

**MINUTES**

**Youth Council Meeting  
March 20, 2012  
1:00 PM**

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

**Members Present**

Ken LoBene, Chair	Sonja Holloway	Mark Sharp
Chris Sullivan	Alex Garza	

**Members Absent**

Dan Rose

**Staff Present**

Ardell Galbreth	Suzanne Potter	Clentine January	Adam Taylor
Rick Villalobos	Jim Kostecki	Carol Turner	Chanda Cook
Heather DeSart	Lucy Ivins	Kelly Woods	Asha Jones
Valerie Sims	Michael Flores	Kim Colagioia	Byron Goynes
Jerrell Roberts	Jennifer Padilla		

**Others Present**

Toni Mims, Southern Nevada Children First	Denise Gee, HELP of Southern Nevada
Beverly Haynes, Southern Nevada Children First	Yusef Moore, YouthBuild Las Vegas
Shataiana Hunter, Southern Nevada Children First	Tiffany Tyler, Nevada Partners, Inc.
Amber Tipton, Southern Nevada Children First	Monica Ford, Nevada Partners, Inc.
Brandice Dirden, Southern Nevada Children First	LaTanya Runnells, Nevada Partners, Inc.

(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 1:04 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 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 Chris Sullivan. Motion carried.*

**Agenda Item 3 - FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION**

None

**Agenda Item 4 - ACTION: APPROVE the meeting minutes from the meeting on February 8, 2012**

*A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes from the meeting on February 8, 2012 as presented by Sonja Holloway and seconded by Chris Sullivan. Motion carried.*

**Agenda Item 5 - INFORMATION: Awards & Expenditures - Youth Program PY2011**

Carol Turner provided a brief overview of the Awards & Expenditures report provided on page 9 of the agenda packet. Ms. Turner commented that the report includes all invoices through the end of January. The report shows that 46.67% of the program year is completed (based on 15 month contracts). CCSD-Desert Rose is underspent at 4.91%; the provider had internal issues with getting their contract signed. Recently staff performed a fiscal and program audit. Fiscally the program is fine, other than they are behind in spending and getting their program up and running. HELP, Nevada Partners, and Nye Communities are on track and have committed to expending additional funds. Southern Nevada Children First is doing well as a new provider and is scheduled to undergo monitoring soon. Lincoln County School District is underspent at 18.57%. Similar to the situation at CCSD-Desert Rose, Lincoln County also had internal issues with getting their contract signed in a timely manner. Fiscal and program staff will continue to work with both providers. Nye County (entrepreneurial program) is behind in spending; however, an increase is expected during the summer based on their program design. RFL GAI has expended 28.06% of the original contract award of \$900K; however, \$325K will be transferred to HELP of Southern Nevada to provide supportive services and is expected to be expended by June 30, 2012. Mr. LoBene directed staff to continue to provide direction and assistance to CCSD-Desert Rose, Lincoln County, and Nye Communities Coalition to ramp up their expenditures. Discussion ensued regarding the issues and challenges service providers face with serving the rural populations.

Internal youth programs Green & Healthcare have not expended any funds because no contracts have been made with the consortium partners. Heather DeSart, Deputy Director-Workforce Development stated that Healthcare has started the process; however, Green has had to overcome some obstacles and is farther behind. Green has lost some of its consortium partners. Ms. DeSart approximated that contracts will be made for the Healthcare consortium in two weeks and for Green Consortium in three weeks. Mr. LoBene requested staff to provide an update on the Green and Healthcare program and expenditures.

Ms. Turner noted that the Strategic Initiative and To Be Allocated line item has approximately \$2.2 Million. The PY11 funds are uncommitted and will roll over to the next year if unspent. Ms. Turner stated that \$1,966,662 will be allocated for the contract amendments approved today for Nye Communities Coalition, Nevada Partners, and HELP of Southern Nevada. Mr. LoBene directed staff to produce in 30 days an expenditure plan for the remaining funds.

Mr. LoBene asked staff to follow-up on the funding request received from the Summer Business Institute (SBI) which was originally presented as an information item at the February 8<sup>th</sup> Youth Council meeting. Discussion ensued.

**Agenda Item 6 - ACTION: Approve Recommendation to Amend Existing Youth Funded Partner Contracts (Nye Community Coalition, Nevada Partners, Inc., and HELP of Southern Nevada) for In-School and Out-of-School Youth in an Amount not to exceed \$1,966,662**

Clentine January provided brief background on this item. If approved, the contracts will be amended April 1, 2012 as follows: Nevada Partners, Inc. (NPI) will receive \$677,909 to provide out of school youth work experience, occupational skills training, and supportive services; Nye Communities Coalition (NYECC) will receive \$88,753 to provide out of school work experience, summer camp for in school youth, and short-term prevocational and weekend leadership training; HELP of Southern Nevada will receive \$1,200,000 to provide approximately 500 in school youth work experiences, tutorials, supportive services, and job placements. Budget summaries for the three providers are provided in the agenda packet. Ardell Galbreth stated the funds are PY2010 and must be expended by June 20, 2011. Following discussion,

