



WIA YOUTH COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING

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

Friday, September 9, 2005
12:00 PM

NOTE: PENDING COUNCIL APPROVAL

Members: Chair William Andrekopoulos, Steve Mokrohisky, MaryBeth Malm, Earl Wheatfall and Kendra Stevenson

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

Visitor: Alisia Moutry, MPS Diversified Community Schools

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 guests to do likewise. Mr. Andrekopoulos moved to **Agenda Item I**, the Approval of June 2, 2005 minutes.

I. Approval of March 3, 2005 Minutes

Motion to approve

William Andrekopoulos

None opposed, motion carried

II. WIA Survey Results

Jovo Potkonjak distributed a copy of the WIA Survey Results. He explained that the survey was done based on the need to identify and find mentors/support persons for youth going away to college. A letter was mailed to at least 35 post-secondary institutions requesting information on the type of support systems available for students enrolling at their schools. As a result of the mailing, only two schools responded. In turn, Carol Sample suggested tapping into the nationwide Workforce Investment Boards to possibly get needed assistance. A letter with an attached survey was mailed to approximately six hundred WIA Boards, from which 45 responses were received. The survey showed that most agencies prefer not to commit or have the responsibility of dealing with or being mentors for any additional incoming youth. *Survey Attached.*

III. Youth Summer Program Update

Chytania Brown presented an update on the PIC's Youth Summer Programs. A PowerPoint presentation was distributed to the committee. It covered the activities and successes of the PIC and its collaborations with different entities. The presentation covered these subjects:

- Milwaukee Career Center
- 1290 Radio Show
- Culinary Arts Program/MATC/UW-Stout/PIC
- Discovery World Program/Bayview High School/PIC
- UW-River Falls/Vincent High School/PIC
- Wisconsin Dells/MATC/Mayor Tom Barrett's Office/PIC
- Office of Justice Assistance-Gang Reduction Program
- County Executive Scott Walker's Office/PIC/MilwJobs4Teens Website
- WIA Summer Subsidized Youth Employment

Because of these successful partnerships, the PIC and the participating agencies/institutions look forward to continuing their work together. Ms. Brown also discussed the upcoming challenges PIC's youth department will be facing due to the WIA re-authorization. *Presentation Attached.*

IV. Directors Report

Mr. Potkonjak did a short review of the Directors Report. Mr. Andreopoulos felt that MATC would be a positive connection and transition for Kilmer High School graduates. Currently, Kilmer students access the assistants of MATC's Clark Lovell who is located at PIC on a part-time basis. Earl Wheatfall wanted to make sure that MATC has a stronger presence and provide an additional support for Kilmer students. He suggested using MATC's 2+2 Program to help assist in the further educational development of the youth. Mr. Andreopoulos suggested that Mr. Wheatfall contact Principal Fair to discuss further collaboration with MATC. *Report Attached.*

V. Open Discussion

Alisia Moutry talked to the committee about a new program called the MPS Project Direct Graduation Program. She is working on this project with committee member Lauren Baker and Hughes George of MPS. This project is in the beginning stages and will consist of part Charter Schools and Partnership Schools. The program will be directly related to helping MPS students to graduate from high school. The program is a night school intervention for youth who are not succeeding in the normal daytime school environment. It will consist of smaller class sizes and different types of instructions with a better teacher-student ratio. The goal of this program is to transition these students back to a regular traditional setting or at least help them graduate. Ms. Moutry distributed a list of the schools to be involved in this program.

Since this program is at the beginning stages, Ms. Moutry is doing an inventory to see what type of student population they will be working with. She will be reviewing categories such as the age groups of the youth, and if they are attending night school or both day and night school. At this time, only 100 youth will be targeted to participate in the first cohort. One of the goals is to add an employment piece to the program. Ms. Moutry will be contacting the Mayors Office, the County Executives offices and other possible interested agencies to discuss how to get employment for the participating youth. WIA Council members will be contacted at a later date to possibly give their input or participate in the employment process.

