

*workforce*CONNECTIONS

MINUTES

Youth Council Meeting

April 10, 2013

11:00 a.m.

*workforce*CONNECTIONS

7251 W. Lake Mead Blvd.

Suite 200

Conference Room

Las Vegas, NV 89128

**Members Present**

Sonja Holloway, Chair      Dan Rose      Willie J. Fields      Vida Chan Lin

**Members Absent**

Lt. Jack Owen      Stavan Corbett      Tommy Rowe

**Staff Present**

Ardell Galbreth      Suzanne Potter      Heather DeSart      Jim Kostecki  
Clentine January      Ricardo Villalobos      Jennifer Padilla      Byron Goynes  
Carol Turner

**Others Present**

Sharon Morales, LCCCF      Dr. Tiffany Tyler, Nevada Partners, Inc.  
Ivan Williams, YouthBuild Las Vegas      Rene Cantu, LCCCF  
Tracey Torrence, SNRHA      Daniela Mierez, YouthBuild Las Vegas  
Efrain Adame, YouthBuild Las Vegas      Donna Bensing, New Horizons CLC  
Magann Jordan, Youth Advocate Program      Steve Piehl, Youth Advocate Program  
Denise Gee, HELP of Southern Nevada      Suzanne Burke, Southern Nevada Children First  
Monique Harris, Southern Nevada Children First      Helicia Thomas, GNJ Family Life Center  
Pamela R. Poston, HELP of Southern Nevada      Michelle Hinojosa, Goodwill  
Vincent Miller, Goodwill      Tamico Tenell, Olive Crest

(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 11:02 a.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, Jr. and seconded by Dan Rose. Motion carried.*

3. **FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION**

**Dr. Tiffany Tyler, Nevada Partners, Inc. (NPI):** Dr. Tyler distributed a report on NPI's Positive Youth Impact and Graduate Advocate Initiative. To date, NPI's Youth Division has provided services to 157 In-School Youth and 45 Out-of-School Youth totaling 202, exceeding their contractual commitment of 200. Through the Graduate Advocate Initiative, NPI's Youth Division has provided services to 453 In-School Youth, which is 95% of the projected enrollments of 460. NPI is working with Board staff to begin coordinating summer school and to solidify plans to ensure that increased performance measures are met.

**Pamela R. Poston, HELP of Southern Nevada:** Ms. Poston reported that HELP has enrolled 157 youth, exceeding their enrollment commitment by seven youth. HELP is referring youth to other WIA funded partners.

**Bentley McDonald, President - Real Education Matters and Student Body Vice-President – Nevada State College:** Mr. McDonald introduced Real Education Matters, a new non-profit student organization. Real Education Matters has an upcoming event at Bonanza High School on May 23<sup>rd</sup> from 12:30 – 3:00 p.m. for approximately 300 junior and senior high school students and various non-profit groups. The purpose of the event is to motivate and help students enter college and become involved in the community by volunteering at local non-profits.

**Sharon Morales, Latin Chamber of Commerce Community Foundation:** Ms. Morales reported that LCCCF has served 135 Out-of-School Youth (84% of their enrollment goal of 160). LCCCF is working diligently to network with community providers and is committed to exceeding their enrollment goal.

Three LCCCF youth participants shared their positive experience with the WIA Youth program:

Cane Smith recently attained his GED and will be attending a Certified Nursing Assistant program at College of Southern Nevada, and eventually wants to become a Registered Nurse. He completed the Leadership Development program and "What's it Mean to be Green?" curriculum through LCCCF's Youth Program, which he learned about through a flyer he received while attending the Adult Education Center. William and Eric Lamas are currently working on attaining their GED and both are interested in becoming automotive technicians.

On behalf of the Latin Chamber of Commerce Community Foundation, Ms. Morales thanked the Youth Council and staff for providing them the opportunity to serve and positively impact youth every day.

4. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Approve the Youth Council Meeting Minutes of March 13, 2013**

*A motion was made to approve the Youth Council Meeting Minutes of March 13, 2013 as presented by Willie J. Fields, Jr. and seconded by Dan Rose. Motion carried.*

5. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Approve staff's recommendation to award Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority with a contract in an amount not to exceed \$400,000 to provide public housing youth services for the term of May 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014**

Ricardo Villalobos reported that there are approximately 3,500 youth in the public housing system between the ages of 16 and 19 of whom approximately 25% are parenting youth, 20% are or have been involved in the juvenile justice system, 20% are high school dropouts, 60% are basic skills deficient (testing at or below the eighth grade level in math and/or reading), and a majority of these youth fall into two or more of these categories.