*A motion was made to Approve Recommendation to Amend Existing Youth Funded Partner Contracts (Nye Community Coalition, Nevada Partners, Inc., and HELP of Southern Nevada) for In-School and Out-of-School Youth in an Amount not to exceed \$1,966,662 by Sgt. Mark Sharp and seconded by Sonja Holloway. Motion carried.*

**Agenda Item 7 – ACTION: Approve Recommendation to Publish a Request for In-School and Out-of-School Proposals for Youth Services in an Amount not to exceed \$3,260,000**

Clentine January provided a brief background on this item; detail, including the tentative RFP schedule is provided on page 17 – 18 of the agenda packet. Ken LoBene requested an update on the Applied Analysis study to identify and serve the areas greatest in need and to ensure these areas are being served. Mr. LoBene commented that funding decisions must be data driven. Discussion ensued.

*A motion was made to Approve Recommendation to Publish a Request for In-School and Out-of-School Proposals for Youth Services in an Amount not to exceed \$3,260,000 by Chris Sullivan and seconded by Sgt. Mark Sharp. Motion carried.*

**Agenda Item 8 - INFORMATION: Ready for Life Graduate Advocate Initiative Update**

Kimberly Colagioia, RFL GAI Director provided the following update:

- The first GAI Stakeholder meeting was held on February 27, 2012. All partners participated in the meeting including: CCSD administration, school principals and liaisons, United Way, School Community Partnership Program, and workforceCONNECTIONS. The purpose of the meeting was to update all of the stakeholders on the progress of the initiative. We talked about the various processes (expenditures, mentors, etc.), the successes and challenges of enrolling WIA youth in the program, and answered questions regarding the Graduate Advocate Initiative.
- The School Committee Partnership Office has donated 100 computers. Each of the ten high schools will receive ten computers to use as incentives for youth complete and submit their paperwork on time.
- Nevada Public Education Foundation (NPEF) has donated \$1,000 to purchase gift cards to use as incentives for youth who complete and submit their paperwork on time.

Staff provided two brief video presentations: the first was about the American Graduate program, which focuses on addressing the nation's high school drop-out rate and providing resources. The video featured students from Desert Pines High School and is airing on the PBS website nationally; the second video was a public broadcast announcement by Pablo, an RFL GAI student from Chaparral High School, created to encourage his fellow students to stay in school.

**Agenda Item 9 – ACTION: Approve Recommendation to Fund the PY2012 Ready for Life Graduate Advocate Initiative in an Amount not Exceed \$1,000,000**

Rick Villalobos, RFL Systems Director read the motion and provided perspective on the RFL GAI program and how it ties in with the Youth Council's Impact Logic Model and overall goal to increase the graduation rate. Mr. Villalobos provided a timeline of events to date. Chanda Cook, RFL Regional Director commented that in addition to the time and resources Workforce Connections has put into the program, United Way, Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, and CCSD and invested time and resources equally.

Mr. Villalobos stated that if the funding is approved on July 1, 2012 two additional high schools will be added, Rancho and Canyon Springs. Ms. Cook commented that Pedro Martinez, Deputy Superintendent and representatives from the school district were excited about the possibility of adding the high schools. Ms. Cook added that RFL GAI will collaborate with the existing service providers and community services inside the schools to leverage resources and a prevent duplication of services.

Mr. Villalobos stated that the Graduate Advocate Coordinators (GACs) have distributed approximately 3,000 applications to students on the school campuses of which approximately 380 have been returned; however, a majority was missing information and/or documentation and some did not meet the WIA

income eligibility requirement. Mr. Villalobos stated that 176 WIA eligible youth have been identified and enrolled in the program and the goal is to have the GACs enroll 500 youth by the next Board meeting. Michael Flores and Asha Jones shared how the program is progressing in the schools.

Mr. LoBene asked for the current RFL GAI program expenditures. Carol Turner in Finance replied that approximately \$256,000 has been expended through the end of January and that there is enough funds remaining to run the program through June 30, 2012. With that, Mr. LoBene noted that there was no urgency to take action today stating, the extra time will provide a window of opportunity for the Youth Council to evaluate the proposal more in depth as well as provide the RFL GAI staff the opportunity to enroll more youth and reach performance goals. Discussion ensued.

*A motion was made to postpone action for one month by Alex Garza and seconded by Sgt. Mark Sharp. Motion carried.*

#### **Agenda Item 10 – INFORMATION: RFL Getting Connected Newsletter – March 2012**

This item is for information only; the RFL Getting Connected Newsletter – March 2012 is provided in the agenda packet.

#### **Agenda Item 11 – INFORMATION: YouthBuild Las Vegas Update**

Jennifer Padilla, YouthBuild Program Coordinator provided an overview of the YouthBuild report and chart on the types of jobs and wages for program cohorts 1 and 2 as provided on page 32–33 of the agenda packet.

