

MINUTES

*workforce***CONNECTIONS**
Board of Directors Meeting
The Culinary Training Academy
May 24, 2011
10:00AM

Members Present

Hannah Brown	Michelle Bize	William Bruninga
F. Travis Buchanan	Mark Edgel	Dan Gouker
Sonja Holloway	Dr. David Lee	Kenneth LoBene
Eloiza Martinez	Valerie Murzl	Charles Perry
Mujahid Ramadan	Dan Rose	Councilwoman Gerri Schroder
Commissioner Lawrence Weekly		

Members Absent

Commissioner Andrew Borasky	Councilman Travis Chandler	Commissioner Dominic Pappalardo
Pat Maxwell	Dennis Perea	Mark Keys
Councilman William Robinson	Councilman Steven D. Ross	Commissioner Tommy Rowe

Staff Present

John Ball	David Jefferson	Ashok Mirchandani	Suzanne Potter
Tom Dang	Heather DeSart	Clentine January	Debra Collins
Jaime Cruz	Rick Villalobos	Cornelius Eason	Ardell Galbreth
Jeannie Kuennen	Lori Thomas	Scott Steinbach	Linda Yi
Chris Shaw	Byron Goynes	Lucy Ivins	Nancy White
Gina Campbell	Lauren Stewart	Jennifer Padilla	Sylvia Spencer

Others Present

Chanda Cook, Nevada Public Education Foundation	Fran Phillips, CHR, Inc.
Victoria Simon, CHR, Inc.	Helicia Thomas, GNJ Family Life Center
Joleen Arnold, ESSN	Faith Cannella, Nevada Partners, Inc.
Tiffany Tyler, Nevada Partners, Inc.	Arneller Mullins, Nevada Partners, Inc.
Trnee Stephenson, NACS/ISIS Connection	Odalys Carmona, DETR
Janet Blumen, FIT	Jake McClelland, FIT

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

Agenda Item I – Call to order, confirmation of posting, and roll call

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hannah Brown at 10:02 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.

Agenda Item II – Approve the Agenda with the inclusion of any emergency items and deletion of any items

A motion was made to approve the Agenda as presented by Charles Perry and seconded by Dr. David Lee. Motion carried.

Agenda Item III – 1. Adult & Dislocated Worker Committee a. ACTION: To award Native American Community Services an additional \$40,426.00 and extend their existing PY2010 contract to August 31, 2011 in order to promote a smooth transition/exit of existing clients and close out program

A motion was made to award Native American Community Services an additional \$40,426.00 and extend their existing PY2010 contract to August 31, 2011 in order to promote a smooth transition/exit of existing clients and close out program by Eloiza Martinez and seconded by Michelle Bize. Motion carried.

b. ACTION: To execute a no-cost extension to Catholic Charities PY2010 contract to August 31, 2011 in order to promote a smooth transition/exit of existing clients and close out program

A motion was made to execute a no-cost extension to Catholic Charities PY2010 contract to August 31, 2011 in order to promote a smooth transition/exit of existing clients and close out program by Commissioner Lawrence Weekly and seconded by Charles Perry. Motion carried.

Heather DeSart provided a brief overview of the common measures performance report on page 8 - 9 of the agenda packet. The Adult & Dislocated Worker program performance is meeting or exceeding common measures performance for 3rd quarter both locally and statewide. Valerie Murzl thanked the service providers and staff.

2. ACTION: Youth Council a. ACTION: Approve the Youth Council recommendation of a no-cost contract extension with Olive Crest through December 31, 2011

A motion was made to approve the Youth Council recommendation of a no-cost contract extension with Olive Crest through December 31, 2011 by Eloiza Martinez and seconded by Valerie Murzl. Motion carried.

Nancy White provided the following Project 5000 Kids Update and distributed new marketing material to the Board:

- P5K has been busy placing students in summer work experiences as they become available. So far, we have sent 57+ students to various employers.
- P5K were the guest speakers at the Summerlin Rotary Club on April 19th and made a presentation on the Grad League. P5K will speak to the North Las Vegas Rotary Club at the end of this month.
- Members of the P5K Team staffed a booth at the Nye County Business Expo on April 22nd and 23rd.
- On April 26th, P5K presented to the board of directors of the Speedway Children's Charities and will be applying for a grant with this organization.
- On April 28th, P5K was one of four community organizations given the "Driving Change Award" at the JYD Project's annual "Drive for Education" awards banquet.
- On April 29th, P5K participated in the Senior Teen Town Hall at the Clark County Government Center.
- On April 30th, P5K had a booth at the annual Mega Scout Expo at Floyd Lamb Park.
- On May 7th, members of the P5K team attended the picnic for Governor Brian Sandoval at the Pahrump Valley Winery and had an opportunity to briefly speak to the Governor about the program.
- P5K is continuing to develop the Nevada Graduation League mentoring program and met with the school district on May 19th to discuss a partnership.