Sonja Holloway asked if these youth were being referred to or recruited by other WIA funded partners.

In response to Ms. Holloway's question regarding youth referrals, Ms. Bostwick stated that 3,500 youth received notification by mail that included information about Southern Nevada Children First, Latin Chamber of Commerce Community Foundation, Nevada Partners, Inc. and Youth Advocate Program.

Monique Harris reported that Southern Nevada Children First (SNCF) works with the homeless and pregnant/parenting youth population and has recently entered into an MOU with the Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority (SNRHA) to address the homeless issue. Last year SNCF worked with almost 200 young women who were able to either transition back into their home or transition into their own apartment using subsidized housing. SNCF is actively recruiting public housing youth and working with the housing authority to ensure these youth receive employment and education/training services.

Stacey Bostwick clarified that the relationship between SNRHA and SNCF is based on providing housing to youth but not supportive services; however, SNRHA's supportive services department has expended significantly in the past five years and in the past two years, services have been expanded to serve the youth population through its summer program. With this contract award, SNRHA will expand its program to year round. The full program description is provided on page 13 -17 of the agenda packet.

Ardell Galbreth reported that there is a critical need to serve this population and a focus will be placed on serving more youth residing in public housing as the funding year progress and we receive our funding allocations.

*A motion was made to approve staff's recommendation to award Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority with a contract in an amount not to exceed \$400,000 to provide public housing youth services for the term of May 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014 by Willie J. Fields, Jr. and seconded by Vida Chan Lin. Motion carried.*

6. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Approve staff's recommendation for No-Cost Extensions for Youth Funded Partners PY2011 and PY2012 contracts to serve In-School/Out-of-School Youth through September 30, 2013**

Rick Villalobos reported that staff is requesting a no-cost extension that will allow the following funded partners to extend their programs past June 30, 2013 through September 30, 2013

- a. Summer Component/Year-Round Youth Programs
  - i. Nevada Partners, Inc.
  - ii. Southern Nevada Children's First
  - iii. Latin Chambers of Commerce Community Foundation
- b. Out-of-School Youth Programs
  - i. GNJ Family Life Center
  - ii. Latin Chambers of Commerce Community Foundation
  - iii. Southern Nevada Children's First
  - iv. HELP of Southern Nevada
- c. In-School Youth Programs
  - i. Nevada Partners Inc.
  - ii. HELP of Southern Nevada

- d. Re-Entry Youth Program
  - i. Youth Advocates Program
- e. Rural Youth Programs
  - i. Lincoln County
  - ii. NyE Communities Coalition

Mr. Villalobos stated that this no-cost extension will ensure a continuity of services through the summer, with an emphasis on summer school and work experience, provide security for the funded partners, and prevent a disruption in the Graduate Advocate Initiative in the schools.

Staff will assess if any of the funded partners require additional funding and make a recommendation to the Youth Council at their May meeting.

Moving forward, contracts will start on October 1<sup>st</sup> to allow programs to run through the summer providing the best services possible so the participants can succeed. Staff will monitor this change closely to ensure there is no negative outcome on performance.

Funded partner program summaries are provided on page 19 – 35 of the agenda packet.

*A motion was made to approve staff's recommendation for No-Cost Extensions for Youth Funded Partners PY2011 and PY2012 contracts to serve In-School/Out-of-School Youth through September 30, 2013 as presented by Vida Chan Lin and seconded by Willie J. Fields, Jr.; motion carried.*

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

Rick Villalobos provided a brief overview of the PY2012 Youth Funded Partner Enrollment Status report as provided on page 38 of the agenda packet and reported that the funded partners are serving twice the number of clients served last program year.

Sonja Holloway commended the funded partners for a job well done.

8. **INFORMATION: PY2012 Youth Funded Partner Placements Status Report**

Rick Villalobos provided a brief overview of the PY2012 Youth Funded Partner Placements Status report as provided on page 40 of the agenda packet and noted that placements are low because typically funded partners do not place youth until they complete all program expectations, which usually happens at the end of the program year. With the contract extensions, placements will increase through September 30<sup>th</sup>.

9. **INFORMATION: Awards & Expenditures Report with Expenditures Forecast Report – Monthly Update**

Jim Kostecki provided an overview of the Awards & Expenditures report provided on page 42 of the agenda packet. The report includes all invoices through February 2013. At eight months into the program year, expenditures should be at 68%. Some of the expenditures are low but the no-cost contract extensions will help funded partners increase expenditures.

Mr. Kostecki presented the Expenditures Forecast report through June 30<sup>th</sup> as provided on page 43 of the agenda packet. The monthly expenditures are based on the average of the last five invoices submitted by the funded partners. The estimated remaining balances provide clear justification for the no-cost contract

extensions. All of the funded partners will submit a budget modification through September 30<sup>th</sup> and a few may need additional funding to cover personnel, cost allocation and overhead through September.

