

SWIC State Youth Committee
May 13, 2010
Indiana Government Center South, Room 1
Indianapolis, IN 46204

At 8:52 am, the State Youth Council was called to order by Chair Wimer.

Council member Hemmelgarn made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Council member Fleck. The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and accepted by the Council Members.

Ms. Crist provided the Council members an update on the statewide youth monitoring. DWD has secured a contract with KPMG to begin conducting statewide monitoring as of June 1, 2010. KPMG will work with Tom Brown and the DWD monitoring team to conduct program monitoring visits. The Youth Council is charged with reviewing executive summary monitoring reports and utilizing this information to assist in future programming decisions.

Ms. Crist also briefly reviewed the JAG monitoring visits conducted by the Strategic Initiatives team to all participating regions. Site visits went well and information from these visits will also be used for the upcoming JAG Program Manager training at DWD.

Chair Wimer gave a review to all Council members of the JAG Career Development Conference on April 28, 2010. Mr. Wimer was asked to be a guest speaker. He stated how impressed he was with the organization and fun the youth had at the event.

Ms. Honcharuk reviewed the winners for each of the competitive events. She also reviewed the increase in number of judges needed for this year's conference, 70, which was an increase from 15 last year. Ms. Honcharuk shared with the Council and public attendees a newspaper article featuring the Public Speaking winner of Sullivan High School, Region 7. She also shared thank-you notes from students. Ms. Honcharuk also revealed that Darius Parker, East Central High School received a JAG National Scholarship. He was one of only 8 recipients of the very prestigious award.

Chair Wimer asked if it was possible for the Out-of School JAG programs to have a CDC like competitive event, or how can we incorporate the National event into our Out-of School programs.

Ms. Kiscinski, Ms. Blake, Ms. Thompson, Chair Wimer, and Ms. Crist shared stories with the Council and public about the positive effects of the CDC event on their students and those they encountered.

Ms. Crist then moved to discuss the JAG Regional Post Secondary Transition and Community Outreach Coordinator positions. Ms. Crist informed the Council members that the JAG Specialists work very hard in the classroom both with their current students as well as their follow-up students. Through a USDOL Incentive grant, DWD was able

to fund the aforementioned Coordinator positions to aide the specialists and JAG students with their post-secondary education preparation as well as their local job searches.

Ms. Crist stated that she would like the Youth Council to propose funding the second year of the Regional Coordinator positions to the SWIC Grants Committee. Ms. Blake, Ms. Thompson, and Ms. Singleton shared information regarding their impact as Regional Coordinators on the JAG youth in their area. Through their positions, they are able to meet with members of their local Chamber of Commerce; coordinate mock interviews for job preparation; prepare regional newsletters; coordinate job fairs; assist students in completing college applications and federal loan forms, and many other activities.

Ms. Crist then asked Mr. Cross, Mr. Bryson, Mr. Heck, Mr. Feldhaus, and Ms. Street to share information from a Regional Operator perspective. They informed the council that the Coordinator positions have been helpful to their regions, students, and specialists as they allow additional staff to create community connections; expose students to college and career options; and bring specialists together. Overall, these positions are an asset to the JAG programs in their regions.

Chair Wimer expressed that although he is in favor of funding the Coordinator positions through a grant this year, the Council and regions will need to look at a permanent funding source if the positions are to continue.

Chair Wimer made a motion to send a grant proposal for the Post Secondary and Community Outreach Coordinator to the SWIC grants committee and for DWD to investigate sustainable options for these positions in the future. This motion was seconded by Council member Hemmelgarn. The motion was approved by the Council members.

Mr. Brown asked the Council and Ms. Crist that Region 9 be included in the funding formula, as they will be looking to start a JAG program this year.

Mr. Guidry provided an update on Adult Basic Education (ABE) to the Council members. He has been working with Council member Fleck on ABE funding from the Federal and State governments. Mr. Guidry stated there are currently approximately over 40,000 adults enrolled in ABE courses in Indiana. Chamber of Commerce reports show over 100,000 adults have less than a 9th grade education.

Mr. Guidry also informed the Council that there is currently a RFA that would provide Regional Coordinators and Career Counselors to the regions. Award announcements should occur by July 1, 2010.

Chair Wimer thanked all in attendance.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 am.