

**WIL LOU GRAY OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL  
AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF JUNE 17, 1997 MEETING**

The ad hoc subcommittee met for a scheduled meeting in the cafeteria on June 17, 1997, at 12:00 noon. Present were Dr. Marvin Efron, Mr. Pete Howell, Dr. Mary Catherine Norwood, Mr. Pat Smith, and Ms. Brenda Stork.

Dr. Efron reviewed the admission policy for Midlands Technical College as follows: All applicants must possess a high school diploma or its equivalent or must be at least 18 years old to be considered for admission into curriculum programs and courses offered by the college. Graduates of South Carolina high schools who have received a "certificate," not a diploma, are strongly urged to return to their high school district to complete the diploma or GED. Certificate recipients who meet minimum scores on the college's placement exam will be admitted to the college. Eligible high school students who desire to enroll in a college course(s) concurrently with their high school classes may do so with the written authorization of their parent(s) and high school principal.

Dr. Efron said in looking at admission, there may be a possibility of referral of students to WLGOs from MTC that are below their (MTC) remedial level. Dr. Norwood said this would affect technical colleges statewide.

Dr. Norwood said she received today the grant proposal from JTPA. The deadline for the proposal is July 21. Mr. Howell said he contacted Mr. Mack Rutland of JTPA about the possibility of WLGOs being involved. Mr. Howell said he thought the WLGOs would have potential in two areas: 1) Title IIA - Adult and 2) Title II - Youth. He said there were 7 service delivery areas. They fund remedial programs, OJT, skilled training at a certain level and specific skill training classes. He felt WLGO could qualify under both categories - youth and adult. But probably in this category only for the Midlands service delivery area, given that the other service delivery areas who independently allocate their money almost exclusively to local vendors. There is some competition in the Midlands but is not unreasonable. There also is some turnover each year in the vendors receiving the RFPs under all of the categories. Dr. Norwood said she thought vocational high school TEC centers operate these programs year around. Mr. Howell recommended contacting Bonnie Alston for this service delivery area. He said they have a considerable amount of money even with the proposed consolidation. Apparently they are doing a number of OJT and skill grants. He said TEC is a big player but applies every year. He said the categories would be Literacy, School-to-Work, Non-Traditional Employment Opportunities for Women. Mr. Howell recommended to get on board in January/February to be prepared for next year. Also, he recommended preparing for Title II in January/February.

Dr. Norwood said we had a summer JTPA program for several years but had to be eliminated with our reduction in force. We did not have the funds to maintain

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the staff. The grant did not pay all of the costs involved. Mr. Howell said one way to structure this is to go ahead and move in this direction - set up part of the program to be able to accommodate this and then potentially go after the JTPA almost as supplemental. This would then take a program already in place and allow us to expand it.

Dr. Norwood indicated we already have the Carl Perkins grant for the Young Womens Career Club. A sex equity program, non-traditional careers for young women, is also incorporated in this proposal. She felt this could possibly be expanded upon. She said this was about a \$20,000 grant. Mr. Howell recommended contacting Mack Rutland as a follow-up to his conversation with him and talk about some of the possible enhancements. He could also confirm the potential for in-kind match.

Dr. Norwood said Dr. Efron had talked about training drivers for rural transportation systems. She said we have the staff that could provide this training.

Mr. Howell said in terms of potential large increases in referrals from specifically the disability adjudications, there will probably not be any large increases at one time in referrals because of the way the process is set up. If they get denied they have appeal rights, etc. He said he talked with Charles LaRosa about our deliberations and he is very supportive of broadening the focus to a more functional educational preparation as well as skilled training. It is their experience that there are a lot of people who need some remediation but not necessarily long term formal schooling. They need some specialized training but do not qualify to go into long formalized training programs such as TEC. He said there is almost a void there. There are people who need the skills but don't have any arena that is appropriate.

Mr. Howell said he felt the WLG programs need to be outcome oriented i.e. if the education is achieved it must be linked to a job. The vocational components need to be totally market driven.

Dr. Efron reported he met Dr. Billy Middleton, Mr. Jim Clark, Mr. James Shine, Dr. Charles Daly, Ms. Gwen Kuhns, and Ms. Leigh Bolick of DSS to discuss the possible better utilization of the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School by his agency. Mr. Clark, DSS Director, said the news media will soon criticize DSS for not stressing education. Mr. Clark explained that traditional education has not proven to be effective for welfare recipients, but specialized education would be desirable, stressing a functional curriculum and vocational component. Below is a summary of DSS needs:

- Utilize the WLGOS for day students for DSS welfare recipients in Lexington and Richland counties.

**-WLGOS to work with DSS to build a meaningful curriculum for welfare recipients.**

**-WLGOS to hold orientation meetings for DSS administrators to demonstrate the value of the school.**

**-WLGOS to send a staff member to a pilot county or combination of counties with a high unemployment to design a vocational program to meet the needs of the welfare recipients.**

**-WLGOS to assist DSS in building a curriculum for implementation of an entrepreneurial program for rural transportation in which Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School will teach this curriculum. A ninety day course is recommended.**

**-There is a need for residential students to be allowed to bring one child with them in the dormitory.**

**Dr. Efron said Mr. Clark was very positive and wanted to get started as soon as possible. He asked Dr. Efron to make contact with the agency through Leigh Bolick as soon as possible.**

**Dr. Norwood said we could contact Ms. Bolick and give her several available dates to schedule orientation meetings. She felt these meetings should concur before August 15.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

*Dr. Marvin Efron*

**Dr. Marvin Efron**

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