

MINUTES

**Youth Council Meeting
January 11, 2012
11:00AM**

**Workforce Connections
Conference Room
7251 W. Lake Mead Blvd.
Suite 200
Las Vegas, NV 89128**

Members Present

Ken LoBene, Chair Sonja Holloway, Vice-Chair Sgt. Mark Sharp
Chris Sullivan Chanda Cook

Members Absent

Dan Rose Lori Goodwine

Staff Present

John Ball Suzanne Potter Clentine January Valerie Sims
Heather DeSart Kimberly Colagioia Kelly Woods Byron Goynes
Ricardo Villalobos Jennifer Padilla Lucy Ivins Beth Rubins
Bridget Shaney Wilson Ramos

Others Present

Pamela Poston, HELP of Southern Nevada
Toni Mims, Southern Nevada Children First

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

Agenda Item 1 - CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Ken LoBene at 11:00 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 present.

Agenda Item 2 - ACTION: APPROVE the agenda with inclusion of any emergency items and deletion of any items
A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented by Sgt. Mark Sharp and seconded by Sonja Holloway. Motion carried.

Agenda Item 3 - First Public Comment Session

None

Agenda Item 4 - ACTION: APPROVE the meeting minutes from the Youth Council meeting on November 9, 2011
A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes from the Youth Council meeting on November 9, 2011 as presented by Sgt. Mark Sharp and seconded by Sonja Holloway. Motion carried.

Agenda Item 5 – INFORMATION: YouthBuild Las Vegas Update and Youth Presentation

Jennifer Padilla provided an update on the 2009 YouthBuild program:

- 16 participants from cohort one are finished with follow up
- YBLV has achieved beyond the national performance measures in all five categories:
 - Placement in Education or Employment56.45% (and still counting)
 - Attainment of a Degree or Certificate:87.10%
 - Literacy and Numeracy Attainment:82.76%
 - Recidivism Rate:0%
 - Retention Rate:55 % (and still counting)

Cynthia Edwards is the program's Placement & Retention Coordinator. Ms. Edwards is working on placing into employment and/or post-secondary education the 2009 participants from cohorts one and two.

Ms. Padilla provided an update on the 2011 YouthBuild program:

- Two YBLV participants have earned a GED since the program started in October 2011. Seven more are on schedule to complete their GED by February 2012.
- YBLV participants completed the CASAS post-test and 60% had literacy (reading)/numeracy (math) gains (Department of Labor requires 29%).
- YBLV participants completed First Aid and CPR training and received their certification.
- YBLV participants volunteered to pick up & recycle trash at the UNLV football game as well as volunteered at Opportunity Village's Magical Forest.
- Tomorrow the YBLV participants will tour Zappos.
- YBLV participants underwent drug testing. Except for one, participants who tested positive for drugs have agreed to undergo one month of drug counseling. Meanwhile these participants are prohibited from working. Upon completing of drug counseling the participants were retested and all drug tests came back clean. One participant is unwilling to quit using drugs and/or complete drug counseling.

YouthBuild Las Vegas recently became an affiliate of YouthBuild USA which will provide other funding resources outside of DOL.

YBLV Counselor, Wilson Ramos and YBLV participant, Maurice Johnson, made comments about the program and how it has positively changed Mr. Johnson's life. Mr. Johnson earned his GED and is working toward his High School Diploma. Mr. Johnson stated that the program has helped him put life into perspective and strive for greatness.

Chanda Cook invited the YBLV to participate in Education Day on February 10, 2012. The YBLV participants will have lunch with the current Leadership Las Vegas class to share about experiences, goals, and challenges.

Agenda Item 6 - INFORMATION: Youth Re-Entry Update

Valerie Sims provided a Re-Entry update. The Youth Re-entry program's serves youth age 16-18 from the Caliente Youth Center. The program has 35 participants enrolled, eight of which have been placed in employment, nine have attained their high school diploma or GED, and one has enrolled in vocational training at the Academy of Dental Careers. Two youth returned to State custody and will not be counted in the performance measures. Two additional youth will be identified to fill these slots and participate in the program. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Sims is organizing a Youth Symposium on Wednesday, February 4th at 2PM at the Youth Parole Bureau, 620 Belrose Street, located near Rancho and Washington. The Symposium will have a youth panel, guest speaker, and food.

Agenda Item 7 - INFORMATION: Rural Youth Update

Lucy Ivins provided an update on the rurals. Workforce Connections is partnering with Nye County Health & Human Resources to pursue Community Services Block Grant funding to provide youth employment assistance. Ms. Ivins met with the Director who confirmed that money will be earmarked for Workforce Connections. Ms. Ivins is working Beth Rubins and Bridget Shaney to bring the Green initiative to the rural. On January 23rd, a meeting has been scheduled with Nikki Holton, Superintendent of Lincoln County School District to support this process.

A Career Day will be held at Pahump Valley High School for youth in grades 9-12. Approximately 1300 students will attend the event which will include approximately 100 guest speakers and presentations. Discussion ensued.

Agenda Item 8 - INFORMATION: Year-Round Youth Update

Clentine January stated that the funded partners are taking advantage of using OJT and occupational skills training with their programs. The 1st Tuesday funded partner meetings are ongoing providing the funded partners with valuable information on various topics such as case management. The funded partners receive regular technical

assistance on eligibility, NVTrac, invoicing procedures, and more. The funded partners have been advised to keep a strong focus on program spending and training activities.

Ken LoBene requested an expenditure report; staff will provide on a quarterly basis. Discussion ensued.

Agenda Item 9 - INFORMATION: Ready for Life Graduation Initiative Update

Kim Colagioia, Ready for Life (RFL) Graduate Advocate Initiative (GAI) Director, provided an update on the Ready for Life Graduation Initiative. The Graduate Advocate Coordinators (GACs) are in the schools and working at identifying WIA eligible youth. Staff is actively recruiting mentors; they have 246 applications out, waiting for them to be returned. Twenty-six applicants have been screened and processed are now ready to receive the mentor training. Per Mr. LoBene's request, Ms. Colagioia will provide a list of the ten schools identified by CCSD and the GAC assigned to each school. Discussion ensued.

The agency hired new staff members to support the RFL initiative, Chanda Cook, RFL Southern Nevada Regional Director, Hilary Robinson, RFL Business Developer, and Norma Restivo, RFL Communications Specialist.

Byron Goynes provided an update on Job Shadow Day, scheduled February 2, 2012. Mr. Goynes will send detailed information to the Youth Council.

Agenda Item 10 - Second Public Comment Session

Pamela Poston, HELP of Southern Nevada commented on the success of a youth participant who was recently hired as a medical assistant after receiving services and training through the WIA program.

Agenda Item 11 - Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:28 p.m.