

MINNESOTA SHARED VISION FOR YOUTH



SHARED VISION FOR YOUTH STATE TEAM MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Hubert H. Humphrey Job Corps Center, St. Paul, MN

Welcome and Introductions

The following team members and guests attended the meeting: Cate Smith Edlund (Humphrey Job Corps Center); Steve Vonderharr (MN Department of Human Services-Adolescent Services); Len Price (Conservation Corps); Jayne Spain (MN Department of Education-Special Education); Andrea Simonett (MN Department of Human Services-Office of Economic Opportunity); Cammy Lehr and Lan Huang (MN Alliance with Youth-GradMinnesota); Joe Timmons (University of MN-Institute on Community Integration); Sean Roy (PACER Center); Kay Tracy, Larry Eisenstadt, and Lynn Douma (MN Department of Employment & Economic Development-Youth Development); Mike Newman and Sheila Koenig (MN Department of Employment & Economic Development-State Services for the Blind); Alyssa Klein (MN Department of Employment and Economic Development-Vocational Rehabilitation Services); Michelle Ufford (Northeast MN Office of Job Training); Roberto Reyes (MN Department of Education-Homeless, Neglected and Delinquent Education); Rebecca Gilgen and Luis Salado-Herrera (Brooklyn Bridge Alliance for Youth); Paul Meunier (Youth Intervention Programs Association)

Job Corps Update

Cate Smith Edlund reported that there are increased security protocols at the center, required by the Department of Labor in response to recent shooting incidents at educational institutions. Access to the grounds is restricted, all guests and students must sign in and be accounted for, and some guests are subject to search for weapons.

She also reported that their student population is down by about 50 students, so team members are encouraged to spread the word and refer young people who may be good candidates for the program. Approximately 75 percent of students complete the program and about 94 percent are placed in jobs.

Debbie Hoppe is the new Director of the Humphrey Job Corps Center, replacing David McKenzie who retired. Debbie is the former Academic Director at the Center. Debbie may be contacted at Hoppe.Debbie@jobcorps.org. Cate is leaving her position at the center in mid-December.

Heading Home: Minnesota's Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness Update

Andrea Simonett provided an update on the Heading Home plan, which was originally released in December 2013 for a two-year period. An interagency team has been working to update the plan for

2016-17. Andrea explained that the goal of preventing and ending homelessness does not mean that homelessness will not occur at all. Rather, the goal is that every community will have a systematic response in place so that when an individual or family becomes homeless, it is rare, brief and does not recur. The guiding vision has not changed from the original plan, however the strategies and actions have been modified. The plan is organized with eight priorities cutting across all populations (e.g. housing that is affordable, etc.), and goals for four specific populations (veterans, chronically homeless single adults, unaccompanied youth, and families with children). Population specific goals for the plan have not changed – the goal is still to end chronic homelessness for youth unaccompanied by a parent or guardian by 2020 and homelessness for unaccompanied minors by 2017. The focus of the plan is what the state can do in a leading role and what is feasible within the two-year period of the plan.

The draft plan is available from the [Minnesota Housing website](#) and public comments are being accepted on the plan until January 14, 2016. Comments may be e-mailed to Amy Stetzel at amy.stetzel@state.mn.us. The goal is to release the final updated plan at the end of January.

DHS Adolescent Services Update

Steve Vonderharr reported on efforts to develop a normalcy & prudent parenting standard for foster care providers. Currently many foster care providers limit the participation of their foster youth in activities such as extracurriculars, sports, drivers training, etc. for fear that if something happens to the youth while participating the foster parent would be held liable. DHS is looking at changing the law to protect the foster parent from liability if prudent decisions are made with regard to allowing the youth to participate in activities that would be typical for their age.

Steve also reported that a Child Foster Care Work Group is addressing issues related to recruitment, licensing and training of foster care providers. There are some factors leading to the need for more foster care providers: Minnesota is screening more calls in for child protection as a result of recent child abuse cases in the news, with greater emphasis on the front end of the child protection system; and payment rates have changed for foster care placement, adoption assistance and relative care under the Northstar Care payment structure. Payment rates have been lowered for foster care placements and increased for adoption and relative care, which may affect some individuals' ability/interest to serve as a foster care provider.

Grad Minnesota Update

Cammy Lehr updated the team on Grad Minnesota activities, including the receipt of a state activation grant in September from America's Promise Alliance and Pearson to support the initiative's work to increase Minnesota's graduation rates to 90%. The grant will support Cammy's part-time staff position with the Minnesota Alliance with Youth and efforts to highlight successful strategies/initiatives in improving graduation rates.

Grad Minnesota is also active in legislative advocacy and is supporting and tracking key legislation, including a statewide student data system or "data backpack" which would be especially helpful for highly mobile students. More information about the Grad Minnesota policy recommendations can be found on the [Grad Minnesota website](#). SVY team members are welcome to attend Grad Minnesota advisory team meetings. Information about these meetings is also on the website.

Brooklyn Bridge Alliance for Youth Overview

Executive Director Rebecca Gilgen introduced the team to the Brooklyn Bridge Alliance for Youth, a joint powers agreement between the City of Brooklyn Center, City of Brooklyn Park, Hennepin County and school districts of Osseo, Brooklyn Center, Robbinsdale and Anoka-Hennepin. The Alliance works to ensure that all youth ages 10-19 living or attending school in Brooklyn Center or Brooklyn Park have access to high-quality, well-resourced after school and summer programs that help them graduate from high school, find pathways to college and career, and reduce their experience of violence.

