



## WIA Youth Council Committee Meeting

MPS Central Office  
5225 W. Vliet Street  
Milwaukee, WI  
Superintendent Conference Room

March 3, 2005  
12:00 PM

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### NOTE: PENDING COUNCIL APPROVAL

**Members:** Chair William Andrekopoulos, Judge Joseph Donald, MaryBeth Malm, Steve Mokrohisky, Carol Sample, Gary Williams and Kendra Stevenson

**Private Industry Council (PIC) Staff:** Jovo Potkonjak, Chytania Brown, Joseph Stolzman, Tarra Johnson and Sharron Briggs

**Visitor:** Lauren Baker

### MINUTES

Chair William Andrekopoulos called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. He thanked everyone for coming, introduced himself and asked council members and guest to do likewise. Mr. Andrekopoulos moved to **Agenda Item I**, the Approval of December 16, 2004 minutes.

#### I. **Agenda Item I Approval of December 16, 2004 Minutes.**

*William Andrekopoulos motioned to approve the December 16, 2004 Council minutes.*

*Motion to approve by William Andrekopoulos*

*Seconded Judge Joseph Donald*

*None opposed, motion carried*

Since the committee did not have a quorum, it was suggested that absent members be asked to submit a proxy vote on the approval/disapproval of the minutes.

#### II. **Summer/Year-Round Subsidized Jobs.**

Jovo Potkonjak did a short overview of the 2005/06 Request for Proposals (RFP) Summer/Year-Round Subsidized Jobs recommendations. The PIC's Evaluation Team reviewed the proposals. The PIC received fifty-three RFP's and fifty-one were recommended for approval. Two proposals were not approved due to one being late and other lacking the needed financial information. There were a total of 1,138 summer positions and 792 year-round positions requested. Mr. Potkonjak explained that due to not having a finalized budget, the total amount of approved positions is unknown at this time. He also stated that the Youth Opportunity grant funds will come to an end in June and the proposed positions will be funded through WIA and other funding generated by the PIC. At this time the committee will vote on the approved agencies for summer/year-round subsidized employment, not the budget. Once the PIC Board approves the budget, job positions will be allocated to each agency.

Carol Sample had concerns regarding the impact of WIA Reauthorization on the PIC's youth programs, especially the STEP-UP Program that mainly serves a population of youth ages 14 to 21. She further stated that most likely WIA Reauthorization will allocate 70% of the funds to out-of-school youth and

30% to in-school-youth. The funding will be geared to serve youth ranging from 18 – 21 years of age. The current age served through WIA is 14 to 21.

Mr. Potkonjak indicated that all PIC programs could be impacted by the funding changes. The PIC has been working with MPS on retrieving dropout and truant information and has submitted an application (“Application and Agreement to Release Confidential Student Data”) as required by MPS to receive this information. The PIC has also been collaborating with UWM & MPS on a joint application with the GEAR-UP program. We will continue efforts to find additional funding sources for our programs. One of PIC’s goals is to become an ACT /SAT Prep/Test site as well as a GED/HSED Prep/test site. This is part of the reorganization of the Milwaukee Career Center. Services that would be available to the youth and their families through MCC is information and support on the following:

- ❖ Athletic Scholarships
- ❖ General Academic Tutoring
- ❖ Jobs-Subsidized
- ❖ College Application
- ❖ Private Sector Employment
- ❖ Student/Family Financial Aid
- ❖ Drivers Ed/License
- ❖ Job Training Programs
- ❖ Career Readiness

Lauren Baker suggested that PIC integrate the Accuplacer Test System as part of the ACT/SAT Prep/Test sites for youth preparation. She indicated that it helps participants prepare for and get good scores on their ACT test. Ms. Baker further stated that if the PIC used the Accuplacer Test System they could possibly get funding to cover some of the cost. Mr. Potkonjak asks her to check into the funding possibilities and get the information to him at a later date.

Gary Williams suggested that the PIC check into collaborating with different Faith Based organizations, which could help serve a large number of participants in need of training/employment.

***William Andrekopoulos motioned to approve the Recommendations for the Summer/Year-Round Subsidized Jobs.***

*Motion to approve by Carol Sample*

*Seconded Gary Williams*

*None opposed, motion carried*

Since the committee did not have a quorum, it was suggested that absent members be asked to submit a proxy vote on the approval/disapproval of the Recommendations for the Summer/Year-Round Subsidized Jobs.

### **III. Adult/Peer Mentor Sub-Committee Update**

Mr. Potkonjak asked Kendra Stevenson, our youth WIA Council Member, to give her input as to the needs of young people trying to get into college. She stated that it’s hard for young people to get information on how to apply for colleges and fill out applications for financial aid and grants. Tarra Johnson added that youth also want a mentor who attends the college of choice who will personally help them make a connection to both the community and the campus. Mentors would also help them navigate through the school system and alleviate some of the stress of not knowing what to do and coping with being in a new environment.

Mr. Potkonjak stated that 24 letter were sent to colleges that had been identified by youth enrolled in REACH and STEP-UP as their college of choice. The letter was sent to the heads of various student affair departments located at colleges. To date only one response was received from UW-Milwaukee. A draft of a follow-up letter for the committee to review was distributed to committee members. Kendra suggested that the follow-up letter be sent via e-mail for a quicker response. Mr. Potkonjak gave the assignment to the youth committee workers to secure e-mail addresses for those schools.

Mr. Williams suggested that Mr. Potkonjak use the committee members and the WIA youth council members that have contacts at the identified colleges as well as other colleges to secure requested information. He stated that there would be a better response if there were a familiar person asking for the information vs. sending a letter.

Ms. Sample suggested that Mr. Potkonjak use the WIA Network as another option of securing information. WIA has a youth program based in every major city and could be a great resource for identifying contacts not only on the campuses but also within the local WIA youth program.

#### **IV. Director Report**

Mr. Potkonjak provided a brief overview of the Director's Report.

Mr. Williams ask for a copy of the Youth Departments WIA Outcome Measures. Mr. Potkonjak indicated that Sharron Briggs would send a report to the committee members via e-mail as soon as possible.

Lauren Baker stated that since the Youth Opportunity grant funds are coming to a close and the 1290 WMCS/REACH Radio Internship Project may need additional funds, she suggested that PIC join forces with the MPS Radio Station. They will be developing an educational program on broadcasting technology and audio broadcasting for youth. Since PIC has an established curriculum and prior knowledge she feels it would be a good collaboration. Mr. Potkonjak will meet with Ms. Baker concerning the matter.

#### **VI. Agenda Item VI Adjourn**

*Carol Sample called for a motion to adjourn March 3, 2005 meeting.  
Meeting adjourned at 1:16 p.m.*