

TO: Youth Council

DATE: 01/11/06

FROM: Youth Council Staff

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: Youth Council Retreat

PROPOSED MOTION(S): Information and discussion.

DISCUSSION: During the December 14, 2005 Youth Council meeting, the possibility of having a future Youth Council Retreat was raised. The Youth Council has held two retreats since its inception, November 17, 2001 and June 14, 2002.

The original retreat centered around three questions:

- 1) Where do you see the Youth Council going in the next 2 years?
- 2) What does a comprehensive, local youth system look like?
- 3) What is the most important function of this Youth Council in building a comprehensive, local youth system?

The retreat facilitated the Youth Council in assigning priorities to specific elements of a Youth Council in building a comprehensive local youth system. The following functions were listed as top priorities:

- 1) Coordinate youth services by defining a single year-round comprehensive system,
- 2) Ensure quality and impact of local efforts by benchmarking best practices and setting quality standards based on best practices,
- 3) Promoting policies to sustain effective practices by catalyzing the shift from programs to one system, and
- 4) Convening local leadership to take action by leveraging youth serving resources and by educating leadership on the system and lessons learned.

The June 14, 2002 Retreat took a more inward look. This retreat's agenda centered on a review and evaluation of the Council's Role, Vision, Mission and Goals. A review was presented of the Council's achievements and the roles and achievements of the five Youth Council subcommittees. The functions of the Youth Council were also reviewed and discussed. The retreat accomplished the verification of 3 of the Council's 4 goals. The functions of the Council were generally affirmed but an ad hoc committee was recommended to further refine the functions of the Youth Council.

On October 12, 2005, the Youth Council held an Open Forum on the role and responsibilities of the Youth Council. The Vision, Role, Mission Statement and Goals were reviewed and affirmed. A historical look at the accomplishments, to include all past and present members, was presented. The costs of WIA programs and numbers of participants were discussed. Finally, the Youth Council's White Paper was accepted and approved by the Youth Council. This Open Forum accomplished basically what the June 2002 retreat had accomplished.

ATTACHMENTS: N/A