

## MINUTES

### Youth Council Meeting

May 22, 2012

8:30 a.m.

Culinary Academy of Las Vegas  
710 W. Lake Mead Blvd.  
Parlors C & D  
North Las Vegas, NV 89030

#### Members Present

Ken LoBene, Chair	Sonja Holloway	Mark Sharp
Chris Sullivan	Dan Rose	

#### Members Absent

Alex Garza

#### Staff Present

Ardell Galbreth	Suzanne Potter	Clentine January	Heather DeSart
Ricardo Villalobos	Jim Kostecki	Carol Turner	Faith Cannella
Jerrell Roberts	Tish Carroll	Nicole Jacobs	Byron Goynes
Jennifer Padilla	Valerie Sims	Madelin Arazoza	Debra Collins
Jeannie Kuennen	Melodye Stok	Chris Shaw	Tom Dang
Sylvia Spencer	Jim Valade	Kim Colagioia	Rosie Boulware

#### Others Present

Earl McDowell, DETR	Vincent Miller, Goodwill
Elizabeth McDaniels, Goodwill	Sherry Ramsey, Goodwill
Bishop James M. Rogers, Sr., GNJ Family Life Center	Ron Hilke, DETR
Helicia Thomas, GNJ Family Life Center	Rene Cantu, LCC-CF
LaTanya Runnells, Nevada Partners, Inc.	Steve Chartrand, Goodwill
Magann Jordan, Youth Advocate Programs, Inc.	Pamela R. Poston, HELP of Southern Nevada
Terri Clark, Communities In Schools of Nevada	Dr. Tiffany Tyler, Nevada Partners, Inc.
Macey Swinson, Macey Prince Consulting	Laverne Kelley, DETR
Jennifer Bevacqua, Olive Crest	Suzanne Burke, So. Nevada Children First

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

#### 1. - CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Ken LoBene at 8:29 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.

**2. – DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE 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 Chris Sullivan and seconded by Dan Rose. Motion carried.*

**3. - FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION**

None

**4. – DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION: Approve the Youth Council Meeting Minutes for the meeting on April 11, 2012**

*A motion was made to approve the Youth Council Meeting Minutes for the meeting on April 11, 2012 as presented by Sgt. Mark Sharp and seconded by Dan Rose. Motion carried.*

**5. – DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION: Approve the Youth Council Meeting Minutes for the meeting on April 24, 2012**

*A motion was made to approve the Youth Council Meeting Minutes for the meeting on April 24, 2012 as presented by Sgt. Mark Sharp and seconded by Chris Sullivan. Motion carried.*

**6. – DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION: Approve the recommendation to allocate funds in an amount not to exceed \$480,000.00 in support of Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) initiatives**

The requested amount for the Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) initiatives is \$300,000.00.

Dennis Perea, Deputy Director, DETR provided an overview of the JAG initiatives. The JAG program is the Governor's initiative to impact Nevada's high school drop-out problem. JAG has been around about 30 years and is currently operating in 33 states across the country.

Mr. Perea read program statistics for the Class of 2012:

- The graduation rate was 93%
- The overall job placement rate was 54%
- The full-time jobs rate of those working was 67%
- The full-time placement rate was 88%
- The further education rate was 47%.

Mr. Perea read the JAG program objectives:

- The program targets students who are believed to be at risk of not completing high school or successfully transitional into postsecondary schooling or the labor market because of academic, economic, family and personal barriers
- The program works with 35-45 students to enable them to achieve all requirements for graduation and then to transition after graduation to a positive destination in the form of a job, postsecondary education or the military; the program has 1/3 in-school training and 2/3 after school, and a year follow-up, where case management, job placement, and performance gathering takes place

