

SWIC
Youth Committee
June 13, 2013
Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Conference Room 18
Indianapolis, IN 46204
8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Present: Bill Stanczykiewicz, Kevin Wachtel, Alishea Hawkins, and Dr. Susan Lockwood

Also Present: Leslie Crist, Nate Klinck, Elizabeth Darby, Brittany Dougherty, Sue Honcharuk, and Cory Mahon of IDWD; Lance Ratliff and Becky Branham, Region 5; Barbara Street and Karen Bailey, Region 6; Lisa Lee and Mike Smith, Region 7; Jim Heck, Region 11; Bill Miller, Marion County; and Margo Olson and Tommy Tabor of River Valley Resources

Absent: Kay Gordon, Patrick Jamison, Cathy Metcalf, Renee Palmer, Dan Peterson, Wayne Seybold, Brent Waltz, and Mark Wuellner

Leslie Crist and Bill Stanczykiewicz welcomed committee members and members of the public. Margo Olson and Tommy Tabor of River Valley Resources introduced themselves to the group. Mr. Stanczykiewicz asked the members to review the March 21, 2013 meeting minutes.

Alishea Hawkins spoke to the group as part of the strategic partnership spotlight. Ms. Hawkins is a member of the youth committee and is the Assistant Deputy Director of Services and Outcomes at the Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS). She provided the committee with information about the mission, goals, and services of DCS. Ms. Hawkins discussed older youth in foster care and those transitioning out of foster care by sharing information about DCS Broker of Resources Model and Youth Engagement efforts.

Ms. Hawkins discussed the Broker of Resources Model and how the model is used to help youth as they transition out of foster care and make sure they are aware of and familiar with services and resources available to them. She walked through education and employment activities discussing how transitioning youth are introduced to WorkOne offices to work on resumes or attend workshops so that once they are out of foster care they are comfortable with WorkOne as a resource if needed in the future.

Ms. Hawkins also informed the committee of cross training between DWD and DCS staff to familiarize one another with services and activities. The cross training has created more awareness, referrals, and ongoing relationships. For example, some Independent Living Specialists from DCS sit on Regional Youth Councils. Foster youth are more aware of training opportunities and supportive services available through WorkOne. Likewise, WorkOne staff knows about training funds and other assistance available to foster youth.

Lastly, Ms. Hawkins shared her experiences related to youth engagement and “youth voice” and the strategies DCS has used to engage young people. She provided specific examples with

their collaborative care system. She shared a youth engagement resource from the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative – Issue Brief #3 Authentic Youth Engagement: Youth-Adult Partnerships.

Bill Stanczykiewicz and DWD Policy Director Nate Klinck led a discussion of the Ready to Work Initiative. The SWIC Executive Committee and DWD have been reviewing a number of workforce initiatives that other states throughout the nation have been doing. The initiative is in the early stages and input is needed. The initiative will be discussed during the SWIC meeting.

Additionally, Nate Klinck reviewed the process and documents enclosed in the meeting packet. He discussed that the initiative requires buy-in and ownership at the local level to develop an initiative that has value, commitment, and meaning. The Governor and State would establish the metrics, certification and recognition, and help promote the initiative. The SWIC Executive Committee and DWD will form a task force to continue discussions about the initiative.

Committee members asked how regions will be able to provide input and suggest people for the task force. It was also asked how employers would learn about and value the certification. Lastly, it was asked if there was data from other states indicating the success and value of the certifications. Mr. Stanczykiewicz noted that he would continue to keep the committee members informed of the conversations and activities.

Sue Honcharuk and Leslie Crist provided updates on Indiana's Jobs for America's Graduates program. Ms. Honcharuk recognized the four regions that achieved the JAG National 5 of 5 goals. Seventeen schools also achieved the JAG National 5 of 5 goals. This is the best year since JAG Indiana began in 2006. The outcomes are higher than they've ever been and it is an excellent start to the upcoming year of growth. JAG expansion plans continue and approximately 80% of the new schools are approved or pending. Most of the new schools will start in the fall, but a few will start in January. The goal is to double the number of JAG students by the end of the next school year.

Committee member Kevin Wachtel shared his personal and company's experience with YouthBuild graduates. Mr. Wachtel participated as a judge at the JAG CDC and was introduced to the YouthBuild program. He realized that one of his successful employees was a YouthBuild graduate. Mr. Wachtel is now working with YouthBuild staff to identify applicants and create a pipeline. He is also asking the current YouthBuild employee to serve as a mentor to future YouthBuild employees.

Brittany Dougherty provided an update on the youth flow chart. Ms. Dougherty shared that the team has been working with the individuals responsible for producing the adult flow for the Commissioner and SWIC to get clarification on the purpose and intent of the flow as well as definitions on the data. The team will continue to work on getting data for the flow and will provide an update at the next committee meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 AM. The next meeting is on September 19, 2013.