

Youth Council Committee

SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

AD HOC COMMITTEE



March 10, 2009

3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

4071 Port Chicago Highway

Suite 250, Conf. Rm. A

Concord, CA 94520

YOUTH COUNCIL CHARTER

Charter Element	Charter Agreement Information
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support rigorous academic achievement for Contra Costa County’s youth. • Provide employment and training opportunities that lead to self esteem, the development of positive career goals and employment.
Case for Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth make up more than 30% of our county’s poorest areas. • 124% percent increase in poverty within a four year period. • Graduation rate has declined and is now lower than both the Bay Area and the State average.
Requirements	<p>The Youth Council’s action plan will contribute to the Workforce Development Board’s Strategic Plan.</p> <p>Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop policy that includes all youth, especially those most hard to serve • Support the development of a work ready certificate • Create linkages to apprenticeship programs
Boundaries / Guidelines	<p>The success of the Youth Council is dependent on its members taking the necessary initiative and responsibility for the continuity of the above objectives – with a view toward establishing best practices and communicating these successes in serving youth ages 14-21 years of age.</p> <p>The Youth Council will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach its work through the All Youth One System framework which is a comprehensive youth development approach; • Commit to healthy, crime and drug free communities through local partnerships that give economic and academic opportunities to youth.
Team Membership & Roles	<p>The Youth Council includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specified membership in accordance with the Workforce Investment Act • People who represent local youth interests • Workforce Development Board members <p>The success of the Youth Council is dependent upon the full participation and collective expertise of its members.</p>
Schedule/Timing	<p>The Committee meets monthly to monitor the progress toward the above goals. Ad Hoc Committees are established to engage in specific topics.</p>
Resources	<p>Committee members are the Youth Council’s most valuable resource. The Youth Council relies on guidance from Workforce Development Board Staff, youth in the community, and contributions from community partners for its achievement. Youth services are funding by WIA dollars.</p>
Review Process	<p>The Youth Council co-chairs are members of, and report to, the Executive Committee and the Workforce Development Board. Some members of the Youth Council hold a seat on the Workforce Development Board. The Committee and the WDB work at the behest of the County Board of Supervisors and the citizens and businesses of Contra Costa County. The Youth Council will review its Charter on an annual basis.</p>



Our Mission:

The Workforce Development Board of Contra Costa County exists to promote a workforce development system that meets the needs of businesses, job seekers, and workers in order to ensure a strong, vibrant economy in Contra Costa County.

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YOUTH COUNCIL

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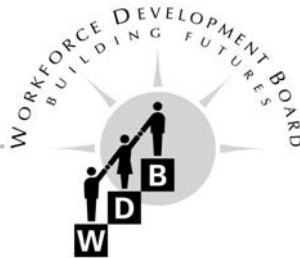
AD HOC COMMITTEE

AGENDA

- 3:00 PM CALL TO ORDER AND REMINDER OF POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST**
- PUBLIC COMMENT**
- 3:10 PM ACTION ITEMS**
- A1 Approve Implementation Plan for Summer Youth Employment Program**
- 4:30 PM SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURN**
- Tuesday, April 14, 2009 3 PM – 4:30 PM**

Any disclosable public records related to an open session item on a regular meeting agenda and distributed by the Workforce Development Board and any of its committees to a majority of members of the Workforce Development and/or its committees, less than 72 hours prior to that meeting are available and for public inspection at 2425 Bisso Lane, Suite 100, Concord during normal business hours.

The Workforce Development Board will provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities planning to attend Board meetings. Arrangements can be made by contacting the Board at 925-646-5239.



DATE: March 10, 2009

TO: SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM AD HOC COMMITTEE

FROM: Terri Shields, Workforce Development Board Staff

RE: **Implementation Plan for Summer Youth Employment Program**

Youth Council Strategic Objective: *Discuss, develop and present to the Board for action a plan for youth employment for summer 2009, expanding services throughout Contra Costa County.*

A. BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

With the authorization of the Workforce Investment Act, stand alone summer youth programs were abolished. However, realizing the importance of these programs, local workforce boards across the State and Country continued offering these services as a component of their year-round programs. Summer Youth programs offer paid work experience to youth who might not otherwise have an opportunity to learn what it is like to work. In addition to the work experience, other benefits for youth who are involved in these programs include: learning valuable vocational skills, earning money during the summer, lowered crime rates as idle time for youth is minimized and business benefits with an additional workforce for the summer months.

