



Governor's Council for Workforce and Economic Development

YOUTH PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Date: October 7, 2016

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City, 900 N. Portland Ave., Oklahoma City, OK

Call to Order/Welcome and Introductions

Co-chair Chuck Mills called the meeting to order and welcomed the group. Co-chair Cecilia Robinson-Woods had other commitments and could not attend the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Kelly Arrington to approve the June 17, 2016 minutes. A second was made by Jeff Downs and the motion carried unanimously.

Discussion of New Initiatives

Chuck said that the Youth Committee is officially a committee of the Governor's Council and they are looking to us to provide some direction on youth initiatives. He added that he would like to have a joint meeting with the Career Pathways committee. It would be good to coordinate our efforts to make sure we are not duplicating anything. We need to figure out how to help get business into the classrooms and talk to the students. Vikki Dearing stated that the DI.DI. Oklahoma web site and the NAM web site have a lot of resources such as a manufacturing "teachers guide".

Chuck suggested having a summit for counselors to train them how to talk to students about career pathways and the exploration piece to help them see what other opportunities are out there for them. Also, the New Skills for Youth grant through the State Department of Education is a worthy grant to look at for some possible help.

Jeff Downs suggested that we look at the "How to Make Math Relevant in Career Pathways" model and pull in teachers and business to do some professional development workshops. It has to start at the school level. Emmitt Grayson added that when he worked on an aerospace initiative seven years ago, they had all kinds of people involved in it but nothing was accomplished because they couldn't get it done on the school level. They had one school involved but couldn't get other schools or districts to get involved with the project.

Chuck said that there is a meeting this afternoon of the co-chairs of all of the Governor's Council committees. They will be discussing strategic vision for the Council and each committee is to come up with 3 Big Goals for short-term planning. Perhaps the Career Pathways committee could focus on the business side and we focus on the youth piece, education and some business. We could work on things like family issues or bullying and why people drop out of school as mentioned by Secretary Shirley in her talk at the Oklahoma Works Summit. This might be a good fit for us since we have more education members on this committee and the Career Pathways committee have more business representatives.

Chuck attended the New Skills for Youth summit and he feels that the Youth committee should support the initiatives of the State Department of Education. One thing that really popped out at him was something that we had promoted and had success in getting legislation passed and that was Graduation Coaches. Although it was passed in legislation, it was unfunded, therefore nothing was done with it since there was no money to hire graduation coaches. In the state of Georgia many years ago, they hired 100 graduation coaches and that's all they did. The governor of Georgia said that they were going to fund it. Chuck said another thing we should look at is the character piece. A lot of employability skills have to do with character.

Jeff Downs suggested that we do a "proof of concept" model. We tried to do it some with DI, DI, or MAIP in Pryor – they are proofs of concepts. There are small pockets of these models around but they are not all tied together. Maybe what our role could be is to collaborate with the different groups like in Duncan, Pryor or maybe Shawnee at Gordon Cooper, and we could act as the connector of these groups and create a "proof of concept" model. We could take it on the road and actually run it. We could put in there the different attributes such as the character piece, career awareness, the training, implementing it into the classroom, how to use the resource guides, how to integrate relevancy into the classroom. We need to get this integrated as a part of what teachers do today not as something extra that they have to do. They will be teaching to the subject matter at the same time they are teaching to the relevance. This takes a lot of training and a big culture shift in what we've been doing. We could do a pilot in Pryor and take it to Duncan or Broken Bow or elsewhere and get these champions who are doing it from the parents to the community, to the classroom to the superintendents, to business leaders to student testimonials and how it has changed their lives and it will go like gang busters. Our role would be the connectors of those groups. We would do a training program and an implementation plan with a timeframe so we can report back data. This would be a 3-5 year plan.

Chuck said that the Youth committee could be a focus group to build a model to help education and the state become successful.

He added that a lot of the focus of the Youth Program committee is recovering out of school youth. That is what the Department of Labor is requiring. We need to develop prevention and recovery strategies.

Emmit said the ultimate goal is to have a small population of out of school youth. We want to get them focused on getting a GED. We want to try to get them engaged. We would like for them to move on past the GED and get a certification. As an example, there is a local area that can serve as a model because of what they are doing with Youth Build. It is teaching youth to be responsible. DOL says the work experience is the most important piece because it is putting them in a real situation, real experience on the job. It all goes back to getting them engaged and showing them how important it is to keep on striving. We want to incentivize the kids, this helps keep the kids engaged. That's how we maximize the funds on targeted populations. We need to tackle the barriers first. Barriers such as homelessness, family problems, etc.

Chuck said that we need to look at what the Career Pathways committee is not doing. What would be the most beneficial to focus on?

Suggestions:

- Dropout prevention
- Character piece
- Career Pathways-employability piece

- Professional development for teachers and business

Chuck said he would like to make a recommendation to have Don Raleigh from MAIP to make a presentation at the Governor's Council meeting. Everyone needs to hear his story.

New Business

None.

Old Business

None.

Next Meeting

The next Youth Council meeting will be December 2, 2016.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:02 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Linda Emrich*