org

Divine Daughters

Shernetta currently has 33 young ladies enrolled in her program. She is helping them emotionally, physically and spiritually. They have two telephone conversations per day starting at 7:00am for a mental wellness checkup. The young ladies have an opportunity to improve life to the highest quality internally and externally, enhance their well-being from a holistic approach, empower self and build character; while mending their broken hearts, mentalities, and spirits. In addition, the young ladies are able to travel. Recently, 17 of the 33 young ladies went on a trip to Washington D.C. for the inauguration.

The Dressing Room, 2923 Patterson Road Florissant, MO 63031 (314) 378-3839 www.divinedaughters.org

Ferguson-Florissant School District

Internet issues are also an issue for Lynda's school district. Virtual participation is hard yet a lot of students have graduated early. They are currently waiting on the Board's decision regarding in-person learning. If they return to in-person learning, it will be a staggered implementation.

Employment Connection

Darron reported they are beginning to recruit youth for their program. Technology has been their biggest barrier. They are prepared to offer job readiness training in-person and virtually. Darron provided his contact information as (314) 333-5649, (314) 615-6052 and CollinsBeyD@employmentstl.org.

Parkway School District- AEL

The program currently has 12 students enrolled in face-to-face classes at Doors to Success in Spanish Lake. Those enrolled are part of the foster care system. They've been enrolled since July and were craving the peer interaction. Since July, these students have seen a 40% academic gain. An academic gain is equivalent to 2 grade levels. Six of the twelve students are also ready to take their HiSET exam. Mary reported they are also working with Riverview Gardens School District parents because helping parents also helps their kids. When kids see their parents working, they are more apt to work hard as well.

Family Workforce Centers of America (FWCA)

Absent

Saint Louis Job Corps

Absent

Special School District

Absent

Big Brothers Big Sisters of South-East Missouri

Absent

Saint Louis County Youth Program

Absent

CAASTL

Absent

YouthBuild

Absent

STLCC-Florissant Valley

Absent

Discussions

Director message: Greg Laposa introduced himself and thanked the committee members for their participation and dedication to our youth and our programs. He explained the committee's importance to our Region. Greg requested that the committee make our Region the best by providing us with their expertise.

Youth Standing Committee purpose: Michele reviewed the PowerPoint presentation that explained the purpose of the committee.

Sub-recipient report: Michele reviewed the potential report that will be shared with committee members effective July 1, 2021. Michele requested the committee members to review the report and offer suggestions of additional elements they would like added.

New youth sub-recipient: At Clay's request, Michele shared the results of the 2020 RFP St. Louis County issued. The Urban League is no longer the In-School Youth (ISY) sub-recipient. FWCA now has that contract. Also, the Out-of-School Youth contract is now split between FWCA and Employment Connection.

Service delivery: Clay and Karen inquired about how youth services are provided and the enrollment process. Michele shared services are provided virtually and in-person. Michele shared that customers do not need an appointment to receive services. Walk-in services are available and career center hours remain the same. Michele shared that potential customers should bring items like their birth certificate, state ID, driver license, social security card, academic credentials and pay stubs with them to enroll in the program. This will eliminate the need for repeated trips during enrollment.

Vocational Rehabilitation meeting: Clay suggested Employment Connection attend the Transition Specialist meeting being held on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 10:00am. He requested his colleagues to email Darron an invitation to the meeting.

Announcements

The next Youth Council quarterly meeting is scheduled for 10 am on Thursday, May 6, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 11:36 am