

**WIL LOU GRAY OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL
AD HOC COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF July 11, 1997**

The ad hoc committee to study strategies for increased enrollment at Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School met for a scheduled meeting in the cafeteria on July 11, 1997, at 12:00 noon. Present were Dr. Louise Scott, Mrs. Clotilda Diggs, Dr. Marvin Efron, Mr. Russell Hart, Mr. Pete Howell, Mr. Pat Smith and Dr. Mary Catherine Norwood. Mrs. Sandra Franklin and Mr. Al Butler were not present.

The minutes of the May 21, 1997, ad hoc committee meeting were previously provided to the committee.

Mrs. Diggs reported the ad hoc committee was divided into two subcommittees. She said we have been discussing retrieving our dropouts and taking our population in-house, making an appeal to a different population, increase our female population and equalize our racial population, meet programmatic needs, and discuss moving into the world of work.

At this time she called on Dr. Efron. Dr. Efron reported Mr. Howell did some investigation with JTPA. JTPA is training people for jobs and there are funds available. Most of the JTPA money goes to TEC schools.

Mr. Howell reported VR does not get JTPA funds directly, however, a number of their clients eventually go into JTPA training slots that various vendors have in the State. In addition, at some of the comprehensive school programs, JTPA is funding in the summer the employment experiences for some students in those programs. He said there are funds available for statewide programs dealing specifically with literacy, school to work, and non-traditional employment opportunities for women. Also, there are seven service delivery areas around the state that are governed by local private industry councils. Those service delivery areas and those private industry councils also have JTPA money available every year and let those out as grants to different vendors who have skill training, remedial education training, and OJT training. Therefore, the WLGOS could qualify for the statewide grants but also potentially the grants in the Midlands service delivery area which is about a four county area. The representative of JTPA said he felt that from those Title II funds which are controlled by the local service delivery areas, rarely did they go out of their own service delivery area. Therefore, there would probably not be funds available to the WLGOS from that but there would be from the Midlands. In summary, the WLGOS could qualify through JTPA for statewide grants and/or regional grants. These grants are given once a year.

Mr. Howell further reported in terms of VR, they are supportive of any effort to move into an area of functional based education leading to employment. They need many of their clients to learn job skills and are interested in a GED program

rather than a carnegie unit program.

Dr. Efron reported he talked with Sandra Franklin of Midlands TEC. She said TEC's admissions's policy was unless students met some fairly rigid academic qualifications, they could not be admitted to TEC. They do have a remedial program for students that have a certain educational level and they must meet their qualifications within one year. However, there are a number of students who do not meet those qualifications within one year and cannot get more remedial training. Also, there are a number of students who do not meet the minimum to start the remedial program. There is a possibility that these students who do not meet their initial requirements could be referred to the WLGOS. He further explained that under JTPA, there are a lot of grants and may be some possibilities for subcontracts from them.

Dr. Efron further reported he had visited DSS. Mr. Clark, DSS Commissioner, said he was not interested in traditional type education because research has shown that this does not apply to DSS clients. They are interested in a more specific type functional education. They are looking for vocational training. Dr. Efron said that Mike Kelly has contacted DSS and has scheduled a meeting for August 12 for DSS administrators to see what the WLGOS program has to offer.

Dr. Norwood said they recommended sending our staff to pilot counties with high unemployment to develop a specific program to meet the needs for employment in that area. Mr. Howell said there is a lot of need, but there are not a lot of resources or opportunities. He said one major problem in rural areas is transportation. They mentioned the WLGOS putting together a training program for people to operate rural transportation. They would have guaranteed contracts once they completed this training program which would require some general education as well as specific skills training.

Dr. Scott recommended the WLGOS have a program set up similar to adult education. Students could complete the program at their own pace and would progress faster than the traditional classroom.

Mr. Hart said in reference to bringing students in or taking programs out, many agencies established around the state can offer the same programs more economically. He felt we should not be in competition or duplicate services.

Mr. Howell said he felt a decision needed to be made whether or not WLGOS would remain on the carnegie unit program, move into the functional area or a combination of the two. Should we move to add to the vocational skills program or should we diminish this? He said he felt it is clearly shown that there is probably not going to be one or two single specific populations that this institution can seek that will fill the gap. He agrees that there are a lot of institutions doing these kinds of things but they are doing it at different levels. He said the key is to find the level which no one else has. Mr. Howell said the

only people that are doing that are a lot of private JTPA vendors.

Mrs. Diggs asked how are we going to suit any of these innovations to our present factors? She said obviously we will need some retraining.

Dr. Scott said she wanted us to be sure that the programs are well planned and teachers are well trained. Mr. Howell said the more flexible we can make the programs the more needs we can meet. The more needs we meet, the more advocates we will have.

Dr. Efron recommended refining the reports from VR, JTPA, TEC, and DSS to the board of trustees and see if they would like this ad hoc committee to continue in this area.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Clotilda Diggs".

Clotilda Diggs, Chair
Ad Hoc Committee

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