

*workforce*CONNECTIONS

MINUTES
Youth Council Meeting
February 13, 2013
1:00 p.m.

7251 W. Lake Mead Blvd.
Suite 200 Conference Room
Las Vegas, NV 89128

Members Present

Sonja Holloway, Chair Lt. Jack Owen Willie J. Fields
Stavan Corbett Vida Chan Lin

Members Absent

Dan Rose

Staff Present

Ardell Galbreth Suzanne Potter Heather DeSart Jim Kostecki
Clentine January Rick Villalobos Kimberly Colagioia Madeline Arazoza

Others Present

Renee Cantu, LCCCF Lori Thomas, Nevada Partners, Inc.
Arneller Mullins, Nevada Partners, Inc. Doug Coombs, Olive Crest
Jennifer Bevacqua, Olive Crest Latanya Runnells, Nevada Partners, Inc.
Denise Gee, HELP of Southern Nevada Sharon Morales, LCCCF
Michael Simmons, GNJ Family Life Center Sherry Ramsay, Goodwill
Vince Miller, Goodwill Elizabeth McDaniels, Goodwill
Anisa Mineal, SNCF Suzanne Burke, SNCF
Donna Bensing, New Horizons CLC Daniel Topete, Nevada Partners, Inc.
Esther Valenzuela, SNRHA Dr. Tiffany Tyler, Nevada Partners, Inc.
Matt Hirsch, Andson Foundation Magann Jordan Youth Advocate Programs

(It should be noted that all attendees may not be listed above).

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

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chair Sonja Holloway. Staff confirmed the agenda had been properly noticed and 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 inclusion of any emergency items and deletion of any items**

A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented by Willie J. Fields and seconded by Vida Chan Line. Motion carried.

3. **FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION**

None

4. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Approve the Youth Council Meeting Minutes of January 16, 2013**

A motion was made to approve the Youth Council Meeting Minutes of January 16, 2013 as presented by Lt. Jack Owen and seconded by Vida Chan Lin. Motion carried.

5. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:**

- a. Approve staff's recommendation to award Olive Crest a PY2012 Workforce Transition Service for Foster Care Youth and/or Youth with Disabilities contract in an amount not to exceed \$250,000
- b. Approve staff's recommendation to award Goodwill of Southern Nevada a PY2012 Workforce Transition Service for Foster Care Youth and/or Youth with Disabilities contract in an amount not to exceed \$250,000

Willie J. Fields mentioned that today is the first time he saw the full agenda packet. Staff confirmed that it was e-mailed to the Youth Council members and posted on the Workforce Connections website last Friday.

Ricardo Villalobos reported that staff made a recommendation to award a contract for Foster Youth/Youth with Disabilities at the Youth Council Meeting last month; however, due to a discrepancy with the scoring process, the recommendation was not presented for action to the Board. Upon consulting with a Department of Labor consultant, staff nullified the previous evaluation. The proposals were reevaluated by four new evaluators using the scoring matrix in the RFP. The scores are provided in the agenda packet. Discussion ensued.

Staff is recommending these two contract awards based on the organizations capacity to serve these special populations. Goodwill of Southern Nevada specializes in serving youth with disabilities and Olive Crest specifically serves foster youth.

A motion was made to approve agenda items 5a and 5b by Willie J. Fields and seconded by Lt. Jack Owen. Motion carried.

6. **INFORMATION: PY2012 Youth Funded Partner Enrollment Status Report**

Mr. Villalobos presented the enrollment report for Summer Component/Year Round Youth, Out-of-School Youth, In-School Youth, Re-entry youth and Rural Youth programs.

Based on the low enrollment numbers, the Youth Council asked the youth providers to speak on their behalf regarding what challenges they are facing.

Following is a summary of the providers' statements:

GNJ Family Life Center (Out-of-School Youth): Michael Simmons reported that securing eligibility documentation poses a challenge as well as getting the youth to commit to the program. Initially,

GNJ had somewhat of a slow start due to staff turnover and training new staff. Mr. Simmons reported that GNJ has enrolled 165 youth to date and they expect to meet their contracted enrollments of 240 youth. GNJ has developed a variety of partnerships to help recruit new youth.

Latin Chamber of Commerce Community Foundation (Out-of-School): Renee Cantu reported that their enrollments are at 68 to date. LCCCF has changed its strategies to include developing a variety of new partnerships and working proactively to reach out to youth at their homes and other places youth hang out at. Mr. Cantu stated that the numbers look concerning; however, through partnerships and changing strategies LCCCF has progressed and will meet its contracted enrollments.

