

MINNESOTA SHARED VISION FOR YOUTH



SVY STATE TEAM MEETING Wednesday, December 11, 2013 9:30 am to Noon

LOCATION:

Department of Human Services
444 Lafayette Road, Room 4148
St. Paul, MN 55155

MEETING NOTES

1. Welcome and Introductions

The following team members and guests attended the meeting: Cate Smith Edlund (Job Corps); Carrie Wasley (DPS-Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee); Alyssa Klein (DEED-Vocational Rehabilitation Services); Steve Vonderharr (DHS-Adolescent Services); Kay Tracy and Lynn Douma (DEED–Youth Services); Jayne Spain (MDE–Special Education Policy); Jenny Javitch (Big Brothers Big Sisters); Deborah Leuchovius and Sean Roy (PACER Center); Joani Werner (Social Security Administration); Len Price (Conservation Corps Minnesota); Tom Balsley (DHS-Office of Economic Opportunity); Jane Delage (DHS-Minnesota Family Investment Program); Kathryn Bique (MnDOT-Office of Civil Rights); Eric Billiet (MDE-Safe and Healthy Learners); Denise Felder (ISEEK); Joe Timmons (U of MN-Institute on Community Integration); Sarah Dixon (MN Alliance With Youth)

2. Update on Minnesota’s Proposal for a Model Intervention for Youth and Young Adults with Child Welfare Involvement At-Risk of Homelessness

Steve Vonderharr provided an overview of the new planning grant recently awarded to DHS to develop a model intervention for youth/young adults with child welfare involvement who are at-risk of homelessness. Eighteen proposals were funded and Minnesota is one of five states selected. The two-year grant will provide \$360,000 per year to develop a set of service interventions consistent with the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) Intervention Model. The model will look at three distinct points of engagement: 1) Adolescents who enter foster care between the ages of 14 and 17; 2) Young adults aging out of foster care ages 18-21; and 3) Homeless youth/young adults with foster care histories (30 consecutive days in foster care or more) prior to age 21. The model will include analysis of the available data to understand who is most at risk for homelessness and will emphasize scaling up practices that have been shown through research to be effective and scaling back those which have not. The core outcomes to be addressed are social/emotional wellbeing, stable housing, education/employment, and permanent connections. Minnesota will apply for a Phase II grant to implement the proposed intervention developed during the planning phase. Five to six applications will be funded in Phase II at a level of \$1 million per year for five years.

3. Presentation on GradMinnesota and Minnesota Youth Council Summits

Sarah Dixon from Minnesota Alliance With Youth provided a brief overview of the GradMinnesota initiative, which is an outgrowth of the GradNation Campaign, led by America's Promise Alliance. The Minnesota Alliance With Youth, Minnesota Department of Education, and Office of Governor Mark Dayton are working to mobilize youth, parents, schools, communities, public and nonpublic organizations statewide to improve educational outcomes, with goals of a 90% graduation rate by 2020 and increase in post-secondary attainment. The initiative leaders will be developing specific strategies and benchmarks in early 2014. Minnesota was designated the first "Grad State" by America's Promise. Funding from State Farm and AT&T is helping support these efforts.

Sarah also reported on the Minnesota Youth Council Summits being held in each Congressional district. These summits support the GradMinnesota efforts as they are focused on raising awareness and finding solutions to dropout issues and the achievement gap. The Metro Area Summit (for Congressional Districts 4 & 5 was held on December 10. This was preceded by summits in three districts in November and the remaining three will be held in January. The results of the summits will be synthesized into a call to action to be presented to policy makers. The series of regional summits will culminate in a statewide summit on June 13, 2014.

More information about GradNation (including a link to the "Building a GradNation" report) can be found at: <http://www.americaspromise.org/Our-Work/Grad-Nation.aspx>.

Information about the GradMinnesota initiative can be found at: <http://mnyouth.net/work/gradminnesota/>

4. Presentation from University of Minnesota, Institute on Community Integration

Joe Timmons from the Institute on Community Integration (ICI) at the University of Minnesota provided an overview of ICI's work. ICI is a part of the University's College of Education and Human Development and serves as a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD). Each state has one or more UCEDD – in most states the UCEDD is part of a medical school so Minnesota's arrangement is somewhat unique. The work of ICI starts from the premise that all youth need certain things, with youth with disabilities needing certain additional supports. ICI's work focuses on collaborative research, training, and information sharing. Information available on the ICI website (www.ici.umn.edu) along with other related projects, may be of interest to SVY team members. Some of the projects and websites highlighted included: National Center on Secondary Education and Transition (www.ncset.org); National Alliance on Secondary Education and Transition (www.nasetalliance.org); National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth (www.ncwd-youth.info); Check and Connect (www.checkandconnect.umn.edu). Additional information about ICI and other projects they have been involved with can be found at the ICI website.

