

**Nashville Community Coalition for Youth Safety (NCCYS)
Employment, Training and Job Placement Work Group Meeting**

Friday, February 29, 2008; 3-4 PM

Nashville Career Advancement Center

621 Mainstream Drive, Suite 210, Nashville, TN

MINUTES

Present: Yvonne Joosten, Ellen Zinkiewicz, Bernard Werthan, Paul Juarez, Brenda Scott, Brandon Hill, Rev. Neely Williams, and Vicente Samaniego.

Meeting Opened: 3:00 pm

Meeting Adjourned: 4:00 pm

Chairing: Ellen Zinkiewicz

| Agenda | Discussion | Outcome |
|---|---|---|
| Welcome | Ellen Zinkiewicz | Members briefly introduced themselves |
| Overview, Updates, and discussion. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Oasis Center has been working on the “Safe Place” survey (aka-barriers to employment survey) questions completed. Brandon Hill gave some preliminary results of the survey (response results were distributed). The initial results show that the main barriers to employment for youth were Age and Networking. There were some stores that hire youth but much of them depend on social contacts. ➤ There was some discussion on combining these results with those of the focus group. ➤ Dr. Juarez gave a brief update on the CDC community-based intervention to prevent youth violence grant application and how it might help the work group accomplish some of its goals. The goal of the application is to link social capital from the broader community to targeted inner city neighborhoods in order to expand safe places, mentoring and job readiness/employment opportunities for youth and their families. ➤ There was some discussion of a Youth friendly (under 24) employer bank and its greater likelihood of being able to get it through the Chamber of Commerce. ➤ Ellen spoke about a possible partnership between the Nashville Career Advancement Center, the Employment and Job Training work group and the Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods to put on a Summer Activity Fair for Youth ages 14-17. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brandon at Oasis Center will work on getting the results of the barriers to employment (Safe Places) survey. • Dr. Juarez will keep the work group updated on progress for the CDC grant application. • Ellen will send out an email about Summer Activity Fair for Youth ages 14-17 and find out what resources are currently available for youth. • Dr. Juarez will research and look for employer policies relating to hiring youth under 18. • Ellen, Neely, and Brenda agreed to work together on the Summer activity youth fair. • Dr. Juarez will look into experiences of others in creating “youth temporary agencies”. |

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| <p>Moving forward and next steps</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We need to work with the Chamber of Commerce to try and get a list of employers who hire/will hire youth. ➤ Need to start thinking about ways to screen youth (e.g., job readiness, basic soft skills needed) before connecting them to employers that are willing to hire youth. We also need to see if we can create or develop an employer policy manual, in conjunction with the Chamber, on the ins and outs of hiring youth under 18. ➤ We need to connect with partners (e.g., Vanderbilt) that may want to be sponsors for the summer activity fair. ➤ Need to look at barriers to employment survey and find a way to link this data to the focus group data, where relevant. ➤ There was a brief discussion on developing an assessment tool of skills needed for employment. Something that can be done online where youth communication (e.g., http://www.teenedge.com/). ➤ There was some discussion about Job readiness skills that employers look for when considering hiring youth and the need for an employer guide for hiring youth under 18. ➤ There was a final discussion on looking at ways for all youth to have an opportunity to do something this summer. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Juarez will try to set up a meeting with Howard Gentry on behalf of the work group • Dr. Juarez will approach chamber of commerce to see if we can help them develop a guide for hiring youth w/ policies on age restrictions. • Yvonne and Rev. Williams will try to connect with partners that may want to sponsor summer activity fair. • Vicente will try to find a way to link survey results with focus group data and talk to Dr. Cornfield about analysis. • Mr. Werthan & Brenda will work with Brandon on the assessment tool. |
| <p>Adjourn and Next Meeting</p> | <p>➤ Next meeting was <i>scheduled</i> for Friday, March 28, 3-4 pm at NCAC, 621 Mainstream Drive, Suite 210, Nashville, TN.</p> | |