Sharon Morales added that LCCCF has begun to receive referrals from different agencies and to help process eligibility documentation staff have portable devices to scan/copy documentation offsite. Some of the challenges they faced was not having timely access to NVTrac until late July and hiring/training new staff.

Nevada Partners, Inc. (In-School Youth): Dr. Tiffany Tyler distributed a report on Nevada Partner's enrollments and expenditures to date as well as a memo regarding the Graduate Advocate Initiative Enrollment Strategies for the high schools NPI serves including: Canyon Springs H.S., Cheyenne H.S., Desert Pines H.S., Rancho H.S., Valley H.S., and Western H.S.

Dr. Tyler noted that NPI's contract commenced in July; however, their in-school youth enrollments did not begin until September at the beginning of the school year. To overcome this challenge, NPI developed partnerships with each of the large municipalities, including Clark County, City of Las Vegas, and City of North Las Vegas to collaboratively recruit and enroll youth. NPI has developed partnerships with the Summer Business Institute, Juvenile Justice and Family Resource Centers; maintains great relationships with Board staff; holds interning meeting and works collaboratively with the schools to develop new strategies to co-enroll and recruit youth. As a result of these efforts, enrollments for a four month period are over 50%. NPI holds recruiting events at weekly breakfasts on Saturdays and break periods (Christmas, Thanksgiving and professional development day). To facilitate the enrollment process, NPI purchased portable scanners to process enrollment documentation off site during home visits. Also, NPI is asking school sites to review student files for information/documentation that will help expedite the enrollment process.

Daniel Topete, Graduate Advocate Coordinator (NPI) at Desert Pines H.S. and Western H.S., described his challenges. Mr. Topete stated that securing eligibility documentation is the main challenge he faces, specifically social security cards and income verification. To overcome this challenge, Mr. Topete contacts the parents directly providing detailed information about the benefits and requirements of the program.

Dr. Tyler stated that each of the Graduate Advocate Coordinators have various duties at the different schools. For example, the coordinator at Cheyenne H.S. has duties split between managing a case load of 67 youth and doing the work experience placements for the Graduate Advocate Initiative. Initially, the coordinator has an intensive five day per week enrollment period then toward the third and fourth quarters concentrates on placing youth in work experiences. In the case of Western H.S., Desert Pines H.S., Mojave H.S. and Valley H.S. the coordinators are split between two schools and manage a case load of 134 youth with about 2 ½ days at each school. Additionally, a few of the schools have a built in firewall on their internet prohibiting onsite access to NVTrac. As a result, the coordinators are not able to process enrollment documentation at the school site and have to bring it

back to the agency to process. Last, Desert Pines H.S. has a significant amount of students who are undocumented.

Dr. Tyler stated that staff meets each week to discuss enrollment and service strategies each team member has a performance expectation with detailed benchmarks for success.

Lori Thomas, Graduate Advocate Coordinator (NPI) at Cheyenne H.S. shared her strategies for success. Topping her list is relationship building, instilling a sense of urgency in the youth and letting them know that they need the program, tools and assistance it offers. Ms. Thomas maintains a very active roll with the youth, parents, teachers, principal, and business partners. Ms. Thomas also speaks at the senior student assemblies to help motivate the students' trustworthiness and gratitude.

Mr. Villalobos stated that staff is working on a collaborative with Tim Burch, Director of Clark County Health Services to access public health records for pertinent information to help expedite the enrollment documentation process. Mr. Villalobos expects this to be available within the next couple months. Additionally, Mr. Burch is meeting with the Senate's Help Committee today in D.C. to discuss possibly removing some of the barriers that prevent funded partners from accessing certain information/documentation.

Denise Gee, HELP of Southern Nevada (In-School Youth) reported that as of today HELP has reached 48% of their contract enrollments. Ms. Gee echoed the same challenges and barriers as Nevada Partners. Additionally, two of the schools they serve have had a high staff turnover, including two principals who will soon be leaving, causing delayed meetings with senior students and time to rebuild good working relationships with school administrators. Ms. Gee anticipates that four schools will meet their enrollments by the end of the month; however, there is some concern regarding Cimarron H.S., Basic H.S. and Bonanza H.S. Ms. Gee has assigned staff teams to serve at these schools this week to help expedite enrollments. Also, HELP has secured donations to host a pizza party at the school during the lunch hour to incentivize youth to come in and complete the enrollment process. Ms. Gee stated that she has a good solid team that will continue to work to serve as many youth as possible.

