

**WORKFORCE CONNECTIONS
YOUTH COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**September 11, 2013
11:00 a.m.**

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

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Stavan Corbett

Staff Present

Ardell Galbreth	Heather DeSart	Suzanne Potter	Jim Kostecki
Ricardo Villalobos	Clentine January	Bridget Shaney	Carol Turner
Shawonda Nance	Carol Polke	Byron Goynes	LeVerne Kelley
Brett Miller			

Others Present

Dr. Rene Cantu, Jr., LCCCF	Dr. Tiffany Tyler, Nevada Partners, Inc.
Esther Valenzuela, SNVRHA	Donna Bensing, New Horizons CLC of Nevada
Michelle Carter, SNRHS	Vincent Miller, Goodwill
Kristina Siegmund, Goodwill	Lisa Mariani, Children's Advocacy Alliance
Kelli Mosley, Olive Crest	Steve Piehl, Youth Advocate Program
Arneller Mullins, Nevada Partners, Inc.	Patty Rosatti, Youth Advocate Program
Jeramey Pickett, Nevada Partners, Inc.	Trnee Stephenson, SNCF
Terri D'Antonio, HELP of Southern Nevada	Denise Gee, HELP of Southern Nevada
Pamela Posten, HELP of Southern Nevada	Helicia Thomas, GNJ Family Life Center
Cherie Miller, SNRHA	Sharon Morales, LCCCF
Vickie Henry, CSNV	

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

Matters in the Agenda were taken in the following order.

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

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sonja Holloway at 11:15 a.m. 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 as presented by Willie J. Fields and seconded by Dan Rose. Motion carried.

3. FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

Terrie D’Antonio, President/CEO - HELP of Southern Nevada: Ms. D’Antonio reported that HELP has been providing Out-of-School Youth services since 2008, during which time they have served almost 600 youth. On behalf of HELP, Ms. D’Antonio requested that the Youth Council consider increasing HELP’s Out-of-School contract recommendation by \$100,000, which will prevent the closure of their two rural sites in Searchlight and Sandy Valley and limit the number of layoffs to four staff members. Ms. D’Antonio noted that HELP’s proposal was evaluated with the highest scores, but is being recommended for the least amount of funding. Over the past six years, HELP has served almost 400 youth through their homeless youth center, who were aged out of foster care and/or in the criminal justice system. Ms. D’Antonio invited the Youth Council to join her on Monday, September 16th as HELP becomes the seventh national Framing Hope Program, partnering with Home Depot to train and certify WIA Out-of-School youth in various certificate training, such as forklift, and placement into employment.

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Approve the Youth Council Meeting Minutes of July 10, 2013

A motion was made to approve the Youth Council Meeting Minutes of July 10, 2013 by Mujahid Ramadan and seconded by Lt. Jack Owen. Motion carried.

5. INFORMATION: Welcome New Youth Council Member Debbie Tomasetti, Clark County School District

Chair Holloway welcomed Ms. Debbie Tomasetti, Coordinator of Graduation Initiatives, Clark County School District. Ms. Tomasetti thanked the Youth Council for the opportunity to serve and said she looks forward to working with everyone.

6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Approve staff’s recommendation to award the following Out-of-School Youth contracts for the term of October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014:

- a. HELP of Southern Nevada \$200,000
- b. GNJ Family Life Center \$600,000
- c. Latin Chamber of Commerce Community Foundation \$600,000

Ricardo Villalobos, Youth Department Director provided background on the Out-of-School RFP process and presented the results of the proposal evaluation process. The Out-of-School Youth RFP was released in July 2013 for employment and training services in the amount of \$1.4 million. Evaluators were identified from various professional organizations, including UNLV’s Assistant Professors from the Workforce Development Program and United Way, and other professionals with WIA and/or employment and training experience who offered a variety of expertise to the proposal evaluation process.

