

Workforce Development Committee
Bridge to Success
Preparing Waterbury Youth for Life: "A Birth to 21 Initiative"

Wednesday, February 17th, 2010
3:00p.m.-4:30p.m.

Minutes

The **Workforce Development Committee (BTS-WFDC)** meeting as held **Wednesday, February 17th, 2010** at **Naugatuck Valley Community College, Waterbury Connecticut.**

Present: Lynne Palleria Greatorex, Brie Sodano, Lucy Warren, Jessica Callahan, Tracy Borden, Terry Brown

Absent: Tricia Harrity, Peter Blum, Bonnie Goulet, Kelly Cronin, Susan Houlihan, Maureen Gamache, Pamela Ortiz, Vincent Delaney, Trish Spofford, Jeremy Race, Sean Mosley, Janice Petrillo, Tami Christopher, Mike Hayden, Linda Ball, Adrienne Wallace Hayward, Ellen Durnin, John Corcoran, Wanda Wiig, Kelly Kerrigan, Amy Riviere, Sandy Porteus

Staff: Nicole Porto

Welcome Committee Members: Terry Brown – co chair- welcomed all members to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 3:15PM.

House Keeping:

Education to Careers: Nicole brought to the committees attention an insert that was in the January 24th, 2010 Sunday Republican. The special section was about higher education, but in particular two articles stood out. "Show your manners before, during, after interview" and "Clothes make the man (or woman), leave a lasting impression." Both articles gave advice on some vital etiquette tips when going for an interview. Nicole liked the articles and felt the insert related to several discussions that were brought up during previous meetings.

Resource Mapping Document: Nicole emailed resource mapping link to committee members to review and print on their own if they'd like.

Next meeting: The next Workforce Development meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 10th, 2010 from 3:00-4:30PM at NVCC (Room location TBD).

Status Report Form: Nicole mentioned that at the March 10th meeting, the committee needs to complete the status report form which lists at least 2 objectives the committee plans to accomplish between now and June 2010, the activities to be performed to meet objectives, individuals responsible for activities, expected outcomes of activities, and the date range for activities. The report will be brought forward to the Bridge to Success Management Committee and the Prevention Policy Board Executive Committee.

Minutes:

Terry Brown asked the committee to look over January's minutes. The committee did not have any issues and the minutes were accepted.

Implementation: The following discussion ensued around the topic of implementation:

- The following three ideas were suggested as ideas for implementation: Youth Employment Program, Day on Campus, Driver's License.
- **Day on Campus:**
 - Lynne Palleria Greatorex felt that transportation is always the hardest part in any activity that takes place during regular school hours.
 - Terry questioned who would be invited to the Day on Campus event? Would we target the school system or the youth in our programs? What college campus in Waterbury would hold the event (NVCC, UB, Post, UCONN, and/or Stone Academy)?
 - The committee would look to the college clubs and service learning students to be mentors for the event as they seem to be the most connected with their college.
 - Brie Sodano brought up a great idea to get about 5 volunteers with different careers (lawyer, bank teller, grant specialist, electrician, teacher, etc) to give a brief presentation laying out the road they took to get to their career path. This would also include explaining how much money they make, how much they paid for college, etc.
 - Lucy Warren brought up another great point that our target population should be those who will be first generation college students. She felt that Kelly Cronin's youth from Waterbury Youth Services would be the most ideal.
 - Lynne is willing to hand select a few students from her classes as well.
 - The committee felt 20-30 students would be ideal for this Day on Campus event.
 - The committee agreed that a survey or a reflection piece should be a part of the Day on Campus. This could be used as a tool to assess our progress. The survey should reflect the 40 Developmental Assets since that is 1 indicator the committee plans to use.
 - Students will need to have an itinerary for what will happen during their day. They also need to have lunch provided. The students should be welcomed by the college President at the very beginning of the day; they should attend at least 2 (75 minute) classes, and also hear from the Financial Aid Department.
- **Youth Employment Program:**
 - The committee felt that if everyone on the WFDC could provide a couple slots for the youth employment program that would be great.
 - The committee felt that the program should definitely have a financial literacy component, because this could go a long way. Things to include: understand their paycheck, taxes, and Medicare.
 - The committee will look into the program at WYSS and play off of that.
- **Driver's License:**
 - The committee agreed to drop their ideas around ensuring youth have a driver's license. The committee felt there would be a lot of costs attached and it did not fit into their timeframe.

Next Steps:

- Nail down plan for Youth Employment Program at March 10th meeting.
- Committee to get in touch with clubs/organizations on campus to act as mentors for Day on Campus event.
- Nicole contacts Kelly Cronin to see how large her group of youth is.
- Lynne finds out cost for bus for Day on Campus event.
- Nicole send link for Resource Mapping Document as well as list of 40 Developmental Assets.
- Terry Brown to look into Perkins Grant

Other Business

- Chris Murphy is holding a free event that is open to the public on Saturday, February 27th, 2010 from 2:30-4:30PM at Post University in the gym. The event will revolve around FAFSA.
- In 2013, the City will have a new school with a strong High School career path approach. When students leave the High School, they will be workforce ready. Health services, human services, engineering, and business are their main focus.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:30PM