For the past two summers the WDB has worked together with the Richmond WIB in providing funding to serve youth adjacent to the city of Richmond who wish to participate in their summer youth employment program. This has provided jobs for up to 30 youth each summer (see minutes from April 1, 2008 Youth Council meeting). During the summer of 2008 it was expanded to serve non-WIA youth through fund raising efforts of WDB Staff.

The Youth Council's current contractors are required to build in a summer youth employment component as part of their contracts. The Contra Costa County Office of Education, which holds contracts to serve in-school youth in far-east, central and west Contra Costa County have a long standing summer youth employment program. This program partners with foster youth programs to combine resources and opportunities in such areas as environmental science and pre-engineering. Out of school youth providers combine any summer youth employment experience as a part of their year round services.

At the November 4, 2008 Youth Council Meeting the committee discussed criteria on which a summer youth program could be developed. Factors including youth population density, crime rate, job growth, income, and drop-out rate were considered in the discussion.

B. CURRENT SITUATION

The Youth Council established this Ad Hoc Committee at its February 3, 2009 meeting and charged the Ad Hoc with the task of approving an implementation plan for a summer youth employment program.

Prior to the formation of this Ad Hoc Committee, the Youth Council has looked at many criteria for determining a course of action for developing a summer youth employment plan that will meet the needs of youth throughout Contra Costa County. Data from the 2006 Performance Index for Contra Costa County, www.kidsdata.org, and the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department show overlap in criteria and key areas of the county.

East/Far East Contra Costa County shows the highest juvenile arrest rate for the county. It is also an area of the county where 30% of the population is under 18 years of age. Further, high school dropout rates for school districts in this part of the county are approaching 30%.

West Contra Costa County has a similar profile. While it is difficult to exclude the city of Richmond in regional statistics, the region shows 30% of the population as being under 18 years of age, and it has the second highest felony juvenile arrest rate. The school dropout rate for the West Contra Costa County Unified School District is a staggering 35%.

Central Contra Costa County shows signs of the same difficulty as the east/far east and west part of the county. Central county cities are included in the top ten crime rate cities in the county with four out of ten cities on the list. Mt. Diablo School district has an almost 22% dropout rate, placing it in line with the schools in east/far east and west Contra Costa County.

In addition to the data, the Youth Council has discussed developing a stand alone summer youth employment program beginning in the summer of 2009. While previous discussions required the need for additional fundraising to make this affordable, the passage of President Obama's Economic Stimulus Package brings additional funds to the Workforce Development Board specifically for this purpose. Even though we are not yet certain of the exact amount this workforce area will receive for this purpose, it is clear from the Department of Labor that the expectation for quick release of funds and activities begin within a narrow time frame. It is necessary, then, that this Ad Hoc Committee determine its precedence for delivery of summer youth employment services to Contra Costa County.

C. RECOMMENDATION

After committee discussions, community input, state and regional meetings, advice from workforce areas with existing summer youth employment programs, and research, Staff recommends that the voting members of this Ad Hoc propose a summer youth employment plan that will speak to the neediest youth in the county who can best benefit from the education and career development of a summer youth employment program.

1. Staff recommends the Ad Hoc propose that summer youth employment efforts be divided among the county based on the above criteria, and in this way:

- 40% of youth served through a stand alone summer youth employment program be from east/fart east Contra Costa County
- 40% of youth served through a stand alone summer youth employment program be from west Contra Costa County (excluding the city of Richmond)
- 20% of youth served through a stand alone summer youth employment program be from central Contra Costa County

This criterion will allow for any amount of money allocated for this project in any given year to be apportioned through the criteria established by the Youth Council, which is through crime rate, population and dropout rates.

2. Staff recommends that a full time special project director be hired for the year round effort that will result from launching a program of this scope and magnitude. Economic Stimulus money, while the exact amount is not known, will afford for a large scale program requiring additional staff, and the effort required to create a locally sustainable stand alone summer youth program.
3. Staff also recommends the use of existing providers who serve these communities to assist, and perhaps participate, in summer youth employment activities that go beyond what they are already contracted to provide in their year round services. Results of this discussion may yield a policy on summer youth employment and guide the development of city, regional and/or countywide program.

D. FISCAL IMPACT

The fiscal impact of this implementation plan is not known at this time as the exact amount of funding granted through Economic Stimulus dollars is not known. If this project is funded solely through these funds, the project is sustainable as long as the funds are applicable. It is anticipated that with the start of this plan, it can be developed into an more sustainable program, funded through other, local, fundraising.

E. SCHEDULE

Results of this Ad Hoc Committee will bring a recommendation to the Workforce Development Board's March 23, 2009 meeting for approval. At this time, full planning for Summer 2009 implementation will take place.