- Program participants are selected based on their educational background and behaviors, their demographic characteristics and perceived barriers to completing high school or transitioning to a quality job and/or postsecondary education
- The JAG intervention in the program lasts for 21 months. Students are recruited in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade to attend JAG instructional classes during the 12 grade and they receive support services for a year following graduation
- A trained JAG career specialist provides counseling and classroom instruction. Participants are also equipped with employability skills in 37 employability competencies that will prepare them for the workplace. These competencies were validated by employers in the 1980s and the 1990s and organized in the following six competency categories: career development, job attainment, job survival, basic skills, leadership and self-development, and personal skills competencies
- In addition to instruction in the core competencies, the JAG program also uses the career association to prepare participants for the demands of the workplace, especially work teams. Specialists observe program participants operating in work teams and offer instruction to improve individual and group performance.
- Program services also include a 12-month follow-up period during which specialists are actively involved in intensive one-on-one employer marketing and job development activities to identify entry-level job opportunities for students after graduation or GED completion
- Specialists also assist graduates in the explorations of postsecondary educational opportunities and show them how to navigate the financial aid process to pursue these opportunities
- Non-graduates receive additional assistance in graduating from high school or completing requirements for a GED certificate before the close of the 12-month follow-up period
- Career specialists track the labor market and schooling/training activities of these JAG participants on a monthly basis
- One of the key components of the JAG program is the provision of follow-up services to graduates for up to a year following graduation from high school. The follow-up activities of specialist are critical to documenting the post-high school labor market and schooling/training experiences of graduates. Information on the participants is to be collected regularly by the specialist
- Numerous contacts are expected to be attempted every month to obtain information on the activities of each graduate. The information is obtained wither directly from the participant, from the employer of the participant, or from some other source such as an adult family member
- Those JAG participants for who successful follow-up contacts are made are classified into one of the 12 possible categories, based upon what they were doing at the time of the contact
- Graduates are classified as working (full-time or part-time), serving in the military, enrolled in school (4-year, 2-year, or other), or mixing work and school, or not employed and not in school
- The last group of “at-risk” graduates consists of two subgroups: those who were looking for work (unemployed) and those who were not seeking employment (out of the labor force). Minimizing the size of this last group is a core objective of JAG programs.

Mr. Perea stated that DETR has been working with Workforce Connections and NevadaWorks to figure out a funding mechanism for the JAG program. DETR will be the third party to the funding component to cover non-WIA youth, so that all youth can be served under the JAG program selection formula. The program budget is not to exceed \$600,000, which would be allocated \$300,000 Workforce Connections; \$150,000 NevadaWorks; \$150,000 DETR (for non-WIA eligible youth).

Mr. Perea stated that if the Board approves this item, DETR will have to look at how to implement the program and complete the arduous contract and RFP process to have the program in the schools by the next school year. State Purchasing approved DETR to run an in-formal solicitation process. In the draft RFP, the criteria for solicitation will be that respondents should have WIA experience, a presence on both sides of the State, and some type of connection or relationship with the in-school youth population. Mr. Perea stated that he knows that at least three organizations in the State can meet the criteria, and there is probably more than that. The three that have come up in discussion are: Communities in Schools, Children's Cabinets, and Community Services Agency.

Mr. Perea stated that the first year will be a pilot program with the idea that it will be moved to a nonprofit established for the primary purpose of running the JAG program, if the pilot program is successful. The Board would be selected by the Governor to administer the program, to include Board members that have ties into different industries in the community and who actually do fundraising to support the program. In some of the other States, the Governor has pushed the collection of funds from the private sector to help support the program after its first year. Primarily, these programs were launched with WIA Governor's Reserve funds, but those have dried up. Mr. Perea stated that all three agencies (Workforce Connections, NevadaWorks, and DETR) have to be equally involved in and agree to the selection of the nonprofit.

Ardell Galbreth, Interim Deputy Director – Workforce Connections, stated that this type of program has never before been attempted in the State of Nevada that he is aware of. Also, with a very few exceptions, this program is identical to the program and services the Board is currently operating.

Ken LoBene stated that the cost per participant is very low and that is very attractive.

Mr. Perea agreed and stated that the cost per comes to about \$1,500 per student in the schools. The cost per was calculated from historical data based on other States, who have been able to run their program at about \$60,000 per school. The pilot program will launch at eight schools and serve approximately 40 students per school. Mr. Perea stated that the initial start-up costs, including curriculum and technical training, are not included in this amount, but the State will try and cover these costs.

Mr. LoBene stated that this program is almost identical to the Graduate Advocate Initiative.

Mr. Galbreth agreed and stated that these initiatives are already in place by Workforce Connections. If the Board decides to enter into this project, both programs should be married to make it bigger and better than it is or figure out how to do that with DETR on the Statewide Initiative.

Mr. Perea stated that with a successful pilot program, the integration of both programs could certainly take place. Mr. Perea stated that the duplication is primarily in the year of follow-up, but the benefit of the JAG program is that it has classrooms inside the schools, by and from the schools, with training curriculum and everything delivered in the school. Therefore, 1/3 component of the program is not duplicative.

