

## **MINUTES**

**Youth Council Meeting  
June 13, 2012  
11:00 a.m.**

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

### **Members Present**

Alex Garza	Sonja Holloway
Mark Sharp	Chris Sullivan (phone)

### **Members Absent**

Dan Rose

### **Staff Present**

Ardell Galbreth	Suzanne Potter	Clentine January	Heather DeSart
Ricardo Villalobos	Jim Kostecki	Carol Turner	Jennifer Padilla
Celia Diaz	Wilson Ramos	Nicole Jacobs	Byron Goynes
Valerie Sims	Madelin Arazoza	Debra Collins	Sylvia Spencer
Kim Colagioia			

### **Others Present**

Suzanne Burke, Southern Nevada Children First	Sharon Morales, LCCCF
Helicia Thomas, GNJ Family Life Center	Jamie D. Killian, DCFS – CYC
Stacey Smith, NYECC	Dell Schilleci, Action
Donna Bensing, New Horizons CLC	Chelsea Garun, Youth Advocate Programs
Magann Jordan, Youth Advocate Programs	Denise Gee, HELP of Southern Nevada
Tiffany Tyler, Nevada Partners, Inc. (Phone)	

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

### **1. - CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Sonja Holloway 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.

### **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 Sgt. Mark Sharp and seconded by Alex Garza. Motion carried.*

**3. - FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION**

None

**4. – DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION: Approve the Youth Council Meeting Minutes for the meeting on May 22, 2012**

*A motion was made to approve the Youth Council Meeting Minutes for the meeting on May 22, 2012 with the following correction by Sgt. Mark Sharp and seconded by Alex Garza:*

*Correction: change the language for agenda item 7 to “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.” Motion carried.*

**5. – DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION: Call for Youth Council Chair Nominations**

Ardell Galbreth, Interim Executive Director, provided an overview of the nomination process according to the Workforce Connections Bylaws, article 4, item 3.4.e , 5, and 5.4 regarding officer elections for the Board; however, Mr. Galbreth noted, the Bylaws are silent regarding the Youth Council.

Mr. Galbreth read from the Bylaws, item 5.4 Vacancies: the Board shall elect successors to fill unexpired terms of any officer within two months after the office becomes vacant. The Board member who is elected to fill the vacant office shall only serve to the end of the original term for which the vacancy was filled.

Mr. Galbreth recommended the Youth Council, as a subset of the Board, to follow the Board’s basic Bylaws that’s intended for membership, and consider nominating and choosing a chairperson to serve out the rest of the term that Chairman Ken LoBene had started.

*A motion was made to nominate Sonja Holloway as Chair by Alex Garza and seconded by Sgt. Mark Sharp. Motion carried.*

*A motion was made to nominate Chris Sullivan as Vice-Chair by Alex Garza and seconded by Sgt. Mark Sharp. Motion carried.*

**6. – DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION: Approve the recommendation of staff to increase the funding for the In-School Youth programs in an amount not to exceed \$1,844,000.00**

Kimberly Colagioia provided background. Both In-School youth providers, HELP of Southern Nevada (HELP) and Nevada Partners, Inc. (NPI) originally received \$800,000.00 each. Staff is requesting an increase of \$122,000.00 each beginning July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013. The increase will allow for HELP and NPI to take on an additional school, Basic High School and Bonanza High School, and serve an additional 60 youth each. The In-School Youth Program will serve a total of 920 youth.

Ms. Colagioia confirmed the funds are FY2012 and stated that the funds are part of the \$300,000.00 that was set-aside for the JAG program that the Board did not pass and asked to reallocate to the Youth Funded Partners.

Ms. Colagioia confirmed that both funded partners have the capacity to handle the additional funds and additional number of youth to serve.

Rick Villalobos stated that the amount being recommendation is 50% of the funds allocated for the JAG initiative that the Board denied and directed staff to reallocate.

*A motion was made to approve the recommendation of staff to increase the funding for the In-School Youth programs in an amount not to exceed \$1,844,000.00 by Sgt. Mark Sharp and seconded by Alex Garza. Motion carried.*

**7. – DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION: Approve the recommendation of staff to negotiate and amend Nye Community Coalition's PY2011 contract for an additional \$150,000.00 and extend the contract date from October 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013**

Mr. Villalobos provided background.

Mr. Galbreth stated that it is critical that services are maintained in the rural areas; this extension will allow Nye County to continue existing services without disruption. In the future, staff would like to issue a separate RFP for the rural area because having their own allocation of funds would give them the opportunity to provide more comprehensive services than they currently are.

*A motion was made to approve the recommendation of staff to negotiate and amend Nye Community Coalition's PY2011 contract for an additional \$150,000.00 and extend the contract date from October 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013 by Sgt. Mark Sharp and seconded by Alex Garza. Motion carried.*

**8. – DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION: Approve the recommendation of staff to negotiate and amend Nevada Partners, Inc. (NPI) PY2011 contract for an active number of Out-of-School Carry-Forwards for an additional \$200,000.00 and extend the contract date from October 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013.**

Rick Villalobos provided background. NPI is the only Youth Funded Partners currently serving existing Out-of-School youth that was not awarded Out-of-School funds. Discussion ensued.

Clentine January noted that NPI needs the additional \$200,000.00 to serve 159 existing youth; otherwise these youth would have to be transferred to another agency and risk a disruption in their program. Ms. January stated that these youth are familiar with NPI and the staff and the youth are all on track in terms of meeting performance.

Alex Garza expressed concern that NPI may not have the capacity to expend the additional funding having recently been awarded \$900,000.00. Mr. Garza requested more information regarding why NPI was not awarded these funds initially and recommended that this item be held until such information can be provided.

Ardell Galbreth reiterated the importance of avoiding any disruption of services to these youth that NPI is currently serving and stated that even with the best of intentions that can happen when clients are transferred to another agency in the middle of their program.

Mr. Garza restated his opinion and said he would like to receive more information and perhaps visit NPI's program personally before making a decision in this matter.

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

**9. – INFORMATION: Youth Re-Entry Update**

Valerie Sims, Re-Entry Specialist, provided an update. The Youth Re-Entry program is a partnership with the Caliente Youth Center, Workforce Connections, and the Youth Parole Bureau, which is a