

SANTEE-LYNCHES WIB
Youth Council Meeting
Thursday, January 12, 2012 - 9:00 AM
Santee-Lynches Regional COG
36 West Liberty Street, Sumter SC 29151

Minutes

Youth Council Members Present:

Troy Santoscoy (Chairman), Barbara Brown, Thaddeus Dickey, Ramona Lies, Sharon Teigue

Youth Council Members Not Present:

James Coleman, Ed Garrison, Jean Ford, Rose Ford, Tavita Heriott, John Huggins, Zuela Smith, John Tindal, Gerald Vaughan, Donald Witherspoon

Staff Present:

Brenda Golden, Workforce Development Youth Director
Areatha Clark, Workforce Development A/E Director
Gwen Davis, Workforce Development A/E Deputy Director
Donna Thames, Workforce Development Administrative Assistant
Hope Turner, Workforce Development Finance Coordinator

Guests Present:

Kal Kunkel – Palmetto Youth Connections
Stephanie Bradley, Palmetto Youth Connections
Megan Ridgeway, Participant with Palmetto Youth Connections
Calvin Hastie, Sumter City Councilman
Carolyn Reed, JAG Coordinator
Abby Linden, SCDEW Local Operations Coordinator

I. Call to Order, Welcome & Introduction of Members & Guests

Mr. Troy Santoscoy, Youth Council Chairman called the Santee-Lynches Workforce Investment Board's (WIB) Youth Council meeting to order at 9:03 AM and Ms. Brenda Golden introduced the guests.

II. Approval of Minutes – October 7, 2011 & November 5, 2011 (M)

Chairman Santoscoy entertained a Motion to approve the Youth Council Meeting Minutes of October 7, 2011 and November 5, 2011. **The Motion was made by Ms. Sharon Teigue and seconded**

by Mr. Thaddeus Dickey. There being no discussion, Chairman Santoscoy called for a vote. **All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.**

III. Palmetto Youth Connection (PYC) Progress Report, PYC Monitoring Results

Ms. Stephanie Bradley with PYC reported that their active numbers through the end of December 2011 were 112, which was short of their goal. However, they have enrolled six new participants the first of January and are anticipating enrolling new participants today and next week. PYC is now focusing on the community and participants who have graduated from high school. PYC has contacted the Guidance Counselors at Scotts Branch (Summerton) and at East Clarendon High School (Turbeville), as well as mailed information to local churches. PYC has also met with Councilman Calvin Hastie and has made a presentation to the citizens in Sumter promoting the Youth Program.

Mr. Kal Kunkel with PYC reported that he has met with Central Carolina Technical College regarding students who are basic skills deficient. These students cannot get into the workforce and many will not go to Adult Ed. There was also discussion regarding WorkKeys and getting the students ready for work. Councilman Hastie asked if anyone has been in touch with Continental Tire to inquire on their educational requirements. Ms. Areatha Clark replied that the Economic Developers have met with personnel from Continental Tire and they will work with the **SC Works** Centers. Ms. Gwen Davis added that the Job Developers will be contacting Continental Tire. Mr. Kunkel asked if Central Carolina Technical College will be proving a training program. Ms. Clark replied that Adult Ed and Central Carolina Technical College are working together to train potential employees.

Chairman Santoscoy questioned PYC on the 112 enrolled in the Youth Program through the end of December 2011 and asked if this number included carryovers from the last fiscal year. He then asked PYC what their goal was for new enrollees. Mr. Kunkel replied that their goal is to enroll 180 new participants in the WIA Youth Program for the program year; however, they were short by 13 for the first half of the program year. To increase their number of new participants in the program, Mr. Kunkel added that PYC is more actively marketing. Ms. Areatha Clark added that PYC has enrolled 126 in the program, but there are only 112 active participants. Ms. Brenda Golden reported that she had met with PYC on Tuesday, January 10th and felt that with the marketing efforts in progress their enrollment numbers for January should improve. Ms. Sharon Teigue noted at the Sumter Adult Ed that PYC students were "lined up" to meet with the career coach.

It was noted that in December, 77 students attended PYC's orientation, but only 5 students turned in completed applications for enrollment. PYC staff is making efforts to assist the students with completing their applications and backup documentation. Councilman Hastie added that PYC may need to reach out to some of the neighborhood groups for assistance. Ms. Golden reminded the Committee Members that not only does PYC have to concentrate on new participants in the program, but they must provide follow-up to existing participants and she wanted to commend PYC for their follow-up work with participants. Ms. Golden informed the Committee Members that PYC responded to the WIA Audit/Monitoring Report with corrective measures and a follow-up monitoring by WIA Staff reported no additional findings.

IV. Jobs for America' Graduate (JAG) by Ms. Carolyn Reed

Ms. Carolyn Reed, Manning High Schools JAG Specialist for the Clarendon School District #2, reported that the JAG Program is a national program started 31 years ago to assist students in overcoming barriers to their education. She explained that there is national competition in Washington, DC as well as a State competition and conference. JAG students are encouraged to get their high school diplomas and explore career opportunities. Ms. Reed reported that 5 or 6 of her students have received a job. She meets with businesses in the Manning area to see what their job requirements are and then assists the students in completing job applications and their resumes. Ms. Brenda Golden reminded the Youth Council that 50% of the cost for the Manning High JAG program, specifically 20 seniors, is being funded through the WIA program this year.