Following discussion,

*A motion was made to amend and approve the recommendation to allocate funds in an amount not to exceed \$300,000.00 in support of Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) initiatives subject to the receipt of information, including the selection criteria, Budget, and a commitment and strategic plan to merge the Graduate Advocate Initiative with this program, by Chris Sullivan and seconded by Dan Rose. Motion carried.*

**7. – DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION: Approve Staff's recommendation to negotiate and amend Lincoln County's PY2011 contract for an additional \$100,000.00 and extend the contract date from October 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013**

Ricardo Villalobos, RFL Systems Director, stated that the objective for amending Lincoln County's contract is to ensure that Workforce Development continues in the rural areas, particularly in Lincoln County.

*A motion was made to approve Staff's recommendation to negotiate and amend Lincoln County's PY2011 contract for an additional \$100,000.00 and extend the contract date from October 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013 by Dan Rose and seconded by Sonja Holloway. Motion carried.*

**8. – DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION: Approve Staff's recommendation to allocate funds for the Summer Component/Year-Round Youth Program in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000.00**

*A motion was made to approve Staff's recommendation to allocate funds for the Summer Component/Year-Round Youth Program in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000.00 with 10% of the funds set aside for a summer school credit component, by Sonja Holloway and seconded by Chris Sullivan. Motion carried.*

Mr. Villalobos provided an overview summary of Youth RFPs:

- 13 various agencies submitted proposals
- 22 total proposals were submitted (some agencies responded more than once), including:
  - 7 Summer Component/Year Round Youth Proposals;
  - 10 Out-of-School proposals, and
  - 5 In-School proposals
- 5 different agencies are recommended for funding for various RFPs
- \$4,350,000 is allotted for funding recommendations:
  - \$1,000,000 for Summer Component/Year Round Youth
  - \$1,750,000 for Out-of-School Youth
  - \$1,600,000 In-School Youth
- 1,900 clients are proposed to be served
  - 400 Summer Component/Year Round Youth Proposals;
  - 700 Out-of-School proposals, and
  - 800 In-School proposals
- Cost per client:
  - \$2,500 Summer Component/Year Round Youth Proposals;
  - \$2,500 Out-of-School proposals, and
  - 2,000 In-School proposals

**9. – DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION: Approve Staff’s recommendation based on Evaluator’s scoring order of merit to award up to three (3) PY2012 Summer Component/Year-Round Youth Program contracts in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000.00**

Clentine January, Program Specialist provided an overview of the applicants, proposal scores, proposed number of youth to serve, amount recommended for funding, and cost per participant.

Ken LoBene asked representatives from the three agencies (NPI, Southern Nevada Children First, and Latin Chamber) if they have the capacity to serve the number of youth indicated with the recommend contract amounts.

Dr. Tiffany Tyler stated that Nevada Partner’s staff will have to review the proposed program design to determine what changes need to be made. NPI will leverage the resources that maximize support they can provide to youth, and with the Board’s commitment to providing summer school as well as focus on graduating youth and providing a work experience, NPI may be able to structure something. Dr. Tyler stated that what NPI initially proposed was a cost per that came in around \$2700 - \$2800, which is essentially a cut of \$200 - \$300 per participant. Dr. Tyler stated that it will take a shift in thinking, perhaps in the amount of incentives or work support that can be provided to individuals during the summer.

Renee Cantu stated that Latin Chamber will do its best with the funds and will seek other funding sources and leverage resources to add more stem elements to the program to serve the all the youth.

Suzanne from Southern Nevada Children First stated that they will have to reevaluate their process and think critically how to deliver the services as effectively, but she believes they can work it out and come to some sort of an agreement to effectively deliver the services they have been asked to do.

Mr. LoBene thanked all three of the organizations and commented that their willingness to serve is very admirable.

Heather DeSart commended Clentine January for doing such a wonderful job at facilitating the RFP process in such a short amount of time. Ms. DeSart stated that it took a team of staff to work through the weekend to get this done and wanted to recognize them for the effort.