The proposals were scored and ranked and those with a score of 85 or higher (rounded) were qualified for potential funding. Following are the evaluators’ scores:

	Agency	Eval 5	Eval 6	Eval 7	Eval 8	Eval 55	Eval 66	Eval 77	Eval 88	Total	Average
1	HELP	91	90	69	76.5	92	83	98	85.5	685	85.63
2	GNJ	85	77	67	77	98	92	98	90	684	85.50
3	LCCCF	89	83	74	71	86.5	91	96	86.5	677	84.63
4	NPI	86	79	64	73.5	97	81	94	88	662.5	82.81
5	YAP	78	65	72	71	94	86	93	89.5	648.5	81.06
6	SNVCF	74	47	73	57.5	76	63	79	82.5	552	69.00
7	CSNV	79	45	61	37	73	81	73	73.5	522.5	65.31

Staff assessed the proposals based on criteria in the RFP and recommended the following:

Agency	Amount Recommended	Expected Youth to Serve
HELP	\$200,000	70
GNJ	\$600,000	215
LCCCF	\$600,000	215
	\$1,400,000	500

Ardell Galbreth made a recommendation to the Youth Council to award HELP of Southern Nevada \$400,000 rather than \$200,000 to prevent a disruption of services and stated that the additional funds will be available upon recapturing remaining funds at contract closeout. The exact recapture amount will be available in a few days. Discussion ensued.

Mujahid Ramadan asked if Workforce Connections has the budget to award the additional \$200,000 as well as any other initiatives that may come before the Youth Council. Ardell replied yes, and the other initiatives, requested by members of the board as well as the Local Elected Officials, are being considered.

Jim Kostecki noted that the current Out-of-School Youth contract remaining funds will be recaptured. The In-School contracts with HELP of Southern Nevada and Nevada Partners, Inc. were extended with additional funding at the last meeting.

Mr. Villalobos stated that Youth Advocate Program (YAP) serves all re-entry youth, but all of the Youth funded partners serve adjudicated youth, and staff can provide a report on which providers are serving this population and how many they are serving.

Mujahid Ramadan made a motion to approve staff's original recommendation, and to table the additional \$200,000 for HELP of Southern Nevada for further discussion.

Willie J. Fields asked if the additional funding is a matter of urgency or will it wait until next month. Mr. Galbreth stated that without the additional funding HELP will have to lay off staff now.

Terrie D'Antonio, President/CEO – HELP of Southern Nevada stated that with an additional \$100,000 HELP can keep its two rural locations open and reduce the number of layoffs to four. With an additional \$200,000 no layoffs would be required.

Mr. Ramadan stated that staff layoffs will cause a disruption in services and withdrew his motion.

Lt. Jack Owen commented that a funding plan needs to be implemented at the beginning of the contract to avoid these issues at the end of the contract wherein the provider is forced to lay off staff. Lt. Owen stated that he agreed with Mr. Ramadan's recommendation to award the amount initially recommended by staff as there are other funded partners that have funding needs and are in a better position to utilize the resources. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made to approve the staff's recommendation to award the following Out-of-School Youth contracts for the term of October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014 in the amounts listed below by Willie J. Fields and seconded by Vida Chan Lin. Lt. Jack Owen opposed. Motion carried.

- a. *HELP of Southern Nevada* \$400,000
- b. *GNJ Family Life Center* \$600,000
- c. *Latin Chamber of Commerce Community Foundation* \$600,000

7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Approve staff's recommendation to negotiate and amend Rural Youth contracts for an extended term of October 1, 2013 through September 20, 2014

Mr. Villalobos presented the PY2013 Rural Youth contract recommendations for Lincoln County (pg. 21) and Nye Communities Coalition (pg. 22).

A motion was made to staff's recommendation to negotiate and amend Rural Youth contracts for an extended term of October 1, 2013 through September 20, 2014 by Tommy Rowe and seconded by Mujahid Ramadan. Motion carried.

Later in the meeting, staff noted that the Rural Youth contract end date should be September 30, 2014 (not September 20, 2014) and asked the Youth Council to make a new motion to reflect this change.

