
MAYOR'S YOUTH COUNCIL

Minutes

January 9, 2013

Board Members Present: Mike Romesburg-Chair, Stephanie Asbury, Blenda Deberry, Joe Hindsley, Nancy Flake Johnson, and M. Alexis Scott

Board Members Absent: Tabatha Burkes, Barney Simms, Mona Kelly, Dr. Kenya Gilliard, James (Mac) Hunter, Brian Kincaid, Annie T. Matthews, Obie Bryant, and Anita Artis (parent representative)

Staff Members Present: Tammy Lipsey, Lance Wise and Amber Thompson (Youth Representative)

Staff Members Absent: Jo Anne Paschall

Call to Order/Approval of Minutes and Meeting Agenda

Mike Romesburg (chairperson) called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. The minutes and agenda were read and approved as written.

MYP College Program

Jo Anne Paschall, Manager Mayor's Youth Program, College Unit, is out on leave. She has an assignment in Italy and will return to AWDA in late May. The report was presented by Tammy Lipsey.

Mayor's Youth Program AY 2012-13

26 Participating Students

23 colleges, universities & technical schools (see list below)

MYP Awards committed to date - \$38,749.38

TOTAL PAID to date – \$19,522.02

Remaining Balance -\$19,227.36

COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES & TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

Alabama A&M University

Albany State University

Atlanta Technical College

Clark Atlanta University

College of the Holy Cross

Columbus State University

Fort Valley State University

Georgia Institute of Technology

Georgia Perimeter College

Georgia State University

Hampton University

Howard University

Mercer University

Morehouse College

North Carolina A & T University

Paine College

Savannah State University

Skidmore College

South Carolina State University

Tuskegee University

Savannah State University

University of Alabama

Voorhees College

Additional discussion centered around expanding the College Unit to compare with previous years when AWDA helped over 700 City of Atlanta Youth attend college with support for unmet needs. The Youth committee suggested that Mayor Reed be contacted to see if he will step up and support this important program. Ms Scott indicated that she met with the Mayor over the holiday and he did say he supported

the program and that he would focus more on the program during his second term. So, the timing is perfect for the Board to reach out to him and see if he wants to step in and help us raise some money. It was suggested that a sub-group of the committee be formed to work with the Mayor on this initiative. The sub-committee should also consist of non-board members. It was also mentioned that we should seek out past donors to ascertain their interest in renewing their support of the program.

It was indicated by Mr. Hindsley, that the funding was only one part of a two part mechanism. The second piece, equally as important, is creating awareness in the high schools. Maybe we can come up with something similar to Mayor Franklin's program but a little different so that it becomes Mayor Reed's program like, "The Mayor Comes to Your High School". Whatever method we use, we need to brand his message and develop a marketing campaign. Even if the mayor is not available personally, we can do a video of past graduates and the Mayor, make it a selling tool in the schools.

In-School Youth Program

Tammy Lipsey presented the WIA In- School-Youth report. Currently, there are 292 participants that are active in the GWS system that are still eligible to participate in the summer work experience programs. AWDA is currently recruiting new participants to participate in the year-round program over the next 30 days. AWDA will recruit about 350 new participants who have not been in the program or who may have been in the previous program and exited at some point. A recruitment flyer has been distributed throughout our network of partner organizations. AWDA will also have a booth this year at the Dream Jamboree. We also are working with DFACS to recruit from their customer base, as well The Centers of Hope and the Parks and Recreations facilities to recruit individuals from the community.

In February, as you know, SHRM works with us to provide job readiness activities. So, right now we have some pending dates for that to take place on a Saturday in February and one in March. So, we're looking forward to, again, working with SHRM (The Society of Human Resource Managers). Ms. Nancy Johnson also volunteered the Urban League of Atlanta to assist with the Saturday workshops.