Staff is recommending three (3) PY2012 Summer Component/Year Round Youth Program contracts for the following providers, based on the proposal evaluator’s scoring:

<b><i>Provider</i></b>	<b><i>Amount Recommended</i></b>	<b><i># of Youth to be Served</i></b>
<b><i>Nevada Partners, Inc.</i></b>	<b><i>\$500,000.00</i></b>	<b><i>200</i></b>
<b><i>Southern Nevada Children First</i></b>	<b><i>\$250,000.00</i></b>	<b><i>100</i></b>
<b><i>Latin Chamber</i></b>	<b><i>\$250,000.00</i></b>	<b><i>100</i></b>

***A motion to approve Staff’s recommendation based on Evaluator’s scoring order of merit to award three (3) PY2012 Summer Component/Year Round Youth Program contracts in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000.00 to the providers and recommended amounts shown above, was made by Dan Rose and seconded by Sgt. Mark Sharp. Motion carried.***

**10. – DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION: Approve Staff’s recommendation based on Evaluator’s scoring order of merit to award up to four (4) PY2012 Out-Of-School Youth Program contracts in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000.00**

Clentine January, Program Specialist provided an overview of the applicants, proposal scores, proposed number of youth to serve, amount recommended for funding, and cost per participant. The total amount requested for the PY2012 Out-of School contracts is \$1,750,000.00. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Clentine explained the inconsistencies in the evaluation process which led to only one evaluator evaluating the proposals because the other scores could not be used.

Chris Sullivan stated that the evaluation process sounds fair and accurate.

Staff is recommending four (4) PY2012 Out-of-School Youth Program contracts for the following providers, based on the proposal evaluator’s scoring:

<i><u>Provider</u></i>	<i><u>Amount Recommended</u></i>	<i><u># of Youth to be Served</u></i>
<i>GNJ Family Life Center</i>	<i>\$600,000.00</i>	<i>240</i>
<i>Latin Chamber</i>	<i>\$400,000.00</i>	<i>160</i>
<i>Southern Nevada Children First</i>	<i>\$375,000.00</i>	<i>150</i>
<i>HELP of Southern Nevada</i>	<i>\$375,000.00</i>	<i>150</i>

*A motion to approve Staff’s recommendation based on Evaluator’s scoring order of merit to award four (4) PY2012 Out-of-School Youth Program contracts in an amount not to exceed \$1,750,000.00 to the providers and recommended amounts shown above, was made by Sgt. Mark Sharp and seconded by Dan Rose. Motion carried.*

**11. – DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION: Approve Staff’s recommendation based on Evaluator’s scoring order of merit to award up to four (4) PY2012 In-School Youth Program contracts in an amount not to exceed \$1,700,000.00**

Clentine January, Program Specialist provided an overview of the applicants, proposal scores, proposed number of youth to serve, amount recommended for funding, and cost per participant. The total amount of funding recommended is \$1,600,000.00

Staff is recommending two (2) PY2012 Out-of-School Youth Program contracts for the following providers, based on the proposal evaluator’s scoring:

<i><u>Provider</u></i>	<i><u>Amount Recommended</u></i>	<i><u># of Youth to be Served</u></i>
<i>Nevada Partners, Inc.</i>	<i>\$800,000.00</i>	<i>400</i>
<i>Latin Chamber</i>	<i>\$800,000.00</i>	<i>400</i>

*A motion to approve Staff’s recommendation based on Evaluator’s scoring order of merit to award two (2) PY2012 In-School Youth Program contracts in an amount not to exceed \$1,600,000.00 to the providers and amounts shown above, was made by Chris Sullivan and seconded by Sonja Holloway. Motion carried.*

**12. – DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION: Approve Staff’s recommendation to negotiate and execute a \$300,000.00 contract with Youth Advocate Program to conduct a youth re-entry program to deliver employment and training services for the period July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013 as a result of the competitive procurement process**

Sylvia Spencer provided background on the RFP process which leading to the recommendation to award Youth Advocate Program (YAP) a contract for a youth re-entry program.

Ms. Spencer noted that YAP’s sole purpose is to keep high risk individuals out of prison. YAP is a 37 year old organization, serving 18 states. YAP has been a partner with Clark County Department of Juvenile Probation for five years and has received funding from the Department of Justice for three years. Ms. Spencer stated that Clark County Juvenile Justice had noted that during the five year partnership with YAP, they had a strong impact on reducing recidivism. YAP is also the only agency in the State of Nevada that receives funds to help reduce human trafficking. The director is native to Las Vegas and teaches Criminology at UNLV.

