

ECGC WIA YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING
Taken January 29, 2013

Call to Order:

Ginger Carrington

NOTE: after the minutes can you give an update on anything with the GDOL- – short informal information to the Youth Council. Do you know of any changes taking place? Just informal information you can share.

Youth Council Report- Chair Carrington conducted the Youth Council meeting and provided the following update from Warren County with the possibility of a new wood pellet plant coming and will be creating jobs for the community.

Warren Co. welcomes new jobs, business

News 12 First at Five / Thursday, Jan. 17, 2013

WARRENTON, Ga. (WRDW) -- The Enova Wood Pellet Group will begin construction soon on a plant off Highway 80 in Warrenton.

Sixty-five full-time jobs will need to be filled after the plant is completed.

Commissioner, John Graham is ready for construction to start but more excited for what this means for the community.

"Great economic development and jobs for the community. The investment that will be brought will be great for Warren County," he said.

Another 350 jobs will come from indirect services connected to the construction of the Enova plant. Things like maintenance, hauling services and timber are some industries county leaders will hope get a boost.

Almost every seat was taken in the courtroom for the announcement on Thursday, January 17th that morning. Graham says that's because everyone in the community wanted this to happen and played a role in making it happen -- from the county commissioners to the school board.

"We all worked together to bring better things and make Warrenton and Warren County a better place to live," Graham said.

The total cost of the project is \$115 million and O.B. McCorkle, director of Development Authority, say the plant will be big.

"The site is about 250 acres. They're going to be off of 80 South," McCorkle said.

While the construction is important, many are asking when they can start applying.

"Summer of 2014," Graham replied.

Enova said Warren County's proximity to Norfolk Southern Railroad was another key component. They are planning on building more plants and bringing more jobs into Georgia and South Carolina with Edgefield on the short list for that expansion.

Next Ms. Carrington shared Pyra Max in Jefferson county still starting up and doing some hiring. However, GLIT located in Wrens, Ga. has been notified by headquarters that they will be closing in 90 days and the 120 plus employees will be out of a job. This is another devastating economic blow for Jefferson County as it has been there for 30 years and some employees have been there the entire time. They are not being closed due to Trade so no extra benefits for the plant closure.

A new Hampton Inn and Suites is closer to being opened in Thomson but not sure as when or how many will be employed. ECGC Staff continue to keep and post the employment opportunities to those that come into the office.

Charlene Sizemore from Capital Workforce Solutions reported that she was attending in October, 2012 an Innovation and Education Conference in Atlanta and will report back on this in January, 2013.

Ms. Sizemore reported that Dr. Barge, State School Superintendent will be making changes in high school curriculum to increase classes in Business and Industries for the students to be ready to fill the in demand occupations.

Sue presented to the Youth Council the following:

- The Youth Council was updated on Tuesday, January 24, 2013 about the 9 new Youth Contracts for PY12. 8 are ongoing from years past and the new one is Columbia County Family Connection and being monitored closely for technical assistance. It has been a slow start with them **due to no fault** of the Youth Coordinator with Columbia County Family Connections. The YPC has not been able to provide more hands on training due to other pressing situations that YPC was & is handling at ECGC. Cudo's go to the Youth Coordinator for taking the initiative and working closely with other surrounding Youth Coordinators that the YPC has referred her to. Hopefully in the next couple of months YPC will have more time or a part time Youth Assistant in the office to assist with more hands on technical assistance for the Youth Coordinator at CCFC.
- As of March 1st the Youth Coordinator at CCFC has resigned to take another position and another Youth Coordinator will be hired. Again another slow setback but the YC was able to enter and register 9 Youth in the program before she left. Someone in the office at CCFC will be working with the Youth to keep them engaged in the WIA program. Again just a setback as YPC and Director of CCFC closely communicating to stay on track.

- A Youth Service Providers meeting took place on Tuesday, January 24, 2013 and the providers received some very good in-house best practices technical training by each Youth Provider which was a good resource sharing of what each Youth Provider does in their county with their Youth that they serve. The good news is that some of the ECGC Youth are having some successes by getting their high school diploma, GED, going into Post-Secondary, Military or found work. The Youth Providers offer encouragement, guidance, counseling and always looking for resources for their Youth. This also allows the Youth Providers to discuss their issues and concerns.
- We did complete the Nuclear Workforce Initiative Academy, which started May 07, 2012 and ended on June 7, 2012. Those that did participate attended a five week intensive workshop at Augusta Technical College. We started with 4 Out of School Youth and all 4 completed the process and all 4 are in enrolled in Post-Secondary Education. Follow- Up is being monitored. This Nuclear Initiative will not start another class in May 2013 due to the Gates foundation Funding was cute that paid the Staff at Augusta Tech for the 5 weeks of class.
- ECGC Youth looking into a partnership with Morris Beard of CSRA Electrical in Augusta to do a similar Youth ITA in Electrical Apprenticeship. Details are in the beginning stages to see if these criteria will be beneficial to the Youth we serve. Is it a need- yes- but will the Youth in the outer counties be able to attend classes for 4 -6 weeks in Augusta every day. More info to follow and will notify the Youth Council if a vote will be needed on the Initiative.
- CSRA Electrical did submit a proposal to look at. However it was for 12 hours of instruction and would only get a "Certificate of Participation"- no credential tied to this. It was also geared toward high school seniors and would attend class on 2 Saturdays. The cost of the instruction was @ \$500.00 per youth x 20 Youth = \$10,000. Once again a good idea but no credential and would a high school senior get what was needed or retained in that short amount of time. It was mentioned to the Proposer that would be doing a new round of RFP's in 2014 and could add them to the Bidders List.
- On October 30th the High School/Hi Tech students in the CSRA participated in a Career Expo event with an excellent turn out with Students and Employers.
- On November 27th Mr. Leon, Mary and Sue attended the Tri State WIA meeting with 5 WIA areas. 2 from SC and 3 from Georgia. The program that day was touring the SC Job

