

TO: Youth Council

DATE: 5/10/06

FROM: Youth Council Staff

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: “Engaging At-Risk Youth in Community Service Learning Councils”

PROPOSED MOTION(S): For Discussion.

DISCUSSION: During the April 11, 2006 Youth Council meeting, Ms. Kristina E. Dower and Ms. Martha Burzycki of the Job Training and Employment Corporation made a presentation to the Council about their program concerning the Cape and Islands Youth Community Development Council.

Their Youth Community Development Council operates as one of the ten program elements required by the Workforce Investment Act: Leadership development opportunities, which include community service and peer-centered activities encouraging responsibility and other positive social behaviors.

The concept requires the formation of a committee composed of at least 12 at-risk WIA enrolled youth; surveying the community for worthwhile projects; developing a Request for Proposal; reviewing the submissions and selecting the programs; and monitoring the selected program.

The program is staff intensive and relies upon outside, non WIA funding sources. During the presentation the example of the Community Service Learning Council discovering a need for a baseball field in the Housing Authority was presented. The Learning Council wrote an RFP, selected the provider and had the field built. If they used WIA funds to build the field, they were in violation of the law. Those funds would have to be used to pay staff, rent the facilities and provide direct services to youth. Paying for the provider (construction) would have had to come from non WIA funding.

ATTACHMENT(S): N/A