Discussion ensued regarding the sequestration and its impact on WIA program funding. Mr. Kostecki noted that with the Federal Governments sequestration cuts going into effect, Workforce Connections will not get its Youth allocation until October 1, 2013.

10. **INFORMATION: YouthBuild USA AmeriCorps National Young Leaders Conference**

Rick Villalobos introduced YouthBuild Las Vegas participants Ivan Williams and Efrain Adame who attended the YouthBuild USA AmeriCorps National Young Leaders Conference in Washington D.C. last month. At the conference they were both introduced to the founder of YouthBuild and spent some personal time with Senator Harry Reid.

Ms. Williams shared briefly about the conference, meeting with Senator Reid and other YouthBuild participants as well attending leadership workshops.

Mr. Adame talked about his background and the impact of his choices, shared about his positive experience with the YouthBuild program and his future career goals. He stated that the YouthBuild program not only provided him skills in the construction field but taught him about communication, leadership, loyalty, integrity, honor and opened his eyes to his future and gave him a better understanding of the different views and backgrounds of his associates.

Dan Rose provided his contact information.

Jennifer Padilla announced YBLV's graduation event on June 14, 2013 at Texas Station and stated that invitations will be sent out soon.

Rick Villalobos welcomed referrals for other locations to host the YBLV graduation that would be free of charge.

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

Rick Villalobos reported that Byron Goynes is developing a process to recruit youth representatives to serve on the Youth Council, as required by the Workforce Investment Act. Mr. Villalobos commended Mr. Goynes for his ideas and elaborate planning.

12. **SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION:**

**Magann Jordan, Youth Advocate Programs (YAP):** Ms. Jordan thanked the Youth Council and staff for supporting YAP's vision and for the grant award to serve the re-entry youth population. Ms. Jordan reported that seven youth participants were incarcerated last year; however, they were not exited from the program, rather YAP staff members supported them through their court proceedings, and as a result of this continued support, four of these individuals are now employed.

YAP participants, Tyrese Hall and David Merialdo shared about their background and positive experience with the program. Mr. Merialdo is now employed.

Mr. Rose emphasized the need to publicize these and other success stories, via twitter, flyers, websites or by whatever means to reach other youth in the community.

**Monique Harris, Southern Nevada Children First (SNCF):** Ms. Harris expressed appreciation to the Youth Council for the opportunity to serve youth in the community. Last year, SNCF worked with over

400 families by providing them with transitional housing, education, clinical services, employment and training. Ms. Harris reported 85% of their clients were successfully placed into permanent housing, 65% were reintroduced into the education system, and 65% obtained employment. This year, SNCF has enrolled 110 of their 250 enrollment goal.

**Helicia Thomas, GNJ Family Life Center:** Ms. Thomas thanked the Youth Council for the contract extension today and reported that GNJ has enrolled 206 of their 220 enrollment goal. Of those enrolled, 94% have completed work readiness training and “I-Excel” Training (tutoring to increase literacy/numeracy), and 85% have completed “What’s it Mean to be Green?” curriculum. To date, 75 youth have been exited of which 100% have entered employment and/or college. The actual number of placements is 90. To date, GNJ is exceeding all performance measures.

Ms. Thomas noted to Clentine January that all GNJ registrations will be done by the end of May 2013.

Ms. Thomas presented GNJ’s new poster wherein a QR code has been added for individuals to scan with any mobile device for direct access to GNJ’s questionnaire. Posters with the QR code have been placed in various locations throughout Las Vegas, including fast food restaurants, day care facilities and other areas that out-of-school youth reside. GNJ’s questionnaire is also available on their website.

Ms. Thomas announced GNJ’s Youth Employability/Leadership Conference on June 7<sup>th</sup> at the Texas Station Hotel. Next month, GNJ Youth participants will present and provide a special invitation to the Youth Council regarding the conference.

**Doug Coombs, Olive Crest:** Mr. Coombs thanked the Youth Council for the Foster Youth contract award and reported that their program will be fully staffed by Monday. Over the past couple weeks, Olive Crest has completed their technical training, is developing new partnerships within the community, and has identified seven clients they expect to enroll. Mr. Coombs introduced new case manager Tamico Tenell, who is a former employee at Olive Crest.

13. **INFORMATION: Youth Council Member Comments**

None

14. **ACTION: Adjournment**

*A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 12:22 p.m. by Willie J. Fields, Jr. and seconded by Dan Rose. Motion carried.*