A motion was made to amend the contract end date to reflect September 30, 2014 by Lt. Jack Owen and seconded by Dan Rose. Motion carried.

8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Approve staff's recommendation to allow Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) and Graduate Advocate Initiative (GAI) to serve eligible youth in the same CCSD high schools

- a. Basic H.S.
- b. Bonanza H.S.
- c. Cheyenne H.S.
- d. Cimarron-Memorial H.S.
- e. Del Sol H.S.
- f. Desert Pines H.S.
- g. Mojave H.S.
- h. Valley H.S.

Mr. Galbreth stated that when the Youth Council and Board approved funding for this initiative it was not stated that GAI and JAG would be serving youth in the same high schools. Since then, the Clark County School District has said that it would really like for both programs to be in some of the same schools. Therefore, staff is making a recommendation to allow both JAG and GAI to serve eligible youth in some of the same high schools. A differentiation of both GAI and JAG programs is provided on page 24 and 25 of the agenda packet. Discussion ensued.

Debbie Tomasetti stated that the JAG program is facilitated by Community Services Agency (CSA), a Reno based non-profit. CSA is responsible for providing the wrap-around services for all of the JAG schools in the State of Nevada. Ms. Tomasetti pointed out that the target student populations for the GAI and JAG programs are very different, so there is not overlapping of students. Having both programs in the same schools serving similar student populations provides us the opportunity to see if one program is more effective than the other program. The programs are tracked differently using different data management systems so at the end of the year it will be easy to see if one program is outperforming the other program.

Mr. Villalobos stated that CSA is the agency that will oversee JAG statewide and they will oversee the JAG Specialists that are hired locally for the high schools in Southern Nevada.

Dan Rose agreed with Ms. Tomasetti that it would be beneficial to be able to determine if one program does better than the other, and then possibly go in a different direction.

A motion was made to approve staff's recommendation to allow Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) and Graduate Advocate Initiative (GAI) to serve eligible youth in the same CCSD high schools by Willie J. Fields and seconded by Lt. Jack Owen. Debbie Tomasetti abstained. Motion carried.

- a. *Basic H.S.*
- b. *Bonanza H.S.*
- c. *Cheyenne H.S.*
- d. *Cimarron-Memorial H.S.*
- e. *Del Sol H.S.*
- f. *Desert Pines H.S.*
- g. *Mojave H.S.*
- h. *Valley H.S.*

9. INFORMATION: 2012 – 2013 Graduate Advocate Initiative (GAI) Report

Mr. Villalobos presented the GAI report provided on page 28 of the agenda packet. The report provides a snapshot of the 937 WIA eligible youth that were enrolled at each of the 14 high schools this past year. Of the 937 youth, 65% earned a high school diploma, 7% earned an adjusted diploma, and 17% earned a certificate of attendance.

Chair Holloway stated that the certificate of attendance is worthless and asked the funded partners to speak about what strategies they are taking to help students who have not earned a high school diploma. Dr. Tyler reported that Nevada Partners is providing tutoring for subjects youth are deficient in and for the proficiency exam. Youth who are severely deficient, are transferred to adult education and prepped for the GED exam.

NPI continues to develop strategies for those who have not graduated. NPI has placed 200 youth into post-secondary education and 53 into employment.

Ms. Tomasetti reported that under new legislation, there will no longer be the opportunity for students to obtain a certificate of attendance, which means that students must meet all the requirements of graduation to attend the graduation ceremony and earn a high school diploma.

Dan Rose asked about outreach for the GAI program. Dr. Tyler replied that NPI reaches out to systems that serve the most vulnerable youth populations, such as homeless and adjudicated youth, and coordinates targeted outreach with them, offering wraparound services that will ensure the youth graduate. Last week, 150 youth attended NPI's outreach event, and 63 applications are pending.

Chair Holloway stated that GAI should be in all of the high schools.