Luis Salado-Herrera, Youth Employment Coordinator, provided an overview of BrookLynk, the Alliance's youth employment program for 14-19 year old youth that was launched in 2015. This program was created in response to data from 2014 indicating that 61 percent of youth in "the Brooklyns" were not engaged in summer programming, and 54 percent of youth were interested in job skills, workforce development and jobs. There was also a recognition that employers in the Brooklyns would be facing a severe labor shortage in the coming years and were interested in developing their future workforce from within the community. BrookLynk was modeled after the City of Minneapolis's successful STEP-UP youth employment program. The program includes both a work readiness training component and an opportunity to apply for paid summer internships with local employers. In 2015, 234 youth registered for BrookLynk, 80 youth completed work readiness training, 29 youth were matched to internship opportunities and 25 youth completed the entire summer internship. Eighty percent of the interns were low income and thirty percent will be first generation college students. The Alliance is working to expand youth and employer participation in 2016. More information about the Alliance and BrookLynk can be found on the [Alliance's website](#).

Youth Intervention Programs Association (YIPA) Overview

Paul Meunier, YIPA Executive Director, shared an overview of YIPA activities. The major roles of YIPA include training/resources and support for youth service professionals and advocacy. The organization has implemented a social enterprise model and has significantly reduced its reliance on government and philanthropic support. Previously the organization was 98 percent dependent upon such support, now it is down to about 50 percent. The organization has seen a 40 percent growth in membership since implementing the social enterprise model, and now counts about 300 members. YIPA has also revamped its training structure, and is providing more options for trainings. Most in-person trainings are streamed online and also recorded and saved in a training library. Online trainings have surpassed in-person trainings, as they offer more flexible and cost-effective options for organizations. There is no fee for the trainings provided, they are included in the cost of YIPA membership. YIPA also offers a Youth Intervention Certification program, covering eight core competencies and thirteen hours of training. YIPA's other key function is to advocate for state Youth Intervention Program (YIP) funding. Currently 79 grantees receive an average of \$42,000 per year. YIPA's goal is to increase state YIP funding to \$25 million by 2025. More information can be found on the [YIPA website](#).

PACER Center Update

Sean Roy informed the team that [PACER's National Parent Center on Transition and Employment website](#) has a variety of resources available, including 75 different handouts on many different topics and success stories to help families see that success is possible for youth with disabilities.

Post-secondary education options for students with intellectual disabilities are expanding. The [Think College website](#) contains a directory of college programs for students with intellectual disabilities and other resources.

PACER has been providing workshops for families on integrated competitive employment in support of the state's Olmstead Plan and Employment First. PACER has also been doing a lot of work nationally on the topic of family engagement in special education.

McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Programs Update

Roberto Reyes provided handouts summarizing the McKinney-Vento Act requirements for providing education to children and youth who are homeless. The act requires public schools, including charter schools, to provide services that remove barriers to enrollment, attendance and educational success of homeless students. Each school district has a homeless liaison who can serve as a point of contact to help homeless students enroll and address barriers to attending school, such as transportation. Most transportation costs in excess of usual costs for the district can be reimbursed by state funds for homeless students. Roberto also distributed demographic and attendance data for homeless students in Minnesota for 2013, 2014, 2015 school years. Roberto is the contact person on Homeless Education at MN Department of Education and can be reached at Roberto.reyes@state.mn.us or 651-582-8302.

DEED Office of Youth Development Update

Kay Tracy provided an update on the three Regional Youth Practitioners' Meetings held in Mankato, St. Cloud and St. Paul to support the implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Young Adult Program. Sara Hastings from US Dept. of Labor and Chris Warland from Heartland Alliance provided an update on the national perspective. Representatives from the local Workforce Service Areas shared local best practices on career pathways, recruiting out-of-school youth, private sector internship models, use of integrated resource teams, restorative justice models, youth apprenticeship, and other strategies to support MN's successful implementation of WIOA. The Search Institute partnered in the three regional workshops serving over 150 youth practitioners statewide. The metro session was co-hosted by the Pohlad Foundation and the Pohlad grantees serving opportunity youth joined in the discussion of local best practices. Kay indicated that Minnesota Workforce Service Areas have been successful in ramping up services to out-of-school youth during the PY2015 transition year. More information, including handouts from the regional meetings, is available from the [WIOA Young Adult Program webpage](#).

Minnesota is closing out the three-year Partners for Youth Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) which ran from 2012-15. Lynn Douma distributed a copy of the MN Partners for Youth "Lessons Learned" document which highlights the effective combination of practices incorporated into the project from the perspective of the project's Disability Resource Coordinators, youth program administrators, Vocational Rehabilitation Services counselors, state steering committee members and PACER Center staff. More information about the project is contained on the [MN DEI webpage](#).

Larry Eisenstadt indicated that Youthprise, a recipient of a \$ 3 million Social Innovation Fund grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service, had conducted workshops throughout the state assisting potential responders to an already issued RFP called Opportunity Reboot. Youthprise will issue 6-8 grants (minimum \$100,000 with a dollar for dollar match of non-Federal funds) statewide that will support efforts to serve disconnected youth. Disconnected youth are those who are neither working nor in school. The effort is to assist these youth to become economically and socially self-sufficient. DEED and Search Institute are partners in this endeavor. Visit the [Youthprise website](#) for more information.

Conservation Corps Update

Len Price announced his retirement as Executive Director of Conservation Corps effective December 31, 2015. A national search is being conducted for his successor and the new director is expected to be named in the spring. Until a new director is on board, Eric Antonson, Program Director for Youth and Individual Placement Programs, will be the contact for the Shared Vision for Youth team. Eric can be reached at eric.antonson@conservationcorps.org.

Next Meeting

The next Shared Vision for youth state team meeting will be scheduled for the spring of 2016.