Rick Villalobos announced that the YouthBuild Las Vegas grant was renewed for \$1.1 Million. Mr. Villalobos provided a brief background regarding the significance of the award due to that it was previously scheduled to be reduced and/or eliminated on the House of Representatives Bill. The results,

only 110 out of 224 YouthBuild programs nationally were funded and YouthBuild Las Vegas received the maximum award available.

Sylvia Spencer provided a brief overview of the common measures performance report on page 13 - 14 of the agenda packet. The Youth program performance is meeting or exceeding common measures performance for 3rd quarter both locally and statewide. Ms. Spencer recognized the Youth service providers and workforceCONNECTIONS Youth staff, especially Kelly Henwood who was instrumental in the process of increasing performance for Youth programs in Nevada.

Ken LoBene read allowed the local Common Measures/Performance results: Placement in Employment or Education: 40% / 75.7%; Attainment of Degree or Certificate: 40% / 62.3%; Literacy and Numeracy Gains: 29% / 37.8%.

3. Emerging Markets/Partnerships/Resource Development

Cornelius Eason stated that workforceCONNECTIONS has a voice and is active in the community. Mr. Eason provided the following Emerging Markets update: workforceCONNECTIONS has memberships with the Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Urban, Boulder City, Henderson, Latin, Asian, and Women's Chamber of Commerce and soon will be a member of the Veteran's and Green Chamber of Commerce. WorkforceCONNECTIONS serves on the Board of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce and are members of the Business Council, Business Education Series, Prospectors Committee, the NBEWBE, and the Customer Service Excellence Committee. At the North Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Eason serves on the Economic and Travel Committees. WorkforceCONNECTIONS is also a member of the Nevada Chamber Round Table which is a coalition of all the Chambers in the State of Nevada wherein a monthly meeting is held regarding best practices of Chambers statewide.

WorkforceCONNECTIONS launched a bi-weekly radio show called Strictly Business. Recently Tiger Todd was a guest. Mr. Todd brought with him some of his young program participants. Overall the show was very motivational, was well received and possible the best program to date. Other past guests include the Clark County Recorder, Michelle Bize, who discussed her series of Job Readiness Workshops, North Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce Chairman, Doug Geinzer & Debra Collins, who discussed Healthcare.

Every week Mr. Eason is a guest on Commissioner Weekly's show where he discusses topics and strategies around "One Job at a Time". Mr. Eason also discusses job listings received from partners.

Tickets are available for the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce Expo on Wednesday, June 22, 2011 at the World Trade Market. The Expo will have approximately 350 exhibitors and 2000 business people. The event is world class and is considered the premier business expo event in Southern Nevada.

workforceCONNECTIONS is continuing to sponsor the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce Business Education Series and monthly workshop on specific aspects of business, such as marketing impact. It's a paid workshop and generally has 90 – 100 small business owners attend.

On July 21, 2011, workforceCONNECTIONS will sponsor the North Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce Luncheon; tickets are available for anyone interested in attending.

WorkforceCONNECTIONS participates in a business advisory group for Senator Reid and Congressman Joe Heck.

Eloiza Martinez suggested the American Native Chamber of Commerce for possible membership and will provided Mr. Eason with contact information.

Debra Collins provided a healthcare update on the Nevada Cancer Institute/WorkforceCONNECTIONS partnership funded through a high-growth grant. Ms. Collins stated that the work being done is phenomenal such as the recruitment of the Allied Health interns for Health Information Technology and Medical Technology. A grant was given to students for \$2500. Approximately 17 students received it in the Fall, 25 students received it in the Spring, and 19 students will receive it this Summer. The funds are provided to the students to receive scholarships and finish their education. On the Nursing side, currently the second cohort has 12 Nurses enrolled in the program and the third cohort will begin August 1st with eight new graduates in the Oncology program.

Ms. Collins thanked Michelle Bize for allowing her the opportunity to write an article for the Las Vegas Review Journal about workforceCONNECTIONS and the work being done in the Healthcare sector. Ms. Collins has received many phone calls in response to the article.

The Nevada Healthcare Council is writing its final plan to prepare for the implementation grant. The plan is for the State of Nevada to increase the Healthcare workforce from 10 – 25% in the next ten years. The Council is working with several groups, programs, and youth. The plan should be published within 90 days.

In an SESP update provided by Jaime Cruz, he reported that last Friday the agency had an informal visit by the Department of Labor, members from the National Governor's Association, and a group called Collaborative Economics that oversees the SESP Grant across the nation. Mr. Cruz reported that the purpose of the visit was to look at the agency's plan and strategies for the SESP grant recently received. Mr. Cruz stated that feedback received was positive. The group also looked at the YouthBuild's Green Monster Truck. Mr. Cruz stated that overall the visit went very well. Mr. Cruz stated that they said workforceCONNECTIONS is definitely leading the pack in the SESP grant across the nation.

David Jefferson thanked Jaime Cruz, Scott Steinbach, and Emilio Pias for their great work and patience while working on this grant and facing the challenges that came with it.

4. Budget & Finance Committee

Ash Mirchandani provided an overview of the PY2010 WIA Formula & ARRA Expenses Consolidated Budget – April 2011 report provided on page 27 of the agenda packet. All budget line items are in the green; 66% of the total budget spent.