Magann Jordan, Youth Advocate Programs (Re-entry Youth) reported that by Friday Youth Advocate Programs (YAP) will be at 74% of their contract enrollments. YAP also faces the same challenges as the other agencies in addition to being a new provider and having the challenge of integrated their philosophy to fit with the WIA program. YAP has received over 130 referrals since the beginning of July; however, not all of the youth fit the criteria with regard to barriers. Ms. Jordan stated that YAP is extremely likely to meet their enrollment goal of 82 by the end of the month. Ms. Jordan added that having the opportunity to be a part of the recent re-entry initiative provided YAP the opportunity to establish great partnerships with Nevada Department of Corrections, Youth Parole and Probation, Clark County Detention Center, and North Las Vegas Jail and has volunteered to provide vocational training inside some of the facilities. Other community partnerships include Las Vegas recreation centers and libraries. Ms. Jordan invited the Youth Council, staff and public to attend their monthly job fair on Friday, February 22nd from 3pm – 6pm.

Staff will request a narrative from rural funded partners (Lincoln and Nye Communities Coalition) outlining their enrollment challenges and strategies.

Ms. Holloway stated that she expects all the funded partners to meet their contract enrollment goals.

Stavan Corbett encouraged the partners work together, increase communication, and to engage in best practices and strategies for serving the most youth possible while providing the best quality of care. Mr. Corbett requested staff to provide more frequent reports on recruitments and such.

Mr. Villalobos reported that in PY2011 a total of 982 youth were served in a 12-month period. To date, the funded partners have served 1,327 youth with five months remaining on their contracts. Mr. Villalobos commended the funded partners for being a team of passionate individuals driven by the ideal of making an impact on the community and for their commitment to meet their goals. Also, he thanked youth staff, Clentine January and Kim Colagioia, for doing an excellent job providing technical assistance and responding to the funded partners needs to help them achieve their goals. Mr. Villalobos closed by saying that it is a joy to work with each of the funded partners and he appreciates the commitment and determination they have to make it happen and is confident that they will get the job done.

7. **INFORMATION: Awards & Expenditures Report – Monthly Update**

Mr. Kostecki provided an overview of the Youth Awards and Expenditures monthly update through November 2012 as provided on page 29 of the agenda packet. Expenditure plans will be enforced for underspent contracts, which will be identified upon receipt of the December invoices by the end of January 2013.

Ms. Holloway asked about the possibility of changing the start/end dates of contracts. Mr. Kostecki replied that contracts can be awarded at any time. Mr. Villalobos noted that from a programmatic standpoint there are some issues depending on when contracts start and end that can affect performance measures.

Mr. Villalobos commented on HELP's expenditures and the impact of the transition of the additional Graduate Advocate Initiative program files.

Mr. Galbreth stated that staff will bring a recommendation and comprehensive report to the Youth Council for getting more funding out into the community to serve more youth.

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

Mr. Villalobos provided his report earlier in the meeting regarding the collaborative effort with Mr. Burch and had nothing further to report.

9. **SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION:**

Sherry Ramsey, Director of Finance – Goodwill of Southern Nevada: Ms. Ramsey thanked the Youth Council for the contract recommendation to serve youth with disabilities and reported that Goodwill has served over 2800 youth with disabilities since 2008. Last year Goodwill year served 600 youth with disabilities that were referred by 29 different high schools and 55 different classes. Goodwill has established partnerships with the Clark County School District, specifically the transition counselors whom they have an excellent relationship with. Other partnerships include Para Vocational Rehabilitation, Desert Regional Center as well as many other agencies that will help to support the success of Goodwill's program. Goodwill is very excited and confident that these funds will further enhance their youth services program.

Matt Hirsh, Senior Associate - Andson Foundation: Mr. Hirsh reported that the Andson Foundation develops programs in education and financial education for kids and youth, including a growing afterschool program that consists of tutoring over 700 youth a day across the Boys and Girls Clubs and an extremely successful financial education program. As part of the financial education program the youth have savings accounts and were able to save \$12,000 at one school!

Mr. Hirsh invited everyone to a complimentary breakfast to be hosted by the Andson Foundation on Tuesday, February 26, 2013 from 8 am – 9 am at the Boys and Girls Club of Henderson (Southern Highlands). The intent is to share about the Andson mission, vision and values.

Doug Coombs, Executive Director - Olive Crest: Mr. Coombs thanked Workforce Connections on behalf of their clients for the contract recommendation to serve foster youth. Olive Crest has been in business for almost 40 years and in Nevada for 13 years making a huge impact in the community.

10. **Youth Council Member Comments**

None

11. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:34 p.m.