10. INFORMATION: Southern Nevada Children First (SNCF) "High Risk" Designation Update

Jim Kostecki presented the SNCF high risk update as provided on page 29 – 38 of the agenda packet. On Monday, September 9th Workforce Connections' staff was onsite to review SNCF's invoices for April, May and June. Staff identified small differences on the invoices; SNCF will make the changes and resubmit the invoices. SNCF's staff and consultants are effectively working on the issues and are working well with our staff. Mr. Kostecki commented that everything is progressing well and it appears that everything will work out by the September close-out invoice.

Mr. Kostecki noted that at the last Board meeting there was concern whether or not staff was providing SNCF adequate training, so the various trainings that were provided to SNCF are now listed on the technical assistance history provided on page 38 of the agenda packet.

11. INFORMATION: Awards & Expenditures Report

Mr. Kostecki presented the Awards & Expenditure report provided on page 40 of the agenda and noted that the report format was revised to include open pink papers highlighted in pink. On this report two providers have open pink papers, Southern Nevada Children First (high risk) and Lincoln County, who was issued a pink paper for not submitting a timely invoice for July. The provider has since responded and the matter is resolved.

The In-School Youth providers (Nevada Partners and Help of Southern Nevada) received an additional \$750,000 and the contracts were extended to September 30, 2014. Youth Advocate Program received an additional \$300,000 to continue providing re-entry youth services through September 30, 2014.

12. INFORMATION: Youth Funding Plan

Carol Turner presented the Youth Funding Plan provided on page 42 of the agenda packet. There is \$1,603,154 (approximately 2.8 months) remaining. The current year's funding (PY2012) will be used by December and we will then begin using PY2013 funds.

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

Mr. Villalobos reported on the following:

- Assembly bill eliminating the certificate of attendance; focus on high school diploma
- GED is being revamped in January 2014 to align with common core standards
- Workforce Connections' 2-Year Strategic Plan update: 158 work experiences and/or occupational skills training opportunities since July
- Workforce Connections will be launching a WIA academy to provide technical assistance, in partnership with UNLV's continuing education department. The funded partners will have access to legitimate certificate training and the opportunity to earn CEUs.

14. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

Monique Harris, Southern Nevada Children First: Ms. Harris thanked the Youth Council for their patience and support while SNCF works through the situation. Ms. Harris reported that SNCF served 150 youth with a 75% success rate with regard to performance measures.

Denise Gee, HELP of Southern Nevada: On behalf of Ms. D'Antonio and HELP of Southern Nevada, Ms. Gee thanked the Youth Council for the additional support and the opportunity to serve at-risk youth. HELP had the opportunity to partner with MGM Properties, Justice Court and a number of employers in the community to provide work experience opportunities. Ms. Gee that HELP will expend all In-School and Out-of-School funds.

Sherman Rutledge, Program Director - GNJ Family Life Center: Mr. Rutledge presented a new initiative to help move out of school youth into high-demand jobs with high wages, called the Governor's Nine Industry Sectors Interconnected with STEM. On August 23, GNJ hosted its first city wide tour for 50 youth. The keynote speaker was DETR Director Frank Woodbeck. More city tours are scheduled each quarter.

Dr. Rene Cantu, Jr., Executive Director - Latin Chamber of Commerce Community Foundation: On behalf of co-chairs, Irene Bustamante-Adams and Eloiza Martinez, the Board and staff, Dr. Cantu thanked the Youth Council for the Out-of-School Youth contract. LCCCF has lined up some amazing partners to work with, including Clark County Juvenile Justice, CSN and UNLV.

15. INFORMATION: Youth Council Member Comments

Dan Rose commented that even though construction is still down, the trades are a viable choice for career and education and should not be considered second to college. Going through the program provides a full scholarship for an Associate's degree. Currently, Sheet Metal Journeymen are making \$41 per hour plus benefits.

16. ACTION: Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 12:43 p.m. by Mujahid Ramadan and seconded by Lt. Jack Owen. Motion carried.