Mr. Andrekopoulos indicated that these participants would be at-risk youth at age 16-17 year old. These youth are at risk for drug and gang involvement. They are victimized youth who have a difficult time fitting in the large school organization environment. The goal is to find something productive for them to do during the day. Developing some vocational skills is one way for them to relate those skills to their evening/night school classes. The key is to re-engage these youth back into the system full-time.

Kendra Stevenson asked Mr. Andrekopoulos about the changes in the school schedules and the set cut-off time for student bus passes. She expressed the need for a time extension on bus passes for youth who are involved in after-school activities. She expressed that most schools end at 3:45 p.m. and the bus pass time runs out at 5:00 p.m. It's just not enough time for youth to participate in after-school activities and be able to make it home before the scheduled time expires. Mr. Andrekopoulos assured Kendra that he would look into the matter for her.

VI. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

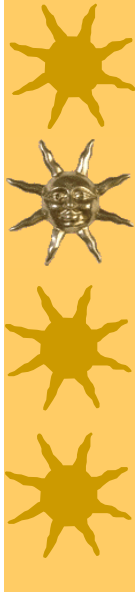
Attachment I

**WIA SUPPORT NETWORK
Survey Response**

QUESTION	RESPONSE
Total number of respondents	45
Direct Case Management?	22 - Provide direct case management 23 - Do not
Number of youth served annually?	There was a good size mix based on the numbers provided. The smallest WDB that responded provided service to 80 youth and the largest stated 1,300.
Number of students enrolled in post-secondary education?	That also varied from 0 to 400.
Hours of operation?	8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. – 18 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. – 12 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. – 1 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. – 2 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. – 1 The others did not complete this question
Interest in creating a nation-wide WIA support network?	Yes – 9 No – 14 Maybe – 14
Is there a need for such a support network?	Yes – 23 No – 11 Maybe – 2
Reservations to creating a support network?	The majority of the responses were: who would fund the network, time, staffing, coordination and loss of local control
Other comments	If the youth makes it to post secondary education, they should be able to handle it. It's time for these kids to grow up.

The tone from reading the surveys was that the WDB's are hesitant to take on any more responsibilities. I also found it very interesting that only 9 were interested in creating a support network when 23 felt that there was a need. All of them stated to keep us informed of the progress, while the 2 stated to let them know if they could help.

Attachment II



*Private Industry Council's
2005 Youth Summer Activity Wrap-Up*

Presented to the WIA Youth Council
September 9, 2005



Summary of Youth Activities

- * Milwaukee Career Center
- * 1290 Radio Show
- * Culinary Arts Program/MATC/UW-Stout/PIC
- * Discovery World Program/Bayview High School/PIC
- * UW-River Falls/Vincent High School/PIC
- * Wisconsin Dells/MATC/Mayor Tom Barrett's Office/PIC
- * Office of Justice Assistance-Gang Reduction Program
- * County Executive Scott Walker's Office/PIC/MilwJobs4Teens Website
- * WIA Summer Subsidized Youth Employment



Milwaukee Career Center

- * The **Milwaukee Career Center (MCC)** is the specialty One-Stop for youth.
- * Co-located are representatives from UW-Milwaukee, Milwaukee Area Technical College and Marquette University.
- * This summer MCC held 8 Job Readiness Training sessions for youth who entered subsidized employment.
- * The financial-aid application desk helped over 107 youth do FAFSAs; the college- application desk helped over 15 youth complete/process applications for fall admission.
- * The job developer/job-training desk has connected with over 5 major employers to secure direct employment for 13 youth.
- * MCC is discussing linkages with MPS high schools for services through the Athletic Scholarship and ACT/SAT preparation desks.



1290 Radio Show



- * The REACHing Milwaukee's Youth radio program started its third year on the 1290 station. This subsidized program provides internships in the field of electronic media and broadcasting. To date, over 80 youth have successfully completed the program.



Culinary Arts Program



- * The **Culinary Arts Program for State Fair Park** completed its fourth year, serving some 19,000 meals in two weeks.
- * This summer the youth took part in a 60-hour classroom training that led to over 80% of the youth receiving an industry-recognized Serve Safe Certificate.
- * Over 155 youth have completed this first rung on the culinary career ladder.



