



# Youth Committee

January 21, 2014

10:30 a.m.

AMC Boardroom  
125 Charles Avenue

**Attendees:** Tina Simonson, Dee Torgerson, Mark Jacobs, Alyssa Klein, Chad Bowe, Kay Tracy, Annie Welch, Heather Gleason, Michelle Ufford, Anne Kilzer, Juanita Lauritsen, Kari-Anne Farrah (spelling from Juanita), Kathy Zavala

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## *Minutes*

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### **Agenda item: Who are we serving? Who are we currently not serving?**

#### **Discussion:**

The committee began by having each member provide an overview of the programs they work with and what type of youth these programs serve.

- **State Services for the Blind:** State Services for the Blind offers services to youth age of 14 and up with a focus on employment. There are 16 counselors working specifically with transition to employment services. There is no waiting list for these services; everyone who is interested is served. Funding for these programs is a combination of state and federal funds.
- **Vocational Rehabilitation Services:** A counselor is assigned to every high school in the state. Vocational Rehabilitation Services serves youth on 504 plans, special education, or youth with other disabilities. 30-40% of the caseload is youth in transition. There is a waitlist for these services.
- **Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs:** The eligibility for this program is 18+, which overlaps individuals that are often categorized as 'youth' in other programs.
- **Youth Competitive Grants:** There is a high demand for experiential learning and a small amount of funds available, \$2.8 million dollars. Youth competitive grants are used for youths getting their first jobs through more experienced youth working on internships. The funds are meeting some of the service gaps at the local level.
- **State Funded Youth Build:** DEED has approximately one million dollars per year to fund youth build projects and pre-apprenticeship programs. These project works with both labor and the state to create apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs. The emphasis for these programs is to target low-income youth, at risk youth, and women.
- **WIA Youth Program:** WIA Youth is administered through formula allocation to the 16 WSAs for youth ages 14-21. This age restriction may increase through WIA reauthorization, potentially categorizing youth as individuals ages 16-24. 40% of WIA youth funding must be spent on out-of-school youth. The percentage required to be spent on out of school youth may increase significantly through WIA reauthorization. With WIA youth dollars there are performance measures that are a disincentive to serve the most at-risk youth.
- **MYP:** This program is a national model for summer youth employment. This program serves youth ages 14-21. This program is funded only with state dollars and is formula funded.
- **Disability Employment Initiative:** This initiative provides funding to improve the quality of services to young people with disabilities through collaborative partnerships. The program serves young people ages 14-24. This program currently serves individuals in Rural MN CEP, South central, and Southeast, but there is hopes to expand the program if more dollars become available.
- **"Unsession" Legislative priorities** – Kay Tracy described legislative priorities related to youth for 2014: homeless youth, a minimum wage increase, intergeneration poverty – teen parents, youth mentoring, and a program similar to the successful Career EdVenture.
- **Northeast Career EdVenture** – This program provides free career planning and exploration services to local school services, serving students in grades 8-12. There are no eligibility criteria, which greatly helps the flexibility of the program. This year, the program has served 2,000 students in the northeast region.
- **Partners in Career Exploration** (south central): This program recruits interns from MSU who are studying to be counselors and places them in local high schools to discuss career exploration and create a career plan with the students. These interns meet with every junior and senior at the schools, but also work with

other grade levels. In the last full school year, the program served 1,600 students in 8 school districts.

- **Office of Justice Grant** (south central) – This grant helps serve youth transitioning out of foster care.
- **MFIP Innovations Grant** (south central) – Each teen parent on MFIP is assigned a mentor with this grant. The project focuses on every part of the teen parent's life, including education and careers.
- **Initiative Foundation Grant** (southwest) – Money from this grant pays stipends to post-secondary students in the outreach to schools program.
- **Youth Intervention Program** (southwest) – Funds for this program are provided by the Office of Juvenile Justice. The program helps youth with career exploration and leadership skills.
- **Outreach to Schools** (southwest) – The southwest WSA is a college connector certified site. The Outreach to Schools program identifies gaps in college access and attempts to redefine the definition of 'college' out of the tradition 4-year program model. They are working on a regional online resource to fit the needs of the southwest. The resource will be available to parents and counselors and will provide labor market information as well as other tools for local youth.
- **Job shadow program** (southwest) – This program provides resources to five pilot schools to help them implement a job shadow program. The program educates schools about the resources available at workforce centers and also teaches students about the wide variety employment opportunities available.
- **Career Expos** (southwest) –1,800 students attended the last career expo that provided an opportunity for local youth to learn about the many career opportunities available.
- **CEOs in the classroom** (Duluth and northeast) – This program is a presentation given to younger youth in the classroom. The model is supported by the local chambers and there has been movement to implement the program statewide. The program places local business leaders in 8<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms to present a standardized powerpoint on career planning. It discusses the jobs needed in the area and the education needed to fill these jobs. There is information in the presentation about the cost of living which is a first step in getting students think about their future and potential careers.
- **Itasca Project Pilot sites** – The pilot sites in this program have access to software that can be incorporated with some of the youth programs.

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**Agenda item: Next Meetings**

**Discussion:**

This is one of three groups meeting to help develop a strategic plan. The goal of the strategic plan is to determine how business will be done in the future in the workforce system. There is a tight timeframe for this committee.

Things to discuss at future meetings:

- Demographics – defining what youth is, does there have to be a consistent definition across programs
- Pull data to better understand who we are serving and who we are not. Some data to be pulled includes employment rates for youth, high school graduation rates, GED attainment, and poverty levels across various demographics. There is a data sharing attempt currently being worked on by SLEDS that will provide information about students once they graduate high school – Kay Tracy will send background on this group to committee members.
- Potential WIA waivers that could be sent to the federal level

**Next meeting:** February 4 – 1:30 – 3:30, AMC Boardroom

