

MINNESOTA SHARED VISION FOR YOUTH



SVY STATE TEAM MEETING

Thursday, April 11, 2013

1:30 pm

LOCATION:

Minnesota Department of Education
Conference Center A, Room CC 3-4
1500 Highway 36 West
Roseville, MN 55369

MEETING NOTES

1. Welcome and Introductions

The following team members attended the meeting: Cate Smith Edlund (Job Corps), Carrie Wasley (DPS-Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee), Alyssa Klein (DEED-Vocational Rehabilitation Services), Sean Roy & Deborah Leuchovius (PACER Center), Kathleen Hiniker (DHS-Adolescent Services), Eva Scates-Winston (MnSCU), Lynn Douma (DEED–Youth Services), Anne Fischer (DEED-Youth Services), Leila Farah (DHS–MFIP), Jayne Spain (MDE–Special Education Policy), Joani Werner (Social Security Administration), LaChelle Williams (Junior Achievement), Mike Newman (DEED-State Services for the Blind), Brad Hasskamp (MDE-Adult Basic Education)

2. Presentation on the Virtual WorkForce Center

Rick Roy from DEED was unable to attend due to poor weather and travel conditions. His presentation will be rescheduled for the next meeting.

3. Update on Minnesota Youth Forum

Eric Billiet from the Minnesota Department of Education's Office of Safe and Healthy Learners was unable to attend due to poor weather and travel conditions. His update will be rescheduled for the next meeting.

4. Update on April Financial Literacy Month Activities

LaChelle Williams from Junior Achievement (JA) provided an update on JA's involvement in April's Financial Literacy Month activities. A Department of Commerce press release and calendar of Financial Literacy Month activities was included in the meeting packet for members. Department of Commerce Commissioner Rothman visited JA's Biztown facility with Commissioner Cassellius from the Department of Education on April 2 as part of "Youth

Week” activities. The remaining weeks of April have been designated as “Higher Ed Week”, “Families Week”, and “Seniors Week” respectively. LaChelle briefly reviewed the three pillars of JA programming: financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and college and career readiness. JA works to create a bridge between business and the community in a variety of venues (i.e. school, community and JA spaces).

5. Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) Update

Anne Fischer, the MN DEI Project Lead at DEED, provided an update on the project’s activities. The meeting packet included a DEI Project Snapshot, describing a bit about the three implementation sites and the activities of PACER Center, a key project partner. Each of the three sites has now hired a local Disability Resource Coordinator and implementation of the project continues to move forward. Additional information about the DEI project is available from the project’s webpage:

http://www.positivelyminnesota.com/All_Programs_Services/Office_of_Youth_Development/MN_DEI/index.aspx

6. Update on 2012 Teen Parent Project

Lynn Douma from DEED shared information about the 2012 Teen Parent Project which was funded with approximately \$250,000 in Supported Work funding from DHS. The project served teen parents between the ages of 14 and 21 who were receiving cash Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) benefits. The project ran from 6/1/12 to 12/31/12 and provided paid work experience to 172 teen parents, many of whom had little or no previous work experience. A summary of the project with participant success stories was included in the meeting packets.

7. Update from State Services for the Blind

Mike Newman provided some basic information about State Services for the Blind (SSB). Despite its name, most SSB consumers are not actually blind but rather visually impaired. SSB serves about 800 consumers a year statewide, with about 100 of them being transition age students. SSB has sixteen counselors statewide with an average caseload of about 50. Mike distributed a list of counselors and the geographic areas they cover. The services provided are the same as through Vocational Rehabilitation Services, with the difference being that eligibility is based on the participant having a visual impairment. Visual impairment consists of one or more of the following: 1) central visual acuity of 20/60 or less in the better eye with best correction; 2) the absence of at least one full quadrant of binocular visual field; 3) a physical condition or progressive loss of visual ability that will more likely than not result in legal blindness. Also, if a consumer is receiving Social Security benefits on the basis of a visual impairment they are presumed eligible for SSB services.