Corp Training Facility. On February 26, 2013 we met again in Greenville, SC and on June 4th ECGC will be the host for training. Again an excellent way to learn and share resources with other WIA areas. On February 26th

- YPC/SJY, Contract Rep. Mary Stein and recently Pecola Wiley is assisting some with Youth files in trying to visit each Youth Service Provider in the last quarter and continue to do so throughout the year for Monitoring, Case Reviews or County Collaborative meetings.
- Athens Technical College will be opening a new satellite campus in Washington, Georgia and making it a 1-Stop. ECGC will be taking an active part in this for the customers we serve.
- Glascock, Hancock and Jefferson Counties have newly elected County Commissioners and these will be 3 new CEO'S to serve on the WIA from their counties and will be attending the next mini WIA retreat on Tuesday, April 23, 2013. Included will be the Youth Council, WIB members and ECGC Staff.
- Regarding the GOWD Monitoring/Audit that was held in September and the 'Findings' on Youth all but one has been resolved and answers about making policy changes have been finalized. On 1- 'Finding' we are still waiting on GOWD for final decision regarding information needed on Youth Contracts, however we are moving forward and adding the new information ongoing on Youth Contracts.

At the last Youth Council meeting, January 24th, 2013 a recommendation was made by YPC/SJR and voted yes by the Youth Council to extend additional Youth funding up to \$5,000.00 to Youth Service Providers if they are meeting performance and compliance for PY12 Youth Contract. This 2nd additional funding will be a 2nd modification in the Youth Contract. It is to be used for additional Summer Work Experience to assist them in learning about WIA and work. The extra funding would not be available until April 1, 2013. The additional funding was approved by the WIB on 1-24-13 and also the CEO's on 1-29-13 again as long as in compliance and meeting performance.

NOTE: ECGC had some carry over Youth funding and ECGC wanted to make it available to the Youth Providers that work with the 'at risk' Youth.

Also if all 9 Youth Contracts take advantage of the extra funding at this time they may want to add extra participants or extend their 'Summer Work Experience' program the ECGC Youth Council will be asking for a recommendation and vote on this at the January 29, 2013 meeting

as we do not meeting again till April 23, 2013. This could be in place for the Youth Providers to start or extend the Summer Work Program in May, 2013. We would also look at the funding to not exceed up to \$5,000.00 per contract and this would reduce the extra carry over youth funding. Again all of this is based on Youth Performance and Contract Compliance for PY12.

Next on Wednesday, March 5th at ECGC sponsored the Community Collaborative Partnership Breakfast held at ECGC/1-STOP with over 40 in attendance. We meet new Community Partners to the area. It was a great networking meeting and later toured the ECGC/1-STOP. Some of the Employers were not familiar with WIA and this was an excellent way to tell them about it and what we could offer to Employers and Employees. It was a great success and the group wanted to continue this at least 3 times a year.

Congratulations again to ECGC 4th Quarter Performance were an overall MET for the year in Youth. Will be getting the new Quarter Performance and will share these results when received. ECGC negotiated our Performance % and we were able to maintain it at a much lower rate than other areas in the state but do know that it will increase for PY13 but not sure how much which means will have to make sure the Youth Contracts stay on task.

NOTE: House Bill #393 WIA Bill was presented to the Georgia Assembly and passed by the House and Senate. This will allow the State WIB to provide for more powers and duties pertaining to the Local Board decisions in regards to funding, budgets, contract limitations, sanctions for nonperformance and lack of fiscal responsibly, provide for the delivery of certain services and limitations, to repeal conflicting laws, other purposes, etc... Also **merging the Local WIA** with another WIA Area and **reorganization** plan if fail to meet the above as mentioned.

The ACT shall be known as: Local Workforce Investment Good Governance Act for Georgia. If you would like to read the entire Bill # 393 go to: www.legis.ga.gov/legislation and referred to more as the Workforce Investment System.

The GOWD State of **Georgia WIA Policy Manual for Program Year 2012**, revised as of 3-13-13 is now more in line with the **House Bill #393 WIA** and the **Georgia Integrated State Plan** for July1, 2012-June 30, 2013: draft posted for public comment dated March 3, 2013 as again revised as of 3-8-13.

ECGC will be sponsoring training to Employers on the OJT, Work Experience, Customized Employment and other WIA Services we provide to the Economic Developers, Chamber Executives and Business Leaders for our area on Tuesday, April 2nd. Also Staff have been presenting at many surrounding functions, Job Fairs, Career Expos in letting the Employers, Employees, newspaper and general public know of our WIA services that we can provide.

Thanks you,

Sue Richards, Youth Program Coordinator

