

YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board

41 Lewis Street, Geneva, NY 14456

Monday, November 4, 2013

ATTENDANCE: **Members:** Menzo Case, Eileen Rucinski, Erika Martin, Chris Edgar, John Donohue, Patty D'Amico, Betsy Russell-Orr, and Michael Whirtley (for Peg Birmingham), Kathy Templar

Staff: Pat Gopen, Dinah Brennan

Guests: Marsha Foote, Loree Martin, Cathy Lovejoy, Melanie Hoyt (Ontario County Youth), Jackie Tongette (Yates County Youth)

ABSENT: **Members:** Brandon Mead, Marisa Pennetta, Valerie Mallard, Chris Keear, Johnny Robinson, Tom Facer, Karen Beals, Christy Wentz, Brian Young

CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS: The meeting was called to order at 4:05pm. Introductions were made.

MEMBERSHIP: Ms. Martin reported on membership committee updates. Ms. Jennie Erdle, Director of Student Life at FLCC, will be joining the Youth Council as soon as the full Board approves the Resolution of Appointment. Ms. Sarah Rowe will no longer be with the Red Cross, thus giving her resignation from the Youth Council. Ms. Eileen Rucinski is no longer with Kelly Services and will become a Youth Council at-large member. Ms. Martin noted that the membership committee is seeking a new member to fill the "Tech. Prep" opening on the council (Tech. Prep will be considered as a vocational instructor). Michael Whirtley has been referred by Ms. Birmingham to represent her when she is not able to be present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Ms. Russell-Orr motioned to approve the September minutes as written, seconded by Mr. Donahue. All in favor, motion carried.

TREND ALERT: Mr. Whirtley gave the trend alert on behalf of Ms. McGrimley. Mr. Whirtley discussed mental health disabilities amongst youth in the four county regions. He noted in Seneca County, out of the 45 youth Ms. McGrimley had, 36 of them had some type of mental health disability. The Seneca County Youth Bureau has a contract with Seneca County Mental Health to assist these youth. The partnerships are in place to help serve these young people. A discussion on the topic of concerns and solutions was had amongst all county representatives on the council.

Guest Speaker: Cathy Lovejoy of Lakeview Mental Health Services discussed the services and processes Lakeview provides to their six county areas (Ontario, Seneca, Wayne, Yates, Livingston, and Tompkins). The center has seen an influx in referrals for young adults from ages 18-22 in recent months. Lakeview provides housing services, both residential and supported. Discussion about services and how to contact Lakeview was had. Any questions please contact Cathy Lovejoy at (315) 789-5501 ext.2217 or at clovejoy@lakeviewmhs.org.

YOUTH PROGRAMS UPDATE:

- Ms. Gopen noted that the first quarter is completed and performance seems to be going well. The goals are higher than the last program year, thus creating a challenge to reach them. The new equivalency test, TASC, will create a challenge for meeting the goals due to the testing academic.
- **FAME** has been holding tours for middle school and high school students. Ms. Rucinski noted that the students are given questions to answer throughout touring the advanced manufacturing facilities.

Afterward, the students write essays. The best essay is chosen by a FAME board member to win a plaque.

- **Finger Lakes Works...with their hands!** – Ms. Gopen noted the event went really well. The committee just had their post-event meeting. Good discussion was had. O’Connell Electric participated for the first year and would like to become a sponsor for next year.
- A panel discussion will be held Friday, November 8th for Finger Lakes Guidance Counselors on IT/Tech Middle Skills careers and training. This will be the 3rd panel held (previously, Advanced Manufacturing and Healthcare) and a 4th will be held in the spring for Skilled Trade Careers.

Committee Updates

- Mr. Edgar discussed the process of RFP’s for funding will begin soon. They will need to be ready by February 2014 release. RFP’s will be brought to the Youth Council on May 2nd for approval. Then brought to the FLWIB Executive Committee on May 4th. Anyone who would like to help, as part of the Performance and Evaluation Committee for Youth Council, is welcome to contact Mr. Edgar. This sub-committee will meet several times to prepare and release the RFP.
- Ms. Gopen passed around a list of the Youth Council members and which sub-committee they are a part of. She encouraged the members to join a sub-committee, if not already committed to one.

A round table discussion was held regarding various upcoming events and announcements.

- Mr. Case discussed the opening of a café next to the new Generations Bank headquarters in Seneca Falls. This project will involve Waterloo and Seneca Falls High School students creating a business plan for the café. The different groups of students will plan, implement the plan, gain feedback, and analyze the results over the next few years.
- Mr. Case noted Generations Bank is applying for an Explorer group within the bank.
- Ms. Foote re-introduced Ontario County Youth, Melanie Hoyt, and noted she started an OJT with FLACRA. Melanie also created the PowerPoint presentation for the Youth Summer Program, which will be shown at the January Youth Council meeting. Four other young men from Ontario County have also started Youth OJT’s.
- Mr. Donahue noted that like Generations Bank, Penn Yan Academy is in negotiations to implement the Explorer Program.
- Mr. Donahue announced that FLCC will now allow Finger Lakes high school students to take college credit courses called “Gemini Courses” at no cost.

Meeting Adjourned.

The next Youth Council meeting will be held on Monday, January 6, 2013 in Conference Room B, Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board, 41 Lewis Street, Geneva, 4:00-5:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dinah Brennan
Executive Assistant, FLWIB.