

SWIC
Youth Committee
March 20, 2014
Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Conference Room 5
Indianapolis, IN 46204
8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Present: Alishea Hawkins, Dr. Susan Lockwood, and Patrick Jamison

Also Present: Leslie Crist, Brittany Dougherty, Brianna Morse and Cindy Kicinski of IDWD; Tammy Stump, Region 1; Greg Vollmer, Region 2; Edmond O’Neal, Region 3; Deb Waymire, Region 4; Lance Ratliff and Becky Branham, Region 5; Karen Bailey, Region 6; Lisa Lee and Mike Smith, Region 7; John Corcoran, Region 8; Bill Miller, Marion County; and Margo Olson of River Valley Resources

Absent: Cathy Metcalf, Renee Palmer, Dan Peterson, Wayne Seybold, Bill Stanczykiewicz, Brent Waltz, and Mark Wuellner

Leslie Crist welcomed committee members and members of the public. She asked the members to review the September 12, 2013 meeting minutes.

Ms. Crist began the meeting with a review of the new staffing of the IDWD support team, including the addition of Brianna Morse, who formerly worked in Strategic Initiatives.

Ms. Crist moved into a review of the 2014 Jobs for America’s Graduates Career Development Conference that took place on March 14, 2014. Committee member Alishea Hawkins gave a brief review of her position as a judge for the Outstanding Senior competition. Members of the committee were provided with a complete winners list for all competitions along with the regional area and school the students represented. Other guests that were in attendance provided positive remarks about the event and the overall professionalism of all competing members.

Next, Brittany Dougherty reviewed the history of the State’s Work Ethic Certification (WEC) program, which was an initiative previously implemented in 2005 and 2006. Brittany discussed the SWIC request for updating the program, in order to provide youth with soft skills that would be recognized by employers across the state. Ms. Dougherty introduced Edmond O’Neal, as Region 3 was the first to implement the WEC pilot program in 2005 in the East Allen Community Schools.

Mr. O’Neal provided the committee members and guests with handouts that reviewed the program highlights, implementation and stakeholder strategies and program challenges during its pilot year. Mr. O’Neal also reviewed the marketing materials and forms used for schools and employers.

Ms. Dougherty also introduced Tammy Stump, Region 1, as they have continued to utilize the program and some of its elements in their LaPorte School Corporation. Region 1 has engaged employers in a

survey, where they review the soft skills needed in their industries, which have been incorporated into 10 overall employer expectations. These results are reviewed annually and changed as needed. Additionally Region 1 utilizes their in-school Jobs for America's Graduates programs for the pilot. Ms. Stump also reviewed some of the challenges they face in continued implementation of the program, but their local Youth Council sees the value of having youth who understand the soft skills needed to find and retain employment.

Ms. Crist informed the Youth Committee members that IDWD is currently working on an updated pilot program that will incorporate the work of Region 1, but will also engage the Greater Clark County School Corporation in Region 10. Ms. Crist and Ms. Morse have already had discussions with Superintendent Andrew Melin at Greater Clark and he is eager to bring the pilot to his area; this pilot will be in conjunction with the regional Works Council.

Ms. Crist also reviewed some additional data and information from the Noblesville School Corporation on a possible rubric that could be utilized to assess the skills attainment.

Discussion ensued amongst guests and committee members on strategies for implementation and interest in other regional areas.

Ms. Crist thanked everyone for their input into the WEC program and their continued support of the Jobs for America's Graduates program. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 AM. The next meeting is on June 12, 2014.