In the final procurement process, two (2) youth proposals made the point for consideration. YAP received a total score of 178.5 and Nevada Partners received a total score of 164.00. Upon completion of independent evaluations, staff is recommending a contract award to Youth Advocate Program in the amount of \$300,000.00 to provide youth re-entry services to at least 109 youth participants.

*A motion was made to approve Staff’s, recommendation to negotiate and execute a \$300,000.00 contract with Youth Advocate Program to conduct a youth re-entry program to deliver employment and training services for the period July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013 as a result of the competitive procurement process by Sgt. Mark Sharp and seconded by Dan Rose. Motion carried.*

**13. – DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION: Approve Workforce Connections’ Two Year Strategic Compliance Plan for the Period July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2014.**

Ardell Galbreth provided an overview of the Workforce Connections Two Year Strategic Compliance Plan. The Compliance plan focuses on the requirements of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and the Federal regulations and covers an array of different initiatives and requirements that each local board is required to adhere to. The Compliance Plan also includes an alignment of initiatives with the Governor’s Workforce Board in all areas, with the exception of one. The plan focuses on the local workforce investment board, particularly, Southern Nevada Workforce Investment Board area. It outlines the partnership that will be formed with different types of agencies, such as economic development, colleges and universities, and making sure that the education system is aligned with the business and employers with regard to the workforce needs. The plan also takes back the Southern Nevada Workforce Investment Board’s One-Stop system. The responsibility of the One Stop system was kind of handed over to the State some years ago; however, it is a requirement of the local workforce investment board. This responsibility requires partnerships with statutory partners such as the Nevada State Welfare Division, Vocation Rehabilitation, apprenticeship trades, Veteran’s Employment and Training Services, and DETR. The plan highlights and describes certain requirements that the local boards are required to achieve in accordance with WIA and gives the Board and Youth Council members a condensed, no-nonsense approach to what the requirements are.



Mr. Galbreth noted that the Youth Council's approval of the Compliance Plan will signal a mark that the Youth Council and Board are very serious about the Board's mission and committed to the alignment of the Southern Nevada Workforce Investment area.

*A motion was made to approve Workforce Connections' Two Year Strategic Compliance Plan for the Period July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2014 by Chris Sullivan and seconded by Sonja Holloway. Motion carried.*

#### **14. – SECTION PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION**

**Dr. Tiffany Tyler**, Nevada Partners, Inc. thanked that Board sincerely for its consideration and the opportunity to work together to move the system forward.

**Steve Chartrand**, Goodwill commented that having only one evaluator for the proposals is disconcerting, especially for this amount of money.

**Helicia Thomas**, GNJ Family Life Center thanked the Board for their consideration and the opportunity to participate in such a dynamic workforce system to improve the quality of life for the out-of-school youth and to help the economy improve here in Nevada.

**Renee Cantu**, Latin Chamber of Commerce Community Foundation, thanked the Board for their consideration and the opportunity to serve youth. Mr. Cantu commented that Latin Chamber received the keys to the Raphael Rivera building back in April, and is in the process of preparing the building for occupancy. Mr. Cantu noted that the building is going to make a terrific home for Latin's youth and adult participants. Mr. Cantu invited the Youth Council to attend the grand opening Fall 2012. Mr. Cantu noted that its 7,000 square feet that will be dedicated to empowering people to attain the skills they need for entering the workforce effectively.

**Terry Clark**, CEO of Communities in Schools, commented on behalf of herself. Ms. Clark stated that she has no qualms against the excellent organizations that were funded here today and she completely supports the organizations and the work they do. Ms. Clark stated that in her history, having worked several years for the state on the State's Grant Management Unit, she had a number of opportunities to evaluate proposals, and no matter how qualified an evaluator is, every person brings with them background, history, and experience, and they filter using this. Therefore, having multiple evaluators mitigates those kinds of things that come up when you're reviewing a proposal. Ms. Clark stated that she is not in any way trying to be negative about those who were awarded funds, but only to say that she thinks it is far more unbiased to have more than one opinion.

**Suzanne**, Southern Nevada Children First echoed the sentiments of Nevada Partner's and GNJ in thanking the Board for their kind support and consideration with these awards amounts. Ms. Suzanne commented that she believes in the programs and the services that the agencies deliver to the youth and wants Southern Nevada Children First to continue to strengthen and to be as effective as they can to support our youth in Nevada.

#### **15. – Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:46 a.m.