



**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

**Alaska Workforce Investment Board
Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development
Youth Council**

Wednesday September 2, 2009 10:00am

1016 W. 6th Avenue, Suite 304

Teleconference Number: 1-888-354-0094 Code: 9694688

Minutes

- **Roll Call:** Chris Gregg, Chair; Mike Woods, Vice-Chair; Tania Clacus; John Douglass; Cynthia Erickson; Heidi Frost; Noelle Hardt; Barbara Henjum; Melissa Hill; David Kvasager; Andre Layral; Helen Mehrkens; Taber Rehbaum; Gibby Serna; Ruth Schoenleben; Heather Wagner
- Ex-officios: Diedre Bailey
- Staff: Barbara Duval, Program Coordinator
- Guests:
 - Candi Dixon, Career Resource Advisor, Chugiak High School, 742-3083
 - Yuko Benedetti, Career Resource Advisor, Service High School, 742-8168
 - Elsie Graham, Career Resource Advisor, Bartlett High School, 742-1852
 - Laura Hohman, DOLWD Career Guide, King Career Center, 742-8922
 - Rick Rios, ASD Coordinator, Career and Technology Education, 742-8942
 - Carrie Couey, Program Coordinator Denali Training Fund, DOLWD/Div of Business Partnerships, 269-4551
 - Jeff Selvey, AWIB CTE Coordinator, DOLWD, 269-3018
 - Sonta Roach, FEA Director, Teachers of America, Stand-in for Melissa Hill
 - GayLee Erickson, Transition Coordinator, Service High School, 742-6554
 - Liz Lake, Career Resource Advisor, King Career Center, 742-8900 ex 8903
 - Deb Weesner, Career Resource Advisor, Eagle River High School, 742-2752
 - Linda Griffith, Coordinator K12, ASD Education Center, 742-4193
 - Shirley Reeves, Career Resource Advisor, Diamond High, 742-1852

Approval of Agenda

MOTION to approve agenda made by John Douglas

SECONDED by Heather Wagner

Approval of Minutes

May 27, 2009

August 5, 2009, no quorum

MOTION to approve minutes made by Andre Layral



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SECONDED by Noelle Hardt

VOTE taken

MOTION Passes

Action Items

No action items on agenda.

Discussion Items

1. Career Guide/Career Resource Advisor/Career Counselor/MS Career Guide
 - a. Rick Rios - Anchorage School District Coordinator, Career and Technology Education

First Rick thanked Barbara for attending the Career Guide meeting last Thursday. He stated we are now into a new era of counseling, mentoring, and directing. Key words are partnership, integration, and cooperation. We have two diverse cultures. The first is the Department of Education (DEED), the second is the Department of Labor (DOLWD). Each uses different languages, different terminologies, and different approaches. Right now the partnership and cooperation between the two departments is at the highest it's ever been. DOL Career Guides integrating into the schools has been a huge success. They target kids to careers and jobs specifically. They leave the training to the educators. Those students, who are engaged, stay engaged, and graduate. The target is 'How do we graduate every kid?'

The Anchorage School District has hired 10 new Middle School 'MS Career Guides' with stimulus monies. Three goals of career and technical education are 1) that every middle school student will be excited about entering high school and knowledgeable about career clusters and pathways; 2) is that each student have the opportunity to identify a priority from a career pathway or cluster that they enjoy; 3) all high school students have the opportunity to follow the career choice and priority of their community. Every community should have an educational and a labor career cluster that is compete, available, and leads to a job and a career in their community.

- b. Gary Abernathy & Laura Hohman - DOLWD Career Guides
Laura Hohman is a Career Guide with Department of Labor and currently located at King Career Center. She and her colleague Gary Abernathy are assigned to work with the Anchorage School District. Their program is funded by the Alaska Youth First Initiative. They have broad guidelines. It's a strategic effort to prepare youth and young adults to be job ready. How to get a job, keep



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a job, and what it means to be a good employee. They network with employers to create partnerships. They've currently modeled their program around the construction program academy 'to train and employ youth for high growth, high wage occupations'. Partnerships are the reason their program has been so successful (school district, Anchorage Home Builders Assoc., Assoc. of General Contractors, Alaska Works Partnerships, Assoc. of Building and Contractors, Anchorage Society of Human Resource Management, Nine Star). They have great relationships with the teachers, career resource advisors, and the students.

