

WYOMING YOUTH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MINUTES

June 14, 2005

9:00 a.m.

Evanston Wyoming

WYWDC COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Christie DeGrendele
Katie Long
Elaine Roth
Christina Wiederspahn
Kathy Emmons
Peggy Sanders
Erin Moore

WYWDC COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

Bret Pizzato
James Anderson
F.E. "Skip" Gillum PhD
Karen Ross Milmont
Jeffrey Holsinger

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dan Zwonitzer
Dave McNulty
LeAnn Carothers
Doug Davis
Karen Spero
Charlie Ware

DWS STAFF PRESENT:

Margo LaHiff

April 27, 2005

Christie DeGrendele:

- I. **Call to Order: Christis DeGrendele** called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. welcomed all members and made introductions.

ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes: Motion was made to approve the minutes from March 22, 2005 meeting by Chris Wiederspahn. Elaine Roth Seconded the motion. Peggy Sanders corrected Page 1 – publication *Choices* is a publication used in many high schools for vocational guidance. Peggy Sanders did not remember stating she would contact an Evanston Counselor to give a presentation. Agenda Item on page 2 is stricken. Minutes were approved as corrected.

ACTION ITEM: Agenda was approved.

- I. **Local Workforce Office Report: Karen Spero and Doug Davis** reported on the local community and programs available to students. Evanston middle school has created a program called "Reality Town" for their 8th grade students. It is a touch of the real world. The students draw cards as to what kind of a life they have, they have a budget to work with, they are assigned an occupation, they have to buy a house and a car on their income and have a balanced budget. They are assigned a family and are thrown some real life "zingers" such as losing a job, medical emergencies and hospital bills, etc. Elaine Roth requested additional information about "Realty Town". Doug reported it was an interactive workshop. Self-assessment was a part of the program, the workshop provided insight with co-workers and employers alike. There was a different level of communication needed on a daily basis to get

this workshop put together. The program was purchased from an internet site. The students had a choice of 3 occupations and are assigned a family and family situations - i.e. The job for the husband is a contractor, they have 3 children – 2 are in diapers; wife cannot work, you must buy a house, get mortgage insurance, get a car. Stations are set up to look into Day Care, Groceries, Hardware Store, etc.

Chris Wiederspahn stated that Job Corp has a similar project for 16, 17 year olds. Their project tries to draw drop outs. They have booths with car dealers, realtors, City Transportation, Clothing, recreation costs, the Animal Shelter has a booth to show cost of keeping pets, they set up real-life crisis for the youth to try to determine how it will fit. They work with a lot of volunteers also and the American Legion donated use of their building for the project.

Elaine Roth suggested this be a Summit Idea – Have communities come share with others. She suggested Youth Council promote these ideas – maybe budget through our council to purchase the internet programs etc. We also need to be able to expose these opportunities on a broader spectrum.

The workforce center has placed several WIA youth with local businesses for example – a grocery store clerk and one young man was placed as an administrative assistant to an office that is all female. Doug Davis introduced LeAnn Carothers, regional manager of the SW workforce centers who stated there are many more programs happening in Evanston. Ms. Carothers continued that the Career Advisor from the local centers work with the school counselors in developing skills in students to match job needs of the communities. Small town communities have a harder time finding workers, advisors travel to the different communities to help place people. They are looking for a grant that would assist support of a bus system for workers in the Mountain View, Lyman, Bridger Valley areas to bus workers to Rock Springs to work. LeAnn reported there is much community interest in the bus system. They want to be able to live in their small communities but make a livable wage and to do that they have to commute to work.

II. **Revised Mission and Statement:**

Vision: Discussion was held regarding the vision of WYWDC. Kathy Emmons suggested we think about the verbiage “workforce skills”. Are we providing skills or providing workforce skill leadership? Maybe make it clearer with collaborative direction. I.E. Facilitate collaboration of..... Maybe keep out action words like “will provide”.

Charlie Ware stated that the Youth Council was an advisory group that works primarily with the workforce services through WWDC. Perhaps looking at the Strategic Plan would give guidance. He asked WYWDC to look at aligning more closely with WIA guidelines.

Vision Statement - **Workforce Skills for Wyoming Workforce**

Mission: Change “Create” to **advocate**.

Mission Statement – **The Wyoming Youth Workforce Development Council will advocate an ongoing youth workforce skills development system in Wyoming.**

Council discussed the guiding principles outlined in Bret’s draft and approved.

Action to be taken: Kathy Emmons suggested DWS forward a copy of the Strategic Plan to all members and schedule a phone conference after council has review the Strategic Plan to move forward on priorities and direction.

III. **Children & Family Initiative:**

Kathy Emmons presented the Wyoming Family Photo which states the 5 goals set forth by the Governor. This publication was put together through collaboration of several state agencies. It identifies issues impacting people in our state. The five goals give direction to state agencies. The two goals most directly tied to our councils are Goals #2 Diverse Economy... and #5 Students Educated... As we work with issues we need to tie them back to these two issues. It will help us be more successful in advocating. Goal #1 relates back to kids having good jobs and a good feeling about themselves. If anyone is interested in serving on the Wyoming Family Photo they meet quarterly and

there are two groups – Advisory Group and the Sponsor Group. CF&I report to legislators in November. They will report on Where is Wyoming, Where Do We Want to Go? and How Do We Get There?

