

**WORKFORCE CONNECTIONS
YOUTH COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**February 12, 2014
11:00 a.m.**

*Workforce Connections
6330 W. Charleston Blvd., Ste. 150
Bronze Conference Room
Las Vegas, NV 89146*

Members Present

Sonja Holloway	Stavan Corbett	Lt. Jack Owen	Mujahid Ramadan
Tommy Rowe	Vida Chan Lin	Willie J. Fields	Debbie Tomasetti
Dan Rose			

Members Absent

None

Staff Present

Ardell Galbreth	Heather DeSart	Suzanne Potter	Clentine January
Ricardo Villalobos	Jim Kostecki	Carol Turner	Jennifer Padilla
Brett Miller	Shawonda Nance	Denise Stickney	

Others Present

Dr. Tiffany Tyler, Nevada Partners	Hannah Brown, Workforce Connections
Pamela R. Poston, HELP of Southern Nevada	Jeramey Pickett, Nevada Partners, Inc.
Sharon Morales, LCCCF	Erik Olmos, YouthBuild
Nield Montgomery, The Learning Center	Gary Revere, Olive Crest
Vincent Miller, Goodwill of Southern Nevada	Jacobi Ellis, YouthBuild
Kristi Siegmund, Goodwill of Southern Nevada	Kelli Mosley, Olive Crest
Jackie Ramos, LCCCF	Helicia Thomas, GNJ Family Life Center
Ron Hilke, DETR	Sherman Rutledge, Jr., GNJ Family Life Center
Darm Radcliff, GNJ Family Life Center	Ramos Gruer, GNJ Family Life Center
Jordan Rushton, GNJ Family Life Center	Darrein Radford, GNJ Family Life Center
Bretaishe Rogers, GNJ Family Life Center	

1. Call to order, confirmation of posting and roll call

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Chair Holloway. Staff confirmed the meeting had been properly posted in accordance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law; roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

2. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Approve the Agenda with inclusions of any emergency items and deletion of any items

A motion was made to approve the agenda by Dan Rose and seconded by Lt. Jack Owen. Motion carried.

3. FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION:

None

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Approve the Youth Council Meeting Minutes of January 8, 2014

A motion was made to approve the Youth Council Meeting Minutes of January 8, 2014 as presented by Tommy Rowe and seconded by Mujahid Ramadan. Motion carried.

5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Approve staff's recommendation to negotiate and amend Nevada Partners, Inc. In-School Youth Program contract to include Legacy High School for an additional amount not to exceed \$100,000

Ricardo Villalobos provided background. Legacy High School, located in North Las Vegas has a student base of approximately 63% colored students. In 2012, the graduation rate was approximately 64% and 65% in 2013. Legacy H.S. has failed to meet the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the past three years. In 2012, Legacy H.S. was 21% credit deficient and 18% in 2013; the State average is 14.79%. Less than half (43.8%) of the students that leave Legacy H.S. are college and/or career ready. The Nevada school performance framework ranked Legacy H.S. 54.5/100 making it a three star school. If approved, Nevada Partners will provide GAI services to 50 students beginning in March through September 30, 2014.

Debbie Tomasetti stated that she oversees the JAG program but was not aware that Legacy H.S. was to be brought on board and expressed concern about the program starting so late in the school year. Ricardo replied that the program will emphasize summer school and summer work experience activities.

Following a discussion,

A motion was made to negotiate and amend Nevada Partners, Inc. In-School Youth Program contract to include Legacy High School for an additional amount not to exceed \$100,000 by Willie J. Fields and seconded by Mujahid Ramadan. Motion carried.

6. INFORMATION: Awards & Expenditures Report

Jim Kostecki, Finance Manager presented the Awards & Expenditures report provided on page 11 of the agenda packet. The report includes invoices through December 2013 and indicates no pink papers and/or high risk issued.

Ms. Holloway noted that JAG is not on the report and inquired about JAG program expenditures. Mr. Kostecki indicated that there no expenditures on the JAG contract to date. Ardell Galbreth provided a brief background on the JAG program. Carol Turner stated Community Service Agency (JAG) should have a cost bill at the end of February, which will show up on the March report, and stated that an email was received from CSA that indicated no expenses prior to December.

To Willie J. Fields question regarding the number of JAG schools, Mr. Villalobos replied there are 10 JAG schools of which six also have the Graduate Advocate Initiative program. Additional information will be provided at the next meeting.

7. INFORMATION: Youth Funding Plan

Carol Turner presented the Youth Funding Plan provided on page 13 of the agenda packet. The report shows \$122,634 (.16 months) of remaining funds; WC is not expecting to recapture any funds. Carol noted there is an additional \$545,000 in youth funds available for the current program year and funding recommendations are forthcoming. Additionally, \$2,120,000 has been set aside for the first quarter of next year in the event of a sequestration, otherwise most of the dollars are committed and the youth funded partners are being encouraged to spend. Mr. Galbreth noted that the .16 months of remaining funds is tight and leaves no room for error in our spending plan; staff will be monitoring expenditures very closely.

8. INFORMATION: WIA Youth Client Demographics Report

Brett Miller presented the WIA Youth Client Demographics report provided on page 14 – 16 of the agenda packet with a brief overview of page 16 based on the graphs illustrated. Mr. Ramadan noted that he and Mr. Villalobos had a discussion this week regarding challenged youth populations, and now he is more confident that the dollars are reaching the youth most in need.