Adam Taylor, YouthBuild Construction Trainer invited YouthBuild participant Yusef to share about his positive experience with the YouthBuild program. Mr. Taylor provided a brief update on the program's construction projects.

#### **Agenda Item 12 – INFORMATION: Youth Re-Entry Update**

Valerie Sims, Re-Entry Specialist provided an overview of the Youth Re-Entry report as provided on page 34 of the agenda packet. The program's performance outcomes are at: 70% attainment of a high school diploma/GED certificate; 30% placement in employment; 3% placement in post-secondary education; 12% recidivism.

Ms. Sims commented that the partnership between Workforce Connections and the Youth Parole office was instrumental in the Youth Re-Entry program's success. Ms. Sims has built strong relationships with the Parole Officers developing a cohesive and high-functioning network.

Youth participant Dominic shared about his positive experience with the program. Dominic expressed gratitude to Ms. Sims for introducing him to the program, always being there for him, and helping him through a difficult but successful transition. Dominic has earned his high school diploma and is gainfully employed.

#### **Agenda Item 13 – INFORMATION: Rural Youth Update**

Lucy Ivins, Rural Project Specialist provided an overview of the Rural Youth program update on page 35 of the agenda packet.

Ms. Ivins is working with Workforce Connections' Layoff Aversion staff member Janice Greer on making presentations in the rural areas in collaboration with Nye Communities Coalition and other community partners to address Nye County's high unemployment rate. The Layoff Aversion services will target struggling businesses in Nye, Esmeralda, and Lincoln County and help them keep from having to lay off their employees.

On March 14<sup>th</sup> Pahrump Valley High School held a successful Career Day including 50 speakers and outreach to about 1,600 students. The speakers were amazed at how respectful, courteous, and engaged the students were.

Ms. Ivins is continuing to work with Nye County government administration to provide WIA-participating youth work experiences via Internships.

Ms. Ivins met with BEC Environmental in Pahrump to discuss UNLV's Solar Decathlon and renewable energy projects in the rural areas. BEC is Nye County's "economic developing agent" and will be a great partner for Workforce Connections' Youth and Green Departments.

Ms. Ivins reported that the Town of Pahrump Youth Advisory Board presented its report to the Nye County School District Board of Trustees wherein the youth received great accolades from the Board, staff, and public audience. It was an effort for "adults-in-charge" to listen to students' perspectives, ideas, and solutions to improve the education system and school experience for youth. Ms. Ivins role was Mentor and Facilitator for Strategic Planning and Goal Setting.

#### **Agenda Item 14 – INFORMATION: Updates from Youth Council Members**

Mr. LoBene stated that he is adamantly opposed to DETR's plan for one state-wide workforce investment board and that it is not in the best interest of the youth we serve. Mr. LoBene agreed that there are ways the board can be more administratively cost efficient but to dissolve the two boards is definitely not the best approach. Mr. LoBene stated that programs such as workforce investment run more efficiently at the local level with local elected officials, local Board, Youth Council, committees, and local businesses.

#### **Agenda Item 15 – SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION**

Southern Nevada Children First participants Beverly, Brandice, and Elizabeth shared their positive experience with the program and how the program is helping them to succeed as parenting youth.

Toni Mims, Southern Nevada Children First, provided a performance update and recited the following e-mail for the record:

*Southern Nevada Children First (SNCF) requests consideration for extended funding for PY 2012 that is to be spent by June 30, 2012. SNCF has worked in the areas of education and workforce training for over three years; connecting youth to education and employment and assisting well over 1,500 individuals. SNCF's success rate has been acclaimed in local media including television news shows, newspapers, and featured twice on the WorkforceCONNECTIONS website as a success story. Please consider SNCF for this opportunity to serve the additional youth based on the e-mail conversation of March 2, 2012 with Ms. January.*

*Attached you will find the projected expense budget, and an internal report used to track progress with current clients, and the performance measures obtained. SNCF provides the highest level of quality and the most services to the homeless, pregnant, and parenting teen population.*

*If SNCF does not receive the funds requested in the budget, there are additional youth that would not receive the full benefit of participating in a WIA program. Youth we have serviced have unsuccessful work experiences with other agencies due to their unique needs. These youth are able to be successful with SNCF due to specialized services designed to address their needs comprehensively. SNCF specializes in programs and services that address the needs specific to that of homeless, pregnant, and parenting youth and young adults, to include housing, education, finance, mental, physical, and behavioral health.*

*In line with WorkforceCONNECTIONS' belief and understanding, the information provided clearly outlines why SNCF is a vital program in this community and part of your*

*funded partners this program year; as pregnant and parenting teens is one of WIA's hardest to serve youth populations.*

*Southern Nevada Children First requests consideration to assist WorkforceCONNECTIONS in serving the populations prioritized in the Workforce Investment Act, particularly homeless and parenting youth because we are well poised to address their needs. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Monique Harris, Founder and Executive Director.*

**Agenda Item 16 – Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:16 p.m.