

MWCA/DEED Youth Strategic Planning Committee 1-27-14

Meetings:

- 1: focused on current services provided and best practices
- 2: clarification of purpose of strategic planning group; data review & discussion; Interest in WBWF presentation
- 3: World's Best Workforce presentation by MDE; committee ideas & recommendations

What we know:

- MN has many diverse programs serving wide range of youth
- All MN Youth programs are meeting and exceeding federal requirements
- Program ages range from 14-24 and vary according to federal requirements; difficult to define age limits for youth as each program is defined differently.
- We have strong data on youth populations served and program outcomes

Needs more work:

- Lack of services available to out of school youth – how do we reach/find these youth & how do we fund?
- Experiential Learning: high demand and lack of funding

Recommendations:

- Utilize outside facilitator to continue strategic discussions for youth services – reconsider make-up of committee to include other partners and front line staff serving youth.
- Continue to identify best practices, innovative services, and successful programs that can be duplicated elsewhere in the state. Current examples that others were interested in:
 - CEO in the classroom serving younger youth starting in 8th grades (Duluth & Northeast): local business leaders in classrooms, review cost of living.
 - DEI and other collaborative partnerships serving youth in schools: 1 brochure describing all youth programs, staff are knowledgeable and can represent all programs to school contacts, work collaboratively (Rochester)
 - WFC in the schools (Grand Rapids)
 - VRS has a representative in every school across the state – how can our programs collaborate?
 - WSA2 is doing career advising in the schools
 - Career EdVenture programs (Northeast MN) serving gr 8-12 by providing free career planning and exploration services to local schools
- “Mobile” WFC sites within schools – imbedded WFC staff that collaborate between ALL youth programs sharing school space for easy access and collaboration.
- Explore Social media and other technology or virtual presence to better reach and serve youth.
- WBWF Legislation:
 - Continue to meet with MDE and locals to discuss how we can work together/partner.
 - How can we help teachers to learn about industry so they can better educate and guide students vocationally?
 - MDE has a need to learn more about WFC/DEED programs.
 - Schools need help with Experiential Learning
 - Meet with school counselors and personnel 1X/yr regionally – May connect with current professional group mtgs such as MN School Counselor Assoc, local service co-ops, Perkins consortium, etc.
 - Employer engagement: How do we help to connect employers to schools, assist in experiential learning and other opportunities businesses can provide? Ex: VRS placement partnerships and “single point of contact”; BSS; Shared database to manage such as “Sales Force System”; Collaborate with Employer Associations.