

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 9, 2010

2:00 P.M.

SENECA ROOM – TST BOCES

PRESENT: B. Myers, N. Zook, J. Bellis, L. Schoffel, Y. Merritt, D. Bradac, H. Cooper, V. Zeppelin, R. Pollack
EXCUSED: S. Tabor, B. Yarosh
STAFF: J. Mattick, J. Luu

CALL TO ORDER:

Ms. Myers called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m.

Federal, State TANF funding for SYEP-Update & Discussion

Ms. Mattick stated the Governor has not included any funding in his budget for the TANF Summer Youth Program in 2010; however, since his budget was made public there has been intense lobbying occurring. She now believes that there will be some funding, but at a reduced level. Ms. Myers asked if Ms. Mattick believes the County understands the potential impact if this money is not available in light of the cut of the municipal jobs programs in the 2010 county budget. Ms. Mattick stated she believes the County Administrator is under the impression that there will be additional stimulus funding available for the program; however, she has explained that additional stimulus funding is not anticipated and she has also discussed the impact of the cuts to the municipal jobs program.

Ms. Mattick stated that the Federal Jobs Bill has money available in both the House and Senate for a standalone summer program. The money will only be available for summer youth employment, where the funding last year was more flexible. The Federal government would like to see programs started last year continue.

Ms. Zeppelin arrived at 2:18 p.m.

Ms. Mattick noted that New York State is one of only a few states that have used state funding for youth employment since the JTPA Summer Youth Employment Program was ended in 1999. New York State did a great job of getting the summer youth employment program quickly as a result. Many states did poorly in 2009 attempting to get summer youth programs up and running after not having operated them since 1999.

Ms. Mattick also reported that preliminary funding allocations have been received for the period July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011. At this time, an increase of approximately \$25,000 is anticipated in youth programming with a \$92,000 increase across all funding areas.

Request for Proposal - SYEP

Ms. Mattick stated that with funding levels unknown at this time, she would like to pull together the Performance and Evaluation Committee to begin reviewing the previous RFP for any changes that might be needed and then look at the funding as more information becomes available. She would like to see the RFP released the middle of March, have proposals returned by mid-April and contracts in place the beginning of May 2010. Ms. Zook stated she will begin conversations with youth providers about summer programming without raising expectations among youth and worksites. Ms. Mattick will report out on progress at the next meeting.

Ms. Schoffel stated that if funding levels are going to decrease, the group may want to discuss priorities of who to serve this summer. Ms. Mattick stated that with unemployment high among teens 16-18 years old, she thinks it may be easier than in the past to get those ages into the program.

Ms. Pollack arrived at 2:43 p.m.

Staff Development – Youth Employment Programs

Ms. Zook stated she convened a meeting of youth providers and 12 individuals attended. A lot of sharing occurred and questions raised. The next meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2010 and the group will begin reviewing the Frontline series “Inside the Teenage Brain.”

Ms. Myers stated the Groton Youth Commission is hosting a community forum on March 30, 2010 at 7 p.m. Kimberly McRae, Associate Director at Seven Valleys Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse will be presenting an overview of adolescent alcohol and drug abuse. Ms. Friedman presents the research conducted by others and provides training to parents, teachers and youth.

Teacher Internship Training

Ms. Zook stated she met with the business and education committee to begin discussing the process of finding businesses in STEM careers. Heather Sheridan Thomas of BOCES has graciously agreed to help with the teacher side of things. The job shadowing of businesses is going to occur the second week of July 2010. This is a very exciting opportunity for teachers, providing them with first-hand knowledge of what is needed in local businesses and the goal is to transfer that information to curriculum in the classroom. It is hoped that information will be distributed to teachers in March.

Upstate NY Biocareer Connections Update

The second annual Biocareer Connections Career Fair will be held at TC3 on March 16, 2010 from 12:45-5 p.m. The event is targeted toward college and graduate students to provide a opportunity for job seekers and bioscience related companies in Upstate NY to connect with one another, share their expectations and opportunities, network and form business relationships, and increase awareness of what type of bioscience careers exist in this area.

Other Business

Ms. Zook reported the NYATEP Youth Academy is being conducted March 2-3, 2010 and this is a fabulous training opportunity. She will bring information back to share with the group.

Ms. Myers reported that on March 6, 2010 an emergency forum with state leaders would be held at Trumansburg High School to save our schools. There is a projected \$10 million cut to the region and this forum will be used to discuss the impacts of those cuts.

Ms. Zeppelin stated that on March 4-5, 2010 a dialogue on learning will be held at Tompkins Cortland Community College and will focus on Strengths Quest. She will send the information out to group.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:13 p.m. The Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 9, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. at BOCES.