Mr. Mirchandani provided an overview of the Contract Expenditure Report provided on page 28 of the agenda packet. Mr. Mirchandani stated that the report is new, created approximately two months ago, and changes are ongoing to improve the efficiency and accuracy of the report. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Mirchandani reported in that a final corrective plan for the audit findings was submitted to the Feds yesterday and staff will present the plan and audit at the next Board of Directors meeting. A total of 11 audit finds are addressed in the corrective action plan that are based on fiscal and business rules, practices, and processes. Discussion ensued.

5. workforceCONNECTIONS

A brief congressional update was provided by Congressman Joe Heck's representative, David Edelblute. Mr. Edelblute reported that the Nevada Educational Workforce Committee will be addressing reauthorizing the elementary and secondary education act, also known as the No Child Left Behind Act. One portion of the reauthorization that the Committee is looking at is called the New Priorities in Education Spending Act, which is legislation aimed at streamlining the current program and its duplicative program elements. The Committee will look at ways to improve the program and bring more money in at the Local and State government and keeping it out of the hands of the Federal government.

Mr. Edelblute reported that another jobs issue that will be addressed is lending practices. Ms. Edelblute had a discussion with the Banks who have \$9Million to lend out for 250 construction jobs, 250 permanent jobs; however, the Federal Government is in the way even though responsible businesses are able to pay back the loan. The Committee will be addressing how to get the Federal Governments out of the way so that the Banks can make these loans to responsible parties and businesses.

The final issue to be addressed is the Workforce Investment Act, which will be considered by the end of the year or possibly the beginning of 2012. Mr. Edelblute understands that the new budget for WIA funds coming to the State will be at a 2% increase. Still, there will be a lot of budget discussion that takes place by both sides of congress. Mr. Edelblute stated that timely funding is key in providing an educated workforce for new technologies and programs in Southern Nevada and Congressman Heck is highly supporting these issues.

John Ball commended the WIA service providers and staff for the great work they do and he is very pleased with the performance. Mr. Ball stated that with a stable Board we have been able to make tremendous progress on the program side and with constant communication with staff and the State, there's been great improvement in our performance.

Agenda Item IV – Consent Agenda

A. Approve the minutes from the *workforceCONNECTIONS* Board of Directors Meeting on April 26, 2011

A motion was made to approve and/or receive Consent Agenda Item A as presented by Valerie Murzl and seconded by Charles Perry. Motion carried.

Agenda Item V – Public Comment

Janet Blumen, CEO, FIT for an Independent Tomorrow thanked the Board for the opportunity to run their successful program and stated that FIT has expended all funds allocated to them. Ms. Blumen

stated that their real sense of pride lays not with the numbers rather the people they service and provide real jobs for. Ms. Blumen said this last month 25 families were assisted off of public assistance and provided with employment opportunities. An additional three people were employed after completed their on-the job training opportunities. Ms. Blumen said “thank you, thank you for letting us be here, and thank you for everything you do”. Jake McClelland, Program Manager, distributed materials outlining FIT’s recent program developments, client success story, and the May 2011 FIT Monthly Program Reports listing the total WIA enrollment (233) and placements (253) to date, as well as a breakdown of the last 25 placements, including job title and salary.

Renee Cantu, CEO, Latin Chamber of Commerce Community Foundation provided a brief update on the Casa Verde Project. The Casa Verde project currently has 67 adult and 50 dislocated clients for a total of 177 clients enrolled. Four HVAC clients will complete their occupational training on June 30th and three clients will begin Dialysis Patient Care training on June 6th. The Latin Chamber of Commerce is having a large Employer Open House for Chamber Members to promote the programs on-the-job-training program on June 7th, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Helicia Thomas, CEO, GNJ Family Life Center thanked John Ball and his staff, especially Rick Villalobos, YouthBuild Las Vegas Program Manager who will partner with GNJ in sponsoring an Employability Conference on Friday, May 27th from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Texas Station Hotel and Casino. Approximately 50 employers will attend the event and engage with YouthBuild participants.

Ms. Thomas noted that on the previously discussed Provided Expenditure Report there is a lag time of 30 – 34 days for reimbursement that can impact the amounts reflected on the report.

Tiffany Tyler, Nevada Partners, Inc. provided thanked the Board and staff for their technical assistance and guidance provided throughout the year as well as the performance tools provided in the Youth and Adult and Dislocated Worker service program. Ms. Tyler is amazed with the performance in Southern Nevada with the State having the highest drop-out rate. Ms. Tyler stated that our performance is indicative that we are touching lives and successfully reaching to increase the graduation rate.

Chair Hannah Brown thanked the providers for the hard work and passion for helping the people they serve.

Councilwoman Gerri Schroder announced that Councilman William Robinson is termed out and Councilman Travis Chandler has decided not to run again and today’s meeting will have been their last meeting. Councilwoman Schroder wants their work on the Board to be recognized.

Agenda Item VI – Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.