

SWIC  
Youth Council  
February 17, 2011  
Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Room 301A  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Present: Dennis Wimer, Bill Stanczykiewicz, Patrick Jamison, Matt Fleck, Sherry Siewart, Jim Hemmelgarn, and Robert Hayes

Also Present: Leslie Crist, Brittany Dougherty, Elizabeth Crist-Darby, and Sue Honcharuk of DWD Strategic Initiatives; Deb Waymire, Region 4; Linda Morley, Region 7; Brooke Huntington and Matt Rager, EmployIndy; Willis Bright, Lilly Endowment; Bart Brown and Brianna Morse, Region 5; Michele Bowman, Region 9; John Corcoran, Region 8; Jim Heck, Region 11; Edmond O'Neal, Regions 2 and 3; Karen Bailey and Barbara Street, Region 6.

Absent: Thomas Brink, David Entzian, Cathy Metcalf, Terry Rodino, Wayne Seybold, and Rebecca Webb

Chair Dennis Wimer welcomed Council members and members of the public. Introductions were made and several of the regional workforce areas attended, Regions in attendance were: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 and Marion County.

Chairman Wimer invited review of the minutes from the previous meeting and the minutes were approved. Council member, Jim Hemmelgarn made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by member Patrick Jamison.

Council member Matt Fleck requested that acronyms for BOS WIB and WIB be spelled out to avoid any confusion or miss-association with acronyms.

Brooke Huntington, President and CEO of EmployIndy presented on the YES (Youth Employment Services) Program. Ms. Huntington introduced YES as an intermediary service provided by EmployIndy through funding by the Lilly Endowment. In 2003, EmployIndy in collaboration with the Lilly Endowment sought to utilize the existing relationships and expertise demonstrated by community based organizations to also provide employment and supportive services for very low income youth between the ages of 17 and 25. Youth Employment Services represents a consortium of community based organizations that provide actual employment and supportive services to the population they serve within their respective communities. The YES program hosts meetings with the various community based organizations to provide direction, understand services, provide guidance on Workforce Investment Act funds, develop measurable outcomes, and provide a platform to share best practices. The services to this very difficult to serve population act as a primer for potential Workforce Investment Act (WIA) participants to improve participation and completion outcomes for WIA recipients. Because of additional funding, not tied to WIA protocol, the community based organizations can offer a wider variety of supportive services and prepare candidates for WIA programs.

Willis Bright of the Lilly Foundation indicated that initially the focus was to see if this type of contract to manage service delivery through an intermediary could consolidate and organize a variety of community based organizations to work toward the same goals for youth from our most at-risk population. Through the development of YES within EmployIndy, the Lilly Foundation exemplifies how local funding can be leveraged with state and federal funds to provide measurable services with a variety of delivery options.

Through the YES program, participants are issued vouchers for a variety of needs, from simple transportation issues to more complicated legal issues that prevent youth from resolving past issues and clear the pathway to future employment. Since 2003, EmployIndy and the Lilly Foundation have witnessed the need for vouchers shift from social issues like rent or GED attainment to vouchers for post-secondary education or training leading to a career path and meaningful employment.

The YES program offers a demonstrated example of using local, state and federal funds to reach both large and small sectors of at-risk youth through embedded community based organizations.

Chair Dennis Wimer commented on how YES vouchers enable Service Providers to retain youth in programs longer in order to build meaningful relationships with participants.

Council member Bill Stanczykiewicz, President and CEO of the Indiana Youth Institute (IYI) offered that many youth-serving organizations linked with IYI would be interested in learning how they could partner with workforce agencies in their area to seek local funding to start their own YES organization within other regions across the state.

Brooke Huntington offered to make available information about the YES program to share with other regions along with an independent study conducted by Brandeis University about the program.

Council member Matt Fleck inquired about outreach to area schools if referrals were received. Matt Rager, YES Program Manager, indicated that outreach to schools had garnished only a small amount of interest and had been discontinued. Willis Bright indicated that schools had not been the priority partners because community based organizations offered a greater availability of wrap-around services for participants.

