



## WIA YOUTH COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING

MPS Central Office  
5225 W. Vliet Street  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
Superintendent Conference Room  
Thursday, December 1, 2005  
12:00 PM

---

---

### NOTE: PENDING COUNCIL APPROVAL

**Members:** Chair William Andrekopoulos, Carol Sample, Gary Williams and Ray Yankus standing in for Lauren Baker.

**PIC Staff:** Chytania Brown, Tarra Johnson, Quinttez Gurndy and Sharron Briggs

**Visitors:** Kathleen Murphy (MPS), Andrew Ellis, Max Loos and Arlee Vang (Members of the City of Milwaukee Youth Council) and Trina Schuyler (Spotted Eagle)

### MINUTES

Chair William Andrekopoulos called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. Following the introductory period, Mr. Andrekopoulos moved to **Agenda Item I**, the Approval of September 9, 2005 minutes. Since there were no committee members present at the last committee meeting, Mr. Andrekopoulos asked that Lauren Baker and Jovo Potkonjak review the minutes to ensure that they are correct and reflect the actual September 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### I. Approval of September 9, 2005 Minutes

**Motion to approve**

**Carol Sample**

*None opposed, motion carried*

#### II. Health Initiative in MPS

Mr. Andrekopoulos expressed concerns about the alarming statistics on the impact of poverty in the community and of MPS students' health. Chronic illnesses that children face are rapidly increasing and have a negative impact on attendance and on our youth. MPS received \$2.5 million from the Gates Foundation to address this issue. Pulaski and Bradley Tech. will be working to create small health learning communities, and the outcome of their work will be assessed methodologically. The nutritional, health care and mental health need of youth are staggering. To assist many of the students, Washington High School set up an area to provide youth with dental cleanings, screenings and other preventative care. Mr. Andrekopoulos further stated that to serve youth well in this community we must provide a solid public health infrastructure and make it available to them.

Another challenge facing MPS is finding ways to get more youth into our community colleges and apprenticeship programs. Due to the lack of basic skills and education, construction and other industries will be going outside the community to fill their jobs needs. It is critical for students to complete their high school education. For example, the life expectancy of high school dropouts is calculated to be 9.2% less than someone with a high school diploma.

Kathleen Murphy, RN Health Services Coordinator for MPS presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Milwaukee Public Schools health initiative. She provided a spreadsheet showing different schools and what direct health services are provided in these schools. A summary of her presentation is as follows:

- *Asthma rates of 18% (higher than the national average, which is 11-14%)*
- *Increasing incidence of diabetes (1 in 400, and a dramatic increase in Type 2 diabetes which is now showing up in youth as young as 6 or 7 years. Type 2 diabetes in adults is associated with those who are overweight and inactive)*
- *Medically fragile children with special needs (This program offers educational information to schools with students that have significant healthcare needs)*
- *Racial and ethnic health care disparities*
- *Oral health crisis (51 million school hours a year are lost to oral health issues and there are only 10 to 12 Medicaid providers in the City of Milwaukee)*
- *Mental health (mental health is the number two hospitalization reason for youth ages 0-6, but it's the number one for youth ages 6-8)*

School health services are needed to help reduce health-related absenteeism, reduce or eliminate health related barriers to learning, and fulfill state school health mandates. Services, such as vision screenings and managing diabetes, will ultimately help youth do better in school. Other needs are dental screenings, lice care, communicable disease management, substance intervention and human growth and development.

Comprehensive Coordinated School Health (CDC Model Centers for Disease Control & Prevention) is an evidence-based model used by MPS. In 2002, MPS had a nurse to student ratio of 1 to 8,500. With the collaborative efforts of the different partnerships, the ratio for 2005 is 1 to 5,937. MPS is trying to find more resources to have nurses in each school to better address the basic needs of our youth. MPS schools have the following resources within the schools:

- *Physical education teachers*
- *Nutrition services and partners to provide nutritional services during the summer months (Harley Davison has repeatedly donated \$45,000 during the summer months to provide food for MPS youth.)*
- *Counseling, Psychological and Social Services*
- *Healthy school environment – defibrillators are being put in all MPS schools to help keep students, staff and visitors safe. (MPS has received \$130,000 from the Masonic Order and Northwest Mutual Life Insurance Foundation to put defibrillators in the schools.)*
- *Health Promotion for Staff – partner with the EPA to do indoor air quality for schools and run flu clinics for staff to assist in keeping them healthy.*

Many of the problems that face our youth are due to lack of appropriate health insurance for the family. Carol Sample stated that we must advocate for a more humane Badger Health Care system. Badger Health Care is good but it's not enough, especially for working parents whose modest salaries make them ineligible for Badger Care. Preventive healthcare is the key. If families had access to preventive healthcare through insurance, many health problems would dissipate. She suggested that MPS advocate within the Wisconsin Legislature to broaden the criteria so that additional lower-income families could be eligible for insurance.

### **III. City of Milwaukee Youth Council**

Arlee Vang, Andrew Ellis and Max Loos (City of Milwaukee Youth Council members) introduced themselves to the WIA Youth Council. Ms Vang, President, stated that Alderman Davis created the City of Milwaukee Youth Council to be the voice of the youth of Milwaukee. The council consists of 15 members with diverse backgrounds taken from different aldermanic districts within the City of Milwaukee. The youth are identified and chosen from MPS, private and charter schools. The committee is a replica of the Common Council. They are in the beginning stages and are trying to determine what they can do and what procedures they should follow. The group meets on a monthly basis to voice their opinion and suggest change on issues of concern. Some of the issues that have been discussed are teen pregnancy, cursing and truancy. There will be an open forum at Rufus King High School and they are inviting all youth in Milwaukee to come. At this forum the committee will introduce themselves and let the youth know that the council is a venue through which they can be heard within city government.

Mr. Loos, City Youth Council member, stated that the council is about action, not just talk. The goal is to have a definite impact on issues in our city. Currently they are trying to identify and prioritize issues and figure out how they can address them. The open forum will hopefully assist in this process.

The next City Youth Council meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 14, 2005 at 5 p.m. in the Common Council Room at City Hall. Mr. Andrekopoulos will be attending this meeting.

### **IV. Directors Report**

Chytania Brown reviewed the Directors Report. Ms. Brown stated that the structure of our youth programs would change with the upcoming WIA reauthorization. STEP-UP program funds are largely geared to in school youth, and the reauthorization funds will be geared more to out-of-school youth. In addition, performance measures changed July 1, 2005. All future changes will be brought to the attention of WIA youth council members. Ms. Brown asked that any one who knows of youth interested in taking the ACT Prep Class and test should refer them to Quinntez Gurndy, who supervises the PIC's Milwaukee Career Center. She also invited the City Youth Committee to be our guests on the REACHing Milwaukee's Youth Radio Program, which is aired on 1290 radio station every Sunday between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. Finally, Ms. Brown stated that she would be collecting names of interested youth for the next cohort of the PIC/Wisconsin Dells collaboration. *Report Attached.*

### **V. Open Discussion**

Carol Sample wanted to know what happened to the Northwest Corridor subcommittee. Ms. Brown stated that a survey was sent out to agencies and churches located in that area. Minimal responses were received (2). Due to the conflicting schedules of the committee members, no additional meetings were scheduled and the committee has disbanded. Ms. Sample felt there is a need for PIC to solicit agencies in the area to support youth located and living in the northwest corridor.

### **VI. Adjourn**

**Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.**