

MINUTES
*workforce***CONNECTIONS**
YOUTH COUNCIL
Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Members Present

Ken LoBene, Chair
Eloiza Martinez, Vice Chair
Chanda Cook
Dan Rose
Sonja Holloway
Matthew Weinman

Members Absent

Sergeant Mark Sharp
LaShae Thomas

Staff Present

John Ball, Executive Director
Jenaya Butler
Byron Goynes
Kelly Henwood
Suzanne Potter

Sylvia Spencer
Stacy Rainwater
Tameca Ulmer
Wendy Villanueva
Rick Villalobos

Others Present

Matt Hirsch, United Way
Odalys Carmona, DETR
Maite Salazar, GWIB Youth Council
Debra Moulton, DFS
Shannon West, SNRPC
Debra Campbell
Arcadio Bolanos, AHD
Eric James, Fresh Start Family Services

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

Agenda Item 1 - Call To Order, confirmation of posting, roll call. The meeting was called to order by Mr. LoBene at 11:18 a.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 - Approval of agenda with inclusions of any emergency items and deletion of any items. *Motion was made to approve the agenda as presented by Eloiza Martinez and seconded by Dan Rose. The motion carried.*

Agenda Item 3 - Approval of Youth Council meeting Minutes of October 14, 2009. *Motion was made to approve the minutes with the following correction by Dan Rose and seconded by Eloiza Martinez.* Correction: Agenda Item 8 Chandra Cook should read Chanda Cook. *The motion carried.*

Agenda Item 4 – ACTION: Youth Council Meeting Calendar. Tameca Ulmer presented the proposed Youth Council meeting dates for 2010. *Eloiza Martinez moved to approve the Youth Council Meeting Calendar for calendar year 2010, Chanda Cook seconded. The motion carried.*

Agenda Item 5 – DISCUSSION and ACTION: Acceptance of the Youth Council Action Plan

Mr. LoBene gave a brief overview of the Youth Council Impact Statement (page 7 of the agenda), the three major outcomes: 1. Youth stay in school; 2. Youth re-engage and prepare for post-secondary transition; 3. Youth are exposed to and connected with employment, the services and resources required to achieve the outcomes, and follow-up required, a constant process of asking: 1. What to measure; 2. How to measure; 3. How will the information be used. Addressing these questions will be a collaborative effort between the Youth Council and staff.

Kelly Henwood, staff, provided an overview of the Youth Council Impact Logic Model, the four major outcomes to achieve the overall goal of increasing the graduation rate, including: 1. Youth stay in school progress and graduate; 2. Youth who have left school are re-engaged and complete secondary education; 3. All youth are exposed to and connected with employment; 4. Youth are prepared for post-secondary transition, the benchmarks, how progress will be measured, the system activities which adults and organization will need to consider and take action on in order to have an impact on the overall goal and the considerations to keep in mind to accomplish the goal. Ms. Henwood prefaced that this plan is an overarching plan for the youth force work system and a plan to interact and partner with the greater community to affect the overall goal.

Mr. LoBene continued the discussion regarding the Youth Council Action Plan which outlines tasks necessary to achieve the overall goal to increase the graduation rate. Ms. Henwood addressed the goals and objectives of the Youth Council; actions and tactics needed with Youth Council structure and areas of resource development, educational connections, employer outreach, strengthening the Youth/Peer to peer aspects of the system, branding the Youth system, capacity building and professional development, and use of information, data collection and analysis.

Following this discussion, *a motion was made to approve the Youth Council Impact Statement, the overall goal to increase the graduation rate, and the Youth Council Impact Logic Model, acknowledging that it is a living document and will change. Chanda Cook moved to approved and Eloiza Martinez seconded. The motion carried.*

Agenda Item 6 – DISCUSSION: Educational connections with the Clark County School District.

Chanda Cook, Youth Council Member and Co-Executive Director of the Nevada Public Education Foundation shared successes and lessons learned from the partnership with Clark County School District for the ARRA Summer 2009 program. A significant number of youth had academic deficiencies as identified through the needs assessment. Other challenges identified included poor attendance, lack of transportation and childcare for teen parents trying to stay in school.

Agenda Item 7 – PRESENTATION: State GWIB Youth Council Strategic Plan

Maite Salazar, Chair of the State Youth Council, provided a handout and presented information regarding Nevada's strategic plan for youth workforce services and reconstituted Governors Youth Council. An outline has been established for the strategic plan still in draft form. An invitation was extended to the Youth Council and staff to participate and provide input at the GWIB Youth Council meeting where a strategic planning session is scheduled for December 8, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at DETR located at 2800 E. St. Louis Avenue.

Agenda Item 8 – INFORMATION: Summer Jobs Programs lessons learned

Tameca Ulmer, staff, provided a handout titled ARRA Summer Youth Program Feedback and briefly discussed the feedback received from contractors with a contract close-out date of September 30, 2009. The feedback included the need for improved communication with other contractors providing youth services as well as *workforce***CONNECTIONS** staff, staffing requirements, and additional service provider training for new and existing service providers. Additional feedback will be provided at a later date from contractors, youth, and employers regarding the direction we are heading.

Agenda Item 9 – INFORMATION: Foster Youth RFP

Kelly Henwood, staff, and Matt Hirsh, Director, Community Development, United Way of Southern Nevada provided an update regarding the partnership between *workforce***CONNECTIONS** and United Way's Financial Stability Partnership Council to fund a pilot project to support transitioning foster youth in Clark County with workforce, education, and training supports. An RFP was released November 3, 2009 and a Bidders Conference was held on November 13, 2009. Evaluation of proposals will take place on December 7, 2009 and a contract recommendation will be presented at the next Youth Council meeting scheduled January 13, 2010. The foster youth contract and program will commence on March 1, 2010.

Agenda Item 10 – INFORMATION: Contractor Update

Eric James, Public Relations Director, Fresh Start Family Services, LLC provided a handout and a program update on Fresh Start's program of caring for youth.

Arcadio Bolanos, Academy of Human Development (AHD) expressed gratitude to the Youth Council and their efforts on behalf of AHD. Mr. Bolanos requested 5 minutes at a future meeting to present the services offered by AHD to see if they align with the needs of *workforce***CONNECTIONS**.

Debra Moulton, Department of Family Services (DFS) provided a brief program update.

Agenda Item 11 – INFORMATION: Updates from Youth Council Members

Chanda Cook asked to be contacted by anyone wishing to serve on the Education Committee.

Agenda Item 12 – Citizen Participation

None

Agenda Item 13– Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:38 PM.