Discovery World Program



- * The Discovery World Museum/Bayview High School/PIC collaboration is in its second year.
- * 27 Freshman and Sophomores participated for twelve consecutive Saturday mornings.
- * Students got exposure to a technology-rich learning environment and the necessary resources to experiment with self-directed math and science projects.
- * Over the two years 77 youth have successfully completed the program.
- * The program has already recorded measurable increases in attendance and academic achievement during the regular school year.



UW-River Falls/Vincent HS Project



- * This innovative urban agriculture partnership is in its fourth year.
- * Urban high-school students from Vincent High School in Milwaukee take courses during the regular school year in the areas of agriculture, environmental sciences and natural resources.



- * In the summer, Vincent students and teachers travel to UW-River Falls for a six-day exploration of laboratory and field-based study, classroom discussion and evening cultural/educational programs.



- * Over 50 youth have participated to date, with 10 enrolling at UW-River Falls after high-school graduation.
- * Vincent High School has used distance learning and revitalized its greenhouse to keep urban agricultural studies available year round.



Wisconsin Dells Collaboration



- * The PIC/Mayor Tom Barrett/MATC collaboration with leading **Wisconsin Dells** summer destinations trained and placed central-city young people in lucrative summer jobs.



- * PIC program staff briefed the youth on the challenges of adult life, including personal budgeting, microwave cooking, grooming and interpersonal communications



- * Tommy Bartlett's, Noah's Ark and Chula Vista resort trained youth as lifeguards and for other duties.

- * Of 35 hired, 22 began employment and 17 have positive outcomes.

- * Nine students completed the duration of employment, and eight others left before Labor Day to return to school/college.

- * Of the nine students 5 won prizes based upon customer satisfaction surveys.

- * All three employers report great satisfaction with the program and have asked for more youth workers next year.



MilwJobs4Teen.com Website



- * The website this summer had over 16,594 hits. There were 27 different employers that posted information on the website offering over 90 positions. During the 3 years MCC has had the website there have been over 500 positions posted, which is a free service offered to youth of Milwaukee County.





WIA Subsidized Employment



* This past summer STEP-UP and REACH offered 500 subsidized positions to youth enrolled in their programs.



* Youth were placed in over 51 agencies throughout Milwaukee County.



* The PIC also placed an additional 50 youth in the Metcalfe, Midtown and Imani areas in subsidized employment through the Office of Justice Assistance-Gang Reduction Program (OJA-GRP).

* Total subsidized positions for summer 2005: 630



Assessment of Summer Activities



* PIC youth staff does yearly on-site monitoring of all youth program activities.



* The majority of assessments reveal that agencies are providing wonderful work-based employment opportunities to Milwaukee County youth.



* Outstanding youth-employment providers include:

- Rosalie Manor
- Milwaukee County Office for Persons w/Disabilities
- Latino Community Center
- Milwaukee Christian Center, and
- MPS-Recreation, to name a few.



Challenges



* WIA Re-authorization may raise the minimum age for WIA services to 16, leaving the employment-and-training needs of 14 and 15 year olds unaddressed



* More full-time private sector employment opportunities are needed



* As a result of the Small-Schools Initiative:

- JWG increased classes from 30 students to 90

- STEP-UP is providing services to three schools within one building

Attachment III

DIRECTOR'S REPORT SEPTEMBER 2005

REACH-Milwaukee – The Youth Opportunity Grant ended on June 30, 2005. A one-month extension was requested and approved for the REACH-Milwaukee program as there was approximately \$130,000 remaining in the grant. Carry-over dollars were used for various training requests, books, transportation and other supportive services required by youth enrolled in REACH. The PY05 final closeout report that was submitted to DOL is available upon request.

JWG – The Jobs for Wisconsin's Graduates (JWG) program submitted an application to the WCTSystem for a \$285,000 grant to support the JWG program for the 2005-2006 school year. We were just informed that the letter of approval was sent to the PIC the week of August 22, 2005.

JWG Goals: Graduation 90% - Actual 98%; Positive Outcome 80% - Actual 91%; Full-time employment 60% - Actual 52%; Job Placement (full or part-time) 60% - Actual 76%; Full-Time Placement (job, post secondary education, military) 80% - Actual 88%.