Discussion was held regarding issues of Day Care providers and accessibility and costs. Too many people need to rely on family members for day care because of cost.

Discussion was held regarding training funds for youth to create a business ready community within our own social infrastructure. Kathy Emmons suggested that WYWDC make recommendations regarding Training Funds and Business Ready Communities. Look at WIA summer youth programs available in the different areas. Charlie Ware suggested WYWDC bring recommendations to WWDC. The Governor has appointed us to advise him – we need to get facts and information and then give recommendations to the Governor. Kathy Emmons suggested that if we ask the State for more WDTF funding that it is important for this council to be involved with data based recommendations.

Peggy Sanders stated that as we have more people come into the state that are migrant workers, they will bring children. We need to be aware that those children will need schooling and things to do while their parents are working.

Kathy Emmons stated that we should all continue working to identify problems that come up in our communities. As the state has local meetings – try to go to the meetings and identify the problems.

IV. Latina Youth Conference Funding Request

Christine DeGrendele read correspondence from Latina Youth Conference chairperson. Discussion was held regarding sponsors and previous contributions. Kathy Emmons reported that Ray Fleming-Dinneen brought 4 young women to the conference last year and found the program very powerful. Mrs. Freudenthal presented problems with drinking. She continued that the Latina Youth Conference is a statewide function. Last year's conference had 130 – 180 young adults attend. The conference invites young people to speak as role models. Christine DeGrendele stated that it would bring a lot of visibility to WYWDC if we were to consider contributing this year. Kathy Emmons suggested maybe next year we could have a booth or workshop to allow the attendees to explore opportunities with jobs, interview techniques, locality of DWS offices across the state, information on demand of local jobs and what income is available.

Questions were asked about funding. Erin Moore reported that WWDC is looking at the budget and the 15% Set-Aside Committee is working on what needs to be done. Charlie Ware indicated that \$25000.00 is allotted to WYWDC for funding. Erin Moore stated that support of the Latina Conference this year is not a problem and that the 15% Set-Aside Committee has stated that a \$3000.00 donation is allowable.

ACTION ITEM: Peggy Sanders made the motion to approve \$3000.00 sponsorship to the Latina Youth Conference for 2005. Dan Zwonitzer seconded the motion. Motion Passed.

Elaine Roth asked if we could obtain a copy of the budget for the Latina Youth Conference and Kathy Emmons stated we can ask. WBC – CLASP and Frontier Refinery were major sponsors last year. Peggy Sanders queried who was in charge – Kathy Emmons stated Ann Redman from Cheyenne is the local chairperson of the committee but that all are volunteers.

Christine DeGrendele suggested WYWDC consider budgeting for this project every year. It fits with the WIA Youth program and our leadership development opportunities.

V. NEXT Magazine:

Kathy Emmons reported to council that this magazine is very specific to Wyoming. Last year WYWDC committed to assist in funding for the next publication. Last year we contributed \$7300.00, the magazine needs \$30,000.00 to go to print. Discussion was held how the magazine is distributed and problems that arose from the manner of distribution. Council discussed several different ways to distribute the magazine if it is published to be able to touch the proper parties. Most distribution has been through school counselors. It is difficult to get the magazine to the schools due to bulk and time constraints. Elaine Roth in Gillette had the workforce center distribute and become

involved in the use of the magazine. They got positive results. Thoughts were shared as to how to get communities involved and understanding what the magazine has to offer the state. Perhaps communicating with more educators so all are aware of the benefits would be one way. Peggy Sanders indicated that generally there is one guidance counselor per 430 students. Kathy Emmons suggested that instead of adding to the load of school counselor responsibilities we could devise a system that our workforce one-stop counselors become involved with the schools, being available certain times of the year as career counselors working in conjunction with the schools. We could bring us to them through the NEXT magazine. The magazine is a great link with workforce centers and education.

WYWDC Council Members would like to support publication of NEXT magazine. To do so we need:

- Budget information
- Publish date anticipated
- Request in writing for an amount to be given
- What is distribution worth to Wyoming Business Reporter if we help with distribution?
- Accountability of why it was not published last year

VI. Next Meeting and Time:

Council discussed having another meeting by phone – on August 3 or 4.

Peggy Sanders suggested that at future meetings we ask a high school counselor to come and present what their schools do in their areas.

Peggy asked Elaine Roth to ask a high school representative to come and speak to our next meeting in Gillette. Also that Bruce Brown be contacted to have someone from Crook County come too.

Peggy Sanders made the motion to adjourn, Dan Zwonitzer seconded the motion.

Meeting Adjourned 11:45 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: JUNE 14, 2005 EVANSTON WYOMING 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 NOON.

Peggy Sanders made the motion to Adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Note: Send copies of Local Meetings to all council
Send Last year's Latina Youth Conference Brochure to all council
Send Bret Pizzato a NEXT magazine