8. Update from Social Security Administration

Joani Werner shared several pieces of information with the team:

- 1) Social Security field offices have reduced the hours they are open to the public in an effort to reduce workload backlogs. Field offices are now closing 30 minutes earlier on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Fridays, and at noon on Wednesdays.
- 2) The list of most popular baby names for 2011 has been updated and is available on www.ssa.gov.
- 3) My Social Security allows individuals to create a personal online account which allows them to review Social Security earnings records and get estimates of retirement, disability and survivors benefits. Beneficiaries can also use My Social Security to get a benefit verification letter or 1099 tax form, change address and phone number and start or change direct deposit of their benefit payment. Individuals who work with SSA or SSI beneficiaries

are encouraged to assist their clients to create a My Social Security account on the www.ssa.gov website.

4) Beneficiaries who are under age 22 and regularly attending school are allowed to exclude some of their earnings from income when Social Security determines whether benefits should be reduced. In 2013 the amount is \$1,730 a month up to a yearly maximum of \$6,960. Remind young people to report both their student status and earnings to Social Security if they are receiving benefits. Work also allows young people to earn Social Security earnings credits so they can qualify for Social Security benefits on their own earnings record in the future.

5) Young people with disabilities who transition out of foster care can apply for SSI up to 90 days before their 18th birthday if their foster care payments will be ending at that time.

9. Update on Juvenile Justice Activities

Carrie Wasley from the Office of Justice Programs at the Department of Public Safety updated the team on the Youth Opportunity Act (HF392/SF286) in the Minnesota Legislature. This bill makes some changes to Minnesota law regarding juvenile records so that juveniles are held accountable for their actions but not unnecessarily held back from employment and other opportunities in the future. The bill is currently still alive and waiting further action by the Legislature.

Carrie also a brief summary of President Obama's proposed budget for federal juvenile justice funding. Overall the President's proposal for FY 2014 provides an increase in funding over FY 2013 of about \$50 million, but this amount is still almost 50% below the 2002 funding levels.

Carrie also distributed "Think First" cards to the team which help educate young people about collateral consequences that can come along with having a juvenile record. These cards have been funded by the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee and if members are interested in getting cards for distribution to youth through their networks they can contact Carrie at Carrie.Wasley@state.mn.us.

10. Update on Job Corps

Cate Smith Edlund from the Hubert H. Humphrey Job Corps Center (HHHJCC) updated the team on the Job Corps funding situation. In 2010, Job Corps moved under the Employment and Training Administration at the U.S. Department of Labor, resulting in major changes in leadership and staff at DOL. From 2010 to mid-2012 the program's budget was not monitored as closely as it had been previously and a large deficit accumulated. In January 2013, new admissions were frozen nationwide until further notice; the suspension of new admissions was lifted in late April. During the admissions freeze, HHHJCC fared better than some centers because HHHJCC has more English Language Learners who tend to stay on center longer, however the center did lose population as students graduated and open spots went unfilled. As a result of the sequester and adjustments to address the budget deficit, HHHJCC capacity has been reduced from 292 to 228. Admissions staff is now working with a backlog of applicants to fill the open spots. Changes in operations have resulted in budgetary savings and letters are circulating in the House and Senate in support of the restoration of complete funding for 2014.

11. Follow-up to Webinar on Partnering with Business & Industry and Community-Based Organizations

Eva Scates-Winston from the Chancellor's Office at Mn State Colleges and Universities is interested in hearing from team members who have ideas about topics and issues relating to helping students access college and the workplace that could be offered in a webinar. A

recent webinar focused on education/workplace partnerships. Members who have ideas to share with Eva can contact her at Eva.Scates-Winston@so.mnscu.edu.

12. Adult Basic Education Update

Brad Hasskamp from Minnesota Department of Education informed the group that due to upcoming changes in the GED testing process, anyone currently working on a GED must complete all the testing by the end of December 2013 or start over under the new system. The new test will be entirely computer-based starting January 2014; paper and pencil testing will be available only in limited circumstances.