Chairman Wimer continued the meeting by requesting a legislative update from member Matt Fleck. Matt Fleck described the two similar bills currently in legislation, one is a Senate bill and one is a House bill. These two bills address Career and Technical Education (CTE) administration and funds; and Adult Basic Education administration and funds. The purpose of the bills is to move current CTE administration and funding from the Department of Workforce Development, divide it based on a two and two approach between Department of Education and Department of Workforce Development. Secondary schools currently use CTE and CTE funds for vocational programming at a secondary level. The bill proposes that the funds be divided with a portion of the administration, particularly the secondary education component, to be shifted to the Department of Education and administered through the State Board of Education. Another portion would remain with the Department of Workforce Development, specifically for a continuation of secondary training to continue on to post-secondary and be administered through the State Workforce Innovation Council.

The second parts of the bills address Adult Basic Education (ABE) administration and funding. The administration of ABE would shift from the Department of Education, administered by the State Board of Education, to the Department of Workforce Development, administered by the State Workforce Innovation Council.

Passage is expected as support has been demonstrated.

Ms. Elizabeth Darby of Strategic Initiatives continued by reviewing the development of the Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) Career Development Conferences. As discussed last meeting, the state conference has been changed to three "Super Regional" conferences with the winning participants advancing to a State Conference. The three "Super Regional" conferences are:

North East: Hosted at IPFW in Fort Wayne on March 14, 2011

South: Hosted in Indianapolis with the venue pending on March 16, 2011

North West: Hosted at the National Guard Armory in Lafayette on March 22, 2011

Each region has participated in the planning of these conferences to meet the needs of the students, employers and the regional workforce boards.

Chairman Wimer invited Youth Council members to participate as judges or refer business community members as possible judges.

Ms. Darby indicated that the goal for sponsorships and donations is \$5000 with \$3500 already committed. The day will include nine competitive events along with two special awards for Outstanding Junior and Outstanding Senior. For the State Conference, the Lilly Corporation has donated the use of the Lilly Corporate Center, breakfast and lunch for the students and the use of a professional photographer. Leslie Crist indicated that an invitation had been sent to the Governor's office as the Governor participates as Vice-Chair for the JAG National Organization. The State Conference will be held on April 20, 2011.

Ms. Brittany Dougherty of Strategic Initiatives provided an update for the Council on plans for a proposed summer employment program. Ms. Dougherty reminded the Council that funds for YHCC were provided by federal stimulus funds which were expended. These funds will not be continued but the value of the YHCC program components has required a proposal to operate a similar program but on a smaller scale. This year the program will target minority and female young adults. The program also will focus on construction trades with opportunities for construction experience that will propel participants into construction jobs after the program. The Department of Natural Resources and Indiana Department of Transportation will be the employers and provide work opportunities for young adults in the age range of 18-30. The program will cover 24 weeks of employment at 37.5 hours per week. Workforce partners will offer workshops for resume building and interviewing, career fairs and meet with potential employers for input and job opportunities.

Ms. Leslie Crist, the Director of Strategic Initiatives outlined the collection of Youth Service Strategies from each region. The information gathered provides a broad look at regional youth programs, funding,

and regional enhancements to youth programming. With this data the Strategic Initiatives team will host state-wide meetings with regional youth service teams in an effort to better collaborate state-wide. The first meeting will be held on February 22, 2011 to discuss regional strategies, best practices, regional needs for staff development, strategic staff training opportunities and an update on the new case management system. Ms. Crist and her team also plan to discuss assessments, career exploration tools and Adult Basic Education structure and strategy. Ms. Crist shared data collected from the regional Youth Strategy Plans.

Finally, Chair Wimer discussed the structural change for the Youth Council. As the state moves from a Balance of State Workforce Investment Board to Workforce Service Areas with their own Boards and Youth Councils, the State Youth Council will now only represent the State Workforce Innovation Council as one unit and not divide to reflect Balance of State.

Council Member Jim Hemmelgarn moved to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by member Matt Fleck. The meeting adjourned at 9:46 am.