9. INFORMATION: GNJ Family Life Center Youth Presentation

Sherman Rutledge, Program Director at GNJ provided a presentation regarding GNJ's Youth Program including the following highlights:

- GNJ served 1,070 youth within the greater Las Vegas area since 2012

- Met and/or exceeded all performance measures for 2012
- Will launch a new youth website in April 2014
- Introduced the nine-industry sector bus tour last August 23rd with 22 stops on the all-day bus tour connected to STEM;
- Facilitated youth activities including an educational visit to the Smith's Center for youth interested in audio visual technology; recycled metal, shredding, and biochemical diesel plants tour; visited the Veteran's Administration Hospital in North Las Vegas as well as the Aerospace Mechanical Institute;
- Sponsored a STEM luncheon with guest speaker DETR Director Frank Woodbeck and WC's Clentine January, who spoke to the youth on STEM
- Sent 10 GNJ participants to the National Innovative 2013 Communities Conference in Ontario, CA June 19-21;
- Held a Leadership and Employability Conference at Texas Hotel on June 7, 2013

Mr. Rutledge introduced four GNJ youth participants who shared about their experiences with the program Raymond Green, who is now a medical student at Caplin University; Jordan Rushton who is working towards earning her GED and planning a career as a dental assistant; Darrein Radford a parenting youth who successfully increased both her math and reading skills level; and Bretaishe Rogers who received certificates and CEUs in Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and Access, and gained experience in green technology.

Dan Rose offered to provide a tour of the Sheet Metal Apprenticeship Training facility and provide information regarding the apprenticeship program and construction industry.

10. INFORMATION: YouthBuild USA Capital Hill Day Update ~ Jennifer Padilla

Jennifer Padilla provided an update:

- YBLV has begun recruiting through Craigslist
- Current (5th) cohort is so far the most successful for youth seeking assistance and employment
- 30 participants tested for their GED, 13 successfully completed their GED
- YBLV is currently working on their third Habitat for Humanity building project
- Ms. Padilla and Mr. Villalobos attended the National Director's Association for YouthBuild USA Conference in Washington, DC and had the opportunity to meet with one of Senator Reid's legislative aides and speak on behalf of the YBLV

Two YBLV participants shared about their experience with the YBLV program: Jacobi Ellis who is working on his apprenticeship, and received his GED within the first two months of the program; and Eric Ramos, who is pursuing a career as an electrician and has a passion in the field of Psychology. Both participants were recruited from Craigslist.

Mr. Rose stated that the YouthBuild program helps prepare youth for apprenticeship programs and most allow direct entry from the program, but the sheet metal apprenticeship program does not; however, it does provide a full rights scholarship and the ability to receive an Associate's Degree.

Mr. Villalobos introduced new WC employee and former YBLV participant, Denise Stickney.

11. INFORMATION: Youth Department Director's Report ~ Ricardo Villalobos

Ricardo Villalobos reported that WC recently submitted an application for the Youth Career Connect Grant released by the Department of Labor for \$7,000,000 and has received support from Senator Reid's office. The purpose of the grant is to provide services for in school youth, centered on industries with high rates of US H-1B Visas (a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise in specialized fields including architecture, engineering, mathematics, science, and medicine). The proposal is based on the IT field and focuses on

integrated career and academic learning, individualized counseling, work experience, specifically computer programming and system analysts, sustainability and performance. The goal is to develop a skilled “home-grown” workforce to meet the workforce demands in these specialized fields. The program will target high school students in the 10th grade from Cheyenne H.S., Del Sol H.S. and Eldorado H.S.. WC submitted the proposal in partnership Clark County School District (Higher Education), College of Southern Nevada, UNLV, The Lindsey Institute, and Society for Information Management Las Vegas Chapter (a consortium representing over 30 employers and executive, experts in the IT industry). The consortium is offering mentors, paid internships, and \$2,000,000 of in-kind contributions. The determination for the grant award will be in April 2014.

Mr. Villalobos reported on the release of Rural RFPs in mid-March to target Lincoln County, Nye County, Esmeralda County, and rural Clark County for both Youth and Adult & Dislocated Worker programs. The program start date will be July 1, 2014.

Mr. Galbreth provided an update on the failed Youth Literacy/Numeracy performance measure. WC’s performance data did not translate correctly onto DETR’s data system. Additional information, data and background support was provided to DETR that indicated a higher achievement rate in Lit/Num. Mr. Galbreth stated that not only did WC meet performance, but also exceeded this performance measure. WC is coordinating with DETR and the US Department of Labor to have the performance report changed to reflect correct outcomes. Mr. Galbreth will keep the Youth Council apprised of the situation.

12. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

Ron Hilke, DETR/WISS concurred with Ardell’s update and stated that there are three systems involved in reporting data to US Department of Labor: NVTrac (WC’s internal reporting system), NJCOS (DETR’s data system), and WIZARD (transmits data to US DOL). There are issues with the interface between NVTrac and NJCOS, but all parties (WC, DETR, funded partners, US DOL) are communicating to resolve these issues.

13. INFORMATION: Youth Council Member Comments

Lt. Jack Owen thanked the GNJ and YBLV participants for sharing about their experience and successes with the WIA Youth program and commented on the potential and different opportunities available for youth, regardless of what career field they choose.

Mujahid Ramadan commented to YBLV speakers regarding other youth looking for help, to be an advocate in preventing sex-trafficking issues by referring victims to organizations that can help.

14. ACTION: Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 12:14 p.m. by Tommy Rowe and seconded by Mujahid Ramadan. Motion carried.