

MINUTES
workforce **CONNECTIONS BOARD**
YOUTH COUNCIL
Wednesday, September 9, 2009

Members Present

Ken LoBene, Chair
Chanda Cook
Eloiza Martinez
Dan Rose
Sergeant Mark Sharp
Matthew Weinman

Members Absent

Sonja Holloway
LaShae Thomas

Staff Present

John Ball, Executive Director
Rosie Boulware
Jenaya Butler
Deborah Campbell
Kelly Ford
Tom Dang
Byron Goynes

Kelly Henwood
David Jefferson
Suzanne Potter
Sylvia Spencer
Tameca Ulmer
Rick Villalobos
Wendy Villanueva

Others Present

Karl Rostron, HELP of Southern Nevada
Asha Jones, Nevada Partners
Jerrquisha Mothershed, New Antioch Christian Fellowship

(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 Mr. LoBene at 11:04 a.m. Staff confirmed the meeting had been properly noted and posed 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 Chanda Cook and seconded by Mark Sharp. The motion carried.

Agenda Item 3 - Approval of Youth Council meeting Minutes of August 12, 2009.
Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented by Mark Sharp and seconded by Chanda Cook. The motion carried.

Agenda Item 4 - **ACTION:** Extension of ARRA Contracts for Work Experiences for Out of School Youth
To consider allocating additional ARRA funding, contingent upon availability, for extended work experiences for 18-24 year old Out of School youth as part of the ARRA program. Final contract amounts are to be negotiated with current ARRA youth service providers.

Per Training Employment Guidance Letter 14-08 Section 19 Part A – The state of Nevada received a waiver through March 2010 to extend the period of performance for ARRA funding for youth who participate in work experience only.

The following contractors are those being considered for extension on a limited basis. All final contract awards would be based on negotiations.

- AHEC,
- Expertise,
- CCSD - Desert Rose High School.
- College of Southern Nevada,
- Communities in Schools,
- Nevada Partners,
- Shade Tree,
- HELP of Southern Nevada, and
- Nye Communities Coalition.

Staff background information on the demographic of youth that would be served by the extensions and the types of work experiences that youths would be participating in. A discussion commenced between the council and staff in order to arrive at a dollar amount for approval.

Eloiza Martinez moved to approve \$600,000 for the negotiation of extensions of ARRA contracts to serve out-of-school Youth, Matthew Weinman seconded and the motion carried.

Agenda Item 5 - ACTION: Additional Funding for Year Round WIA Programs; to review and consider requests for additional funding for Year Round WIA programs with the following organizations in the following amounts.

- a. HELP of Southern Nevada : \$120,146 additional funds
- b. Nevada Partners, Inc.: \$157,697 additional funds

HELP of Southern Nevada:

Current Contract for Program Year 2009 includes \$250,000 to serve 75 youth.

HELP is requesting an additional \$120,146 to expand their computer lab and hire an additional staff person to oversee the 50 additional work experience opportunities for homeless youth (at 160 hours each) to give them the needed skills to find living wage work opportunities, achieve self-sufficiency, and live independent lives off the streets. Sixty-five (65%) percent of this request is for youth wages and supportive services. This would increase the total PY 2009 contract award to \$370,146.

Nevada Partners for a Skilled Workforce:

Current contract for PY 09 is for \$600,000 for 282* (*currently being negotiated).

Nevada Partners is requesting \$157,697 to implement a youth ambassador program. This request includes adding 25 paid youth ambassador slots through work experience activities, staffing, supportive services, and other youth activities. Forty-percent (40%) of this request is for youth transportation, incentives and work experience wages. This would increase the total PY 2009 contract award to \$757,697.

In response to questions from some Council members, Denise Gee of HELP of Southern Nevada gave further information on what the additional funds would be used for noting, the number of computers that would be

purchased, a space build out for the computer stations, the number of additional youth that will be served and a case manager to oversee 50 work experiences.

Dan Rose moved to approve additional funding for year round WIA programs: HELP of Southern Nevada for \$120,146 additional funds and Nevada Partners, Inc. \$157,697 additional fund, Mark Sharp seconded, and the motion carried.

Agenda Item 6 - PRESENTATION: Desert Rose High School Participants

Dr. Sandra Ransel and four students presented a short film detailing the elements of the summer program. The students elaborated on the benefits they received, lessons they learned, and the plans they had for the future.

Agenda Item 7 - INFORMATION: ARRA & WIA Contractors Budgets Year to Date

Staff provided an update on the provider budgets and expenditures to date for both Program Year 2008 close out as well as ARRA summer stimulus contracts.

Agenda Item 8 - INFORMATION: ARRA Program Data Presentation

Staff provided the Council with an update on data from the ARRA Summer stimulus program.

Agenda Item 9 – DISCUSSION: Youth Planning/Innovations Process

Deborah Campbell gave a report on the information gathered from the Innovations Conversations. Ms. Campbell related that teens find it difficult to receive information in “real time” regarding employment opportunities; they further noted that the information should be relayed to them through the vehicles they use most such as Twitter, Facebook, MySpace and possibly a place on the *workforce CONNECTIONS* website that might have a different label, where teens could go to find out different things as it relates to employment.

Ms. Campbell stated that the Innovations Conversations would continue, but possibly with individuals now and she would present the findings from those conversations at a future meeting. Ms. Campbell stated that she had a meeting with Youth Council member, Matthew Weinman of TWC Construction to begin brainstorming how to not only discover employment experiences for 5000 kids next summer, but employment experiences that might lead to careers.

Agenda Item 10 – INFORMATION: Contractor Update

Donna Watson, Expertise, thanked staff and Chanda Cook for all of the assistance they received as new providers.

Karl Rostron, HELP of Southern Nevada, called attention to the newsletter that was distributed via email. The newsletter spotlighted some of the Youth and their successes during the summer.

Agenda Item 11 – INFORMATION: Updates from Youth Council Members

Ken LoBene stated he met with Councilman Barlow, Commissioner Weekly, and Councilwoman Schroder and they are enthusiastic about the 5000 kids summer program. . Mr. LoBene will be speaking to the North Las Vegas City Council about the program this month.

Agenda Item 12 – Citizen Participation

Jerrquisha Mothershed, New Antioch Christian Fellowship, discussed their after school program. Their program gives students a meal, provides activities and helps with homework.

Agenda Item 13– Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.