5. Social Security Administration Update

Joani Werner reminded the team that students who are receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits can earn up to \$1,750 per month/\$7,060 per year in 2014 without the earnings impacting their benefits. Information about this student earned income exclusion can be found online at: <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssi/spotlights/spot-student-earned-income.htm>. Joani also pointed out that SSA has a focus on serving individuals who are homeless and has a resource page for those beneficiaries at: <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssi/spotlights/spot-homeless.htm>

6. Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC) Update

Carrie Wasley updated the team on the recent activities of the JJAC, which is responsible for advising the Governor and Legislature on juvenile justice issues. The U.S. Supreme Court has recently issued two decisions affecting juvenile justice: 1) a determination that the death penalty for juveniles is unconstitutional, and 2) a determination that mandatory juvenile life without parole (LWOP) is unconstitutional. JJAC will be working in the next couple months to formulate a position and recommendation for the Legislature and Governor with regards to the second decision as Minnesota currently has eight juveniles incarcerated with a sentence of life without parole.

Carrie also reported that federal Title V funding for community crime prevention has been eliminated and the overall federal juvenile justice funding has been cut close to 90% since 2002.

7. Conservation Corps Minnesota Update

Len Price reported that Conservation Corps expects to have 600 corps members in 2014 – this is in comparison to 2005 when there were 150 members. The Corps has benefitted from funding through the Minnesota Legacy Amendment. Youth who are interested in applying to be a corps member can be referred to the website for information about openings:

<http://www.conservationcorps.org/>

8. ISEEK Update

Denise Felder reported that ISEEK still has copies of the 2013 edition of MN Careers and will be giving them away to organizations that couldn't ordinarily afford to buy them.

Denise also updated the team on the Minnesota College and Career Readiness Collaborative. The collaborative has six subcommittees which are meeting to develop recommendations and resource lists to help partners have more comprehensive career planning resources. The state team will be meeting via webinar on January 22, 2014. Contact Denise for more information or to be added to the e-mail list at Denise.Felder@iseek.org.

Information on over 800 careers is now featured on www.iseek.org. The site also indicates whether a career has specific physical demands and strengths required.

9. Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) Update

Kathy Bique shared that MnDOT has resources available for On-the Job Training (OJT) opportunities in heavy construction. She will share more information at the next meeting.

10. Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) Partners for Youth Update

Kay Tracy and Lynn Douma from DEED gave an update on Minnesota's DEI project, Partners for Youth. The three implementation regions (Rural MN CEP in North Central MN, South Central Workforce Council centered in Mankato, and Southeast Workforce Development, Inc. based in Rochester) have been enrolling youth participants (ages 14-24 with a disability and at least one additional at-risk characteristic) into the project since August 1st. To date 63 youth have been enrolled. DEI participants are co-enrolled in other programs (Workforce Investment Act, Minnesota Youth Program, Minnesota Family Investment Program, Vocational Rehabilitation, and other local programs). Integrated Resource Team meetings are being held to coordinate resources and address the needs of the DEI participants. Additional information about the DEI, including a project fact sheet and information about the activities underway in the

implementation sites can be found at the DEI webpage: <http://mn.gov/deed/programs-services/office-youth-development/index/disability-employment-initiative/index.jsp>

11. Shared Vision for Youth Resource Directory and Blueprint

DEED staff is in the process of updating the Shared Vision for Youth Resource Directory and Blueprint based upon the information provided by SVY team members. These documents are very helpful in communicating the activities and coordination occurring through the SVY partnership but have not been updated in quite some time. SVY Team members will be receiving these documents via e-mail and are asked to review and update the content relating to their organizations.

12. New Member

Sara Hollie, the State Adolescent Health Coordinator at the Department of Health, has joined the SVY team and will be giving an update at the next meeting.

13. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the SVY state team will be held in May. If there is a team member who would like to host the May meeting please contact Kay Tracy at Kay.Tracy@state.mn.us. We look forward to seeing you in the spring.