Additionally, Tammy Lipsey reminded the committee of the up-dated performance measures for the youth funding. The GOWD increased AWDA's WIA Youth performance measures from the previous program year; however, the GOWD will allow local areas to renegotiate their measures towards the end of March 2013 if needed. *NOTE: Performance measures increased for all workforce areas statewide.*

AWDA'S CURRENT PROGRAM YEAR'S PERFORMANCE MEASURES ARE:

Literacy/Numeracy is 30%; an increase of 8% from last year's 22%

Placement in Employment/Education is 74.4%; an increase of 3% from last year 71%

Attainment of Degree or Certificate is 75%; an increase of 12% from last year 63%

Out-of-School Youth Program

Lance Wise reported that staff is very excited about what's going on with our out- of -school youth Activities, as well. As you know, we reported last board meeting that we did receive the YouthBuild grant.

So the YouthBuild Atlanta Program is fully operational now. We're in orientation with about 40 young People, and for 10 months, we'll be engaging the participants in building their basic skills toward achieving a GED, as well as for post-secondary education readiness.

The program goal is for 100% outcomes for the YouthBuild Program. So the program will demonstrate a high level of performance outcomes. Again, we're really focusing in on ensuring that the young people equip themselves so they can achieve the credentials that they need to achieve. The construction credentials, as well as the GED, and then be able to move them forward on to post-secondary education.

So, with that, we have a variety of other programs that support the YouthBuild Program, which is our AmeriCorps Program so the young people are doing community service over the course of their 10 Months, as well, in an effort to earn an educational award that they can then utilize to continue their post-secondary education studies.

Additionally, we have a Mentoring Program through YouthBuild USA that's targeting our younger youth in an effort to provide them with some guidance and a mentor over the course of our cycle. And then, we have a grant from YouthBuild USA, our post-secondary education grant, through the Gates Foundation, that supports the program working directly with Atlanta Metro and Atlanta Technical Colleges and developing what we're calling our COMPASS Readiness Program.

As you know, the Out-of-School population consist of young people who are not in school. They could've actually graduated high school or completed their GED but not actively engaged in any training programs or any post-secondary education programs or could be young people who did not complete school at that time. And so what we do is with that group, depending upon where they are, we have a variety of activities that they're engaged in.

If the Youth need to earn their GED, we work directly with Atlanta Public Schools and Atlanta Technical College and provide them with instruction toward earning their GED. If they already graduated high school and have a desire for post-secondary education, we bring them in for some employment readiness activities first and career exploration, and then begin to refer them over to one of those institutions for further studies.

As I mentioned on another call, we want to make sure that our young people as they're entering these post-secondary education institutions are ready to actually start taking classes in their major course of study. And so, with that, we are looking at providing this COMPASS Readiness in an effort to ensure that they actually score high enough on a COMPASS exam so they can enter into their courses of study.

Additionally, AWDA is achieving outcomes for credential attainment as well as for employment for the out- of- school population, as well. As we have been saying for over a year now, the other measure that's causing us sleepless nights, of course, is the new measures in numeracy in literacy. We have been grappling with the new numeracy and literacy performance for over a year now and let me just give you a little backdrop on numeracy and literacy.

The main problem, though, is convincing the young people to come back in here to work on their numeracy and literacy. And so, we've been working over the last year and a half trying to convince the Youth to do just that. We're excited about our numeracy and literacy numbers going up, and hopefully achieving a 30% performance measure that we have to achieve for that particular outcome.

AWDA will continue to strategize with that particular measure. The State actually has told us that this is an issue around the entire state and not just with AWDA. It's something that they've been grappling with throughout the state. And so, in March is a time for us to evaluate where we are and really renegotiate potentially the measure downward if we have not achieved the required increase in that particular performance measure.

But, again, we're going to continue to be very proactive and try to identify a lot of best practices that we can share with the State and other SDAs as we try to achieve this particular performance measure.

New Business

Mr. Romesburg wanted to know if AWDA has partnered with the United Way of Metro Atlanta because he is serving on their leadership council for the **Ready by 21**. Ready by 21 is an organization of supportive agencies in the City of Atlanta ,and statewide for that matter, helping students enter school ready to learn, avoid risky behaviors, and graduate and go on to post secondary education. Mr. Romesburg suggested that someone from AWDA serve on the Ready by 21 Council. There is a Ready by 21 meeting in Atlanta on March 11-13, 2013 and Tammy Lipsey and Lance Wise will represent AWDA.