2. Jeff Selvey – AWIB CTE Coordinator

Jeff has been with education since 1974. He retired this year and is currently the new CTE Coordinator with AWIB. His main focus will be on career and technical education on a statewide basis. He will be working closely with Helen Mehrkens the new CTE Administrator for Department of Education. He will also be focusing on Career Pathways and Career Clusters. How they are currently being used in the schools and are they helping the student to have a plan. The goal of the Commissioner of Labor, Click Bishop, is to make sure every graduating senior has a career pathway plan or goal. He is working on Industry Standards to see if all programs provided to youth and adults for training meet the standards. Then evaluate programs to ensure those standards are adhered to. He will be working with providers and regional training centers. AWIB has started a newsletter and its first edition will be out the end of September. Its focus will be Career and Technical Education. It will be sent to schools, training centers, providers, and industry to tie in DEED, DOLWD, and CTE.

3. YC past committee work (Andre').

Three years ago the Youth Council tried to identify what their focus was. What is the authority of the Youth Council? Do we work directly under the AWIB in terms of achieving our goals? Or, do we identify the workforce development training needs of young people and share that with AWIB? It's been a back and forth relationship. The questions still remain. Do we have authority? Do we have a budget to work with? What is our focus? Some work was done in the past to determine 'What is the role of the youth voice?' How is this going to benefit youth? Are youth aware of the resources available to them? Which youth are taking advantage of these resources? What is missing is the training providers that receive WIA funding, what services are they providing?

What should be the focus of the Youth Council? What is the role of the Youth Council beyond those kids being served with WIA dollars? Andre is very



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interested and excited that Jeff and Helen will be working together. What partnerships will be formed and opportunities made available for school principals to better meet the career and technical needs of students.

Need to set clear direction for mission, goals, and purpose of the Youth Council before we can proceed.

The meeting now opened for guests to question speakers. Questions were:

1. What effort was being put forth for home schooled students or private schools as far as career clusters or career paths are concerned?
 - a. Will those youth have a career counselor or career resource advisor?
 - b. Are any of the stimulus monies available to these youth?

Students are enrolled in a school district. Each student whether home schooled or not has use of the public institution and public resources. This would mean career guide, career counselor, career resource advisor, etc.

2. What efforts are being made by career guides to engage parents of youth you are working with to identify career clusters and pathways?

They have resource tables at King Career Center and share vendor tables at events. Also, participate in 'Back to School Night', career fairs, career outreach.

3. How are teachers aware of career clusters you've identified with a student?

Rick Rios stated they are in the beginning of working on this issue. Career Pathways are on the ASD website where anyone can review. Currently there is no method that transfers student choices from middle school to the high school. The new MS Career Guides are still developing their implementation plans.

4. How will you perceive the roll between the MS Career Guides and the high school Career Resource Advisors?

Per Candi Dixon. The connection between the two needs to transition in a way to be constant and consistent. High schools need to expand on what the middle schools have accomplished and keep moving forward. Some form of portfolio needs to be maintained to make this transition happen. Written and verbal dialog is essential to make this work.



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Andre indicated during his past experience as Principle of a middle school they had student lead conferencing. Students lead their conferences with their parent. The program was a success.

- 5. How is Workkeys going to be considered or implemented in this equation?

This question could not be answered by the group.

WIA Updates

1. Deidre Bailey – Div of Business Partnerships
Diedre was unavailable to give her presentation. She will present at next meeting. The WIA Annual Report will be done by September 11th. Barbara will send by email to Youth Council for comment once report is completed.

Other Items

- 1. Still have two vacant seats to fill on the YC. Only one name has been submitted to date for the public housing seat. Ruth suggested Hazel Blackmore, Director of Community Leadership, and Anchorage Neighborhood Housing Service. She will forward the information to Barbara.
- 2. YC members are interested in having the WIA Youth Grantees speak at the monthly meetings and advise the counsel on what services they provide.

Next meeting: October 27th at 10:15am

Adjournment:

Attachments:

YC Minutes 5/27/09

ACTION TRACKER

WHO	WHAT	DUE BY	STATUS
Diedre/Barb	WIA Annual Report	9/11/09	Done
Barb	Send Career Guide list to YC	9/11/09	Done
Barb	Update Career Guide questions	10/27/09	In process
Barb	Set up Grantees for speaking at monthly mtgs	10/27/09	In process



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