Milwaukee Career Center (MCC) – We continue to expand the MCC to include the specialty desks that were outlined in past reports. We currently have the following desks filled: College Application, Student/Family Financial Aid, Drivers Ed/License Reinstatement, Job Developer and Job Trainer.

Kilmer High School

Kilmer, located on 27th and North Avenue, had the largest graduating class in June of 2005. There were 66 graduates - more than half of the total student body and over 90% of those eligible to graduate. Over the years, Kilmer has continued to grow and develop, thanks in part largely to REACH. They are moving into new, state of the art classrooms at the beginning of the 2005-2006 school year. There will be 150 students (half of them will attend school in the morning and the other half in the afternoon) with two teachers and two paraprofessional teachers. Kilmer High School is one of the largest legacies left by REACH Milwaukee and is now supported 100% by MPS.

1290 Radio Show

The REACHing Milwaukee's Youth radio program continues its mission of providing internships in the field of electronic media and broadcasting as a subsidized employment experience for PIC youth. Currently, we have seven participants who meet every Saturday and Sunday who produce the weekly, one-hour radio program. Each Saturday, the youth spend approximately four hours organizing and researching topic material and issues for the Sunday broadcast. On Sunday evenings, the crew spends another three hours in preparation before going on the air from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

On Sunday, August 6, 2005, auditions were held for the next youth-crew. Every three months the youth radio crew is rotated in order to allow more PIC youth the opportunity to participate.

SUMMER/YEAR-ROUND SUBSIDIZED EMPLOYMENT

There were approximately 500 youth (STEP-UP, REACH and JWG), excluding OJA youth, which were employed through subsidized WIA summer jobs program. The program began on June 20, 2005 and ended on August 12, 2005. We have 50 positions available for the year-round component, which begins Tuesday, September 6, 2005.

No CDBG money was received this year and we did not receive any money from the County this summer for jobs.

OJA

We had 45 youth that worked in subsidized employment for OJA this past summer. All summer employment agencies will be done by August 19, 2005. Referrals from the Neighborhood Associations are still in the planning phase. Meetings have been held bi-weekly which have resulted in creating forms, referral processes and finalizing the MOU. Chytania Brown has forwarded the MOU to Patti Porth to secure Gerard Randall's signature. Ms. Brown is working with Quinttez Gurdy on how the MCC should track individuals coming into the career center to meet the goal. [It is very important that Scott Zsori complete requested changes, as one of the changes is adding multiple contract codes that coincide with programs.](#)

WISCONSIN DELLS

Over 50 youth were recruited and interviewed by the PIC staff for employment in the Dells. Of the 50 youth, 36 were offered employment. Of the 35, 22 actually started work. The City of Milwaukee got involved in the Dells collaboration and worked with MATC. Currently, we have 14 youth still employed at the Dells. Two of the youth were terminated and some of the others were homesick and left the job.

MilwJobs4Teens Website

We had 16,594 hits to this web page since May 10, 2005. There are currently 27 different organizations and/or corporations that are listed on the website. Out of those 27 entities, there are over 90 positions available. Some of the companies are hiring for multiple positions. For example, M&I Bank is listed on the site as one but is advertising for various positions.

The current goal for the website is to increase the employer count listed to over 50, which would put the available jobs somewhere between 150 & 200.

ADAMM

Currently, there are 11 students in the class provided they all come back for the upcoming semester. The assumption, based on past numbers, is that there will be about 15 students for the new semester.

CULINARY ARTS

Tarra Johnson is currently working on the Culinary Arts final report. However, we do know that 48 students were recruited, 40 were hired and 34 students completed the program. The number of meals served and other details will follow.

DISCOVERY WORLD

There were 27 freshmen and sophomores that participated in this year's program. Students were exposed to a technology-based learning environment and were involved in self-directed math and science projects. In the last 2 years, 77 youth have completed the program. The program has shown a measurable increase in attendance and academic achievement during the school year.

UW-RIVERFALLS

Over 50 students have participated in this partnership to date. Vincent High School has used distance learning and revitalized its greenhouse. This fall of 2005, 10 youth from Vincent will be enrolling in UW-Riverfalls.