V. Financial Report by Ms. Hope Turner

Mr. Hope Turner reported that PYC's expenditures are trending 11% below budget and she is concerned about their spending plan, but will continue to monitor their expenditures monthly. PYC cuts off their month on the 25th and then reports to the WIA Staff by the 10th of the following month. Ms. Turner added that after meeting with PYC on Tuesday, January 10th, she felt that their expenditures will increase with their upcoming efforts to promote the Youth Program. Ms. Abbey Linden asked if expenditures that occurred after the 25th of the month would be added to the total and Ms. Turner reported "no," that these expenditures would be added to the following month. Ms. Turner also reported that she has not received any invoices for the JAG program. Ms. Linden stated that she would follow-up on the invoice(s) for the JAG Program.

Ms. Turner also reported that the RTA invoices for transportation have been extremely low. The participants in the PYC program are being paid mileage versus using RTA for transportation. Ms. Clark added that RTA has changed its invoicing system and now are required to charge for mileage as indicated on MapQuest. This too has lowered their invoices.

Chairman Santoscoy asked PYC how they anticipated getting back on track with spending the WIA Funds. Mr. Kunkel responded that some of their students are carry-over students, who are mostly dropouts. Once these students receive their diploma or GED, they are ready for training and additional funds will be used. Ms. Golden added that PYC has submitted to the State (SCDEW) a request for a National Retail Certificate Program and is waiting on their response. This program will assist students in getting into retail and will count as a "certificate" for our performance measure if approved by SCDEW.

Mr. Kunkel explained that in Ocala, Florida PYC is partnering with Habitat for Humanity with students working on jobsites four hours per day to build homes and another four hours in the classroom. This also helps students with getting jobs at suppliers such as Home Depot or Lowes, etc. Other partners in Florida are the Police Department and Sheriff Department. Mr. Kunkel added that he is in the process of working on programs similar to these in the Santee-Lynches Region. This is "great work experience" for the students, Ms. Abbey Linden commented. Ms. Barbara Brown added that she has contacts with Sumter Habitat and there is a great opportunity for volunteers. Mr. Thaddeus Dickey added that the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) may be a partner to consider.

Ms. Areatha Clark reported that our program has failed the “attainment of degree or certificate” performance measure, but she felt that PYC efforts and the JAG Program will help overcome this hurdle. She added that “thinking outside the box” was good. Ms. Barbara Brown added that this will also help with Goal 4 on the Youth’s Strategic Plan. Ms. Linden reported that she was impressed with the progress with the WIA Youth Program in our region.

VI. Strategic Plan Progress by Chairman Troy Santoscoy

Chairman Santoscoy reviewed the Youth’s Strategic Plan. Items highlighted in “yellow” are to be implemented this program quarter. He read item 1.1.1, “Identify pilot county and meet with stakeholders,” and reported that this item has been completed by Mr. Thaddeus Dickey and himself.

Item 1.1.2 – “Develop list of entry-level trade skills needed for job market”. Chairman Santoscoy asked for volunteers to join him and Mr. Dickey to complete this task by April 2012.

Items 1.1.4, 1.1.5 and 1.1.6 were discussed and it was noted they should have been dated 2013.

A motion was made by Ms. Sharon Teigue and seconded by Ms. Ramona Lies to revise the dates on the Strategic Plan for Items 1.1.4, 1.1.5, and 1.1.6 to 2013. Chairman Santoscoy asked if there was any discussion. There being none, he called for the Vote. **All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.**

Item 1.2.1 – “Convene workshops between school districts, Chambers, and Industrial Associations for revising/relaunching of Workforce 2000+”. Ms. Brenda Golden provided a copy of Workforce 2000, a list of skills for people entering the workforce. Ms. Sharon Teigue added that initially this Workforce 2000 poster was in every school and Ms. Gwen Davis asked about receiving additional copies of the posters. Ms. Golden replied that she can print copies of the poster.

The Strategic Plan for the Santee-Lynches WIB was reviewed next with two items highlighted. Item 2.1.1 – “Convene workshop between School Districts, Chamber, and Industrial Associations for revisiting/relaunching of Workforce 2000+”. Ms. Golden added that she felt that the Youth Council should first meet with the School Districts prior to arranging a workshop and Ms. Teigue was in agreement. Ms. Golden will make the contacts to the School Districts for a meeting. Item 2.1.2 will be implemented the last quarter of this program year and will follow after the meeting with the School Districts – item 2.1.1.

Ms. Barbara Brown suggested that the Youth Council partner with the Career Fairs first prior to hosing a district-wide Career Fair. (Reference Item 4 on the Youth Strategic Plan). Ms. Golden then promoted the Student Health Careers Expo to be held on February 17th for in-school youth and students participating in the Youth Program under PYC. A flyer was provided in each board packet.

The 2nd quarter items on the Youth’s Strategic Plan will be discussed at the next Youth Council Meeting on February 9th.

VII. Other Youth Updates by Ms. Brenda Golden

WIA Incentive funds for purposes approved by the State were discussed briefly. Ms. Golden stated that some of this year's incentive funds were being recommended to support the Student Healthcare Expo in February and another possibility is the Choice Bus. Ms. Golden reported that the Choice Bus visited in the region this past year and the program did a great job in encouraging students to stay in school. It was decided to add the "incentive" item to the Agenda at the February Meeting.

Ms. Brenda Golden thanked Megan Ridgeway, a student in the PYC Program, for coming to the meeting and asked if she would like to share her experience in the program. Megan reported that the PYC was a good program, because she had no support at home and her Career Coach has helped her with college preparations. She reported that she has her high school diploma, but her placement test scores were too low and her Career Coach has assisted her with bringing her test scores up in math and other areas. The program has also helped her with her confidence, so she is now inviting friends into the program.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 AM.

Prepared by Donna Thames