

**Minutes**  
**workforceCONNECTIONS**  
**Executive Committee Meeting**  
**November 10, 2010**

**Members Present**

Hannah Brown, *workforceCONNECTIONS* - Chair  
Gerri Schroder, Local Elected Officials - Chair

Valerie Murzl, Adult/Dislocated Worker – Vice Chair  
Eloiza Martinez, Youth Council – Vice Chair

**Members Absent**

Deana Zelenik, Budget & Finance Committee – Vice Chair  
Pat Maxwell, Emerging Markets, Partnerships & Resource Development - Chair

**Staff Present**

John Ball	Suzanne Potter	David Jefferson	John Collins	Ardell Galbreth
Tameca Ulmer	Sylvia Spencer	Jeannie Kuennen	Heather DeSart	Kelly Ford
Rosie Boulware	MaryAnn Avendano			

**Others Present**

Deborah Campbell	Fran Phillips, CHR, Inc.	Vickie Simon, CHR, Inc.	Steve Burt, The Ridge House
Tim Burch, CCSS	John Chamberlin	Matt Cecil, Legal Counsel	

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

**Agenda Item 1 - Call to Order, confirmation of posting, roll call**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hannah Brown at 1:00 p.m. Staff confirmed the meeting had been properly noticed and posted in accordance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

**Agenda Item 2 – ACTION: Approval of Agenda with the inclusion of any emergency items and deletion of any items**  
***Motion was made to approve the agenda as presented by Valerie Murzl and seconded by Eloiza Martinez. Motion carried.***

**Agenda Item 3 – ACTION: Approval of the Executive Committee meeting minutes from October 14, 2010**  
***Motion was made to approve the Executive Committee meeting minutes from October 14, 2010 as presented by Eloiza Martinez and seconded by Councilwoman Gerri Schroder. Motion carried.***

**Agenda Item 4 –DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION: A. Adult and Dislocated Workers Committee Report**

**1) APPROVE the Adult and Dislocated Workers Committee recommendation to negotiate and execute a PY10 contract in the amount of \$722,175 with Nye Communities Coalition to deliver employment and training services to Nye County residents.**

Heather DeSart read the recommendation to negotiate and execute a PY10 contract in the amount of \$722,175 with Nye Communities Coalition to deliver employment and training services to Nye County residents and provided background.

***A motion to negotiate and execute a PY10 contract in the amount of \$722,175 with Nye Communities Coalition to deliver employment and training services to Nye County resident was made by Valerie Murzl and seconded by Eloiza Martinez. Motion carried.***

**2) APPROVE the cancellation of the Prisoner Re-Entry program Request for Proposals and subsequent PY10 contract award in the amount of \$750,000 to The Ridge House and the initiation of a new Request for Proposals process for the Prisoner Re-Entry program in an amount not to exceed \$750,000.**

John Ball provided background on this item: On October 4, 2010, *workforceCONNECTIONS* (wC) received a formal written complaint/appeal regarding the Prisoner Re-Entry Request for Proposal process and the subsequent award as well as several informal complaints from various sources regarding aspects of the procurement process. wC staff and legal counsel have conducted a procedural and legal review of the complaints, the RFP process, applicable WC guidelines, and Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations (29 CFR 97.36 – Procurement). This review concluded that the key elements of the complaints were either unsubstantiated or could not be substantiated without extensive further investigation. However, some aspects of the procurement process raised legitimate concerns as to whether the process and award had remained free of any real, apparent or potential conflicts of interest. wC staff and legal counsel agreed to suspend further investigation of the complaints and recommend the initiation of a new Request for Proposal for the Prisoner Re-Entry Grant.

wC staff and legal counsel recommended the following actions for approval:

1. The RFP and resulting contract award to The Ridge House for a PY 2010 Prisoner Re-Entry Program in the amount of \$750,000 shall be cancelled. The current contractor, The Ridge House, who has received a Letter of Intent but has not yet received a fully executed contract, shall be compensated for allowable costs incurred to date in reliance upon the Letter of Intent, and for allowable costs which may be incurred until such time as the current Letter of Intent is cancelled or expires.
2. The RFP shall be re-issued, responses reviewed and scored, and a new contract award not to exceed \$750,000 granted as soon as practicable.
3. In order to minimize any service delivery disruption, wC staff and legal counsel are directed to determine the most appropriate interim service delivery model, and to negotiate and execute interim contracts to operate that model until the new permanent contract award is in place. wC staff will have the flexibility to negotiate with any potential interim contractor, any other partner agency, such as the Department of Corrections, Department of Employment and Training, and others, or to operate the program internally.
4. A full progress report shall be provided to the relevant wC Board Committees and to the wC Board on or before the Board's December 7, 2010 meeting, and regularly thereafter until the new permanent contract is in place.

Mr. Ball stated that John Collins relationship with others was not the only determinative factor; however, Mr. Collins will not be directly involved in the staffing of any process moving forward relating to this grant and/or subcontractors relating to the Prisoner Re-Entry sector grant.

***A motion was made to approve the cancellation of the Prisoner Re-Entry program Request for Proposals and subsequent PY10 contract award in the amount of \$750,000 to The Ridge House and the initiation of a new Request for Proposal process for the Prisoner Re-Entry program in an amount not to exceed \$750,000 by Valerie Murzl and seconded by Councilwoman Gerri Schroder. Motion carried.***

B. Youth Council Committee Report - 1) APPROVE the Youth Council's recommendation to execute a PY10 Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funded contract in an amount not to exceed \$120,000 with the Project WE Foundation, Inc. to provide work readiness training opportunities for current and former foster care youth from September 1, 2010 through January 31, 2011.

Sylvia Spencer read the recommendation to approve the Youth Council's recommendation to execute a PY10 Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funded contract in an amount not to exceed \$120,000 with the Project WE Foundation, Inc. to provide work readiness training opportunities for current and former foster care youth from September 1, 2010 through January 31, 2011. Ms. Spencer stated that the request for funds is to support ongoing program services to current and former foster care youth.

***A motion to approve the Youth Council's recommendation to execute a PY10 Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funded contract in an amount not to exceed \$120,000 with the ProjectWE Foundation, Inc. to provide work readiness training opportunities for current and former foster care youth from September 1, 2010 through January 31, 2011 was made by Councilwoman Gerri Schroder and seconded by Valerie Murzl. Motion carried.***

2) APPROVE the Youth Council recommendation to execute a PY10 Governor's Reserve funded contract in an amount not to exceed of \$280,000 with the Project WE Foundation, Inc. to provide life skills and work readiness opportunities for current and former foster care youth from February 1, 2011 through June 30, 2011

John Ball stated that this item went before the Governor's Youth Council on November 9, 2010, wherein substantial issues were identified and will carry over to the discussion at the Governor's Budget Committee Meeting. Mr. Ball recommended the Executive Committee to defer action pending the Governor's Budget Committee review on December 13, 2010.

3) Report: U.S. Department of Labor Employment & Training Administration: State Use of the 15% Youth Recovery Act Funds of 2009

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 provided \$1.2 billion for Workforce Investment Act youth activity with an emphasis on creating summer employment opportunities. The ARRA funds were distributed to the states and local areas according to the WIA statutory formula, with 85% going to the local areas and states reserving up to 15% for

statewide workforce investment activities. The report accompanying this agenda highlights the use of these 15% discretionary funds.

Sylvia Spencer stated that Nevada was recognized as one of the top five States due to its innovative youth programming components. The report accompanying this agenda highlights the components, including the partnership with the Nevada Public Education Foundation's Ready for Life movement.

Ms. Spencer provided a Project 5000 Kids (P5K) update, including the success of the Waiting for Superman movie premier. P5K's new website is up and running at <http://www.project5000kids.org>. P5K is gearing up for National Job Shadow Day, wherein their goal is to lead the nation with the highest number of youth job shadows.

Ms. Spencer provided a recap of Ready for Life's Nevada 2010 Dropout Prevention Summit: Building a Connected Infrastructure for Youth Success from Cradle to Career held at UNLV's Student Union Building on November 8, 2010. In addition the many strong speakers, the event featured a powerful and informative youth panel comprised of 36 youth.

The next upcoming youth event is the Wes Moore Youth Forum scheduled December 11, 2010.

#### C. Budget and Finance Committee Update

David Jefferson stated that the Budget Committee met on November 3, 2010 and approved the revision of the PY2010 Annual Operating Budget. The item will be included in the Board of Director's Meeting Agenda packet for the December 7, 2010 meeting.

#### E. workforceCONNECTIONS Update

John Ball stated that John Chamberlain, WIA Legal Consultant is visiting this week to provide guidance to ADW and Youth Departments on various WIA programmatic functions including the Request for Proposal process.

Debra Campbell is in the process of contacting the Board to schedule one-on-one training on the SharePoint program which is being implemented as a communication tool for meetings of the Board and various committees.

#### Agenda Item 5 – Possible items to be placed on the agenda for the December 7, 2010 wC Board of Director's Meeting

Councilwoman Gerri Schroder requested that an item regarding the election of the Local Elected Officials be placed on the agenda.

#### Agenda Item 6 – Public Comment

Steve Burt, The Ridge House, commented on the cancellation of the Prisoner Re-Entry program contract award to The Ridge House. Mr. Burt commented on the matter of the complaint of My Journey Home, Inc., wherein he feels the complaints are not substantiated. Mr. Burt stated that he would prefer to have all complaints investigated rather than cancelling the contract and initiating a new RFP process, which he feels will be even less objective. Mr. Burt stated that the process will not be seamless and will likely set the Re-Entry process in Nevada back by about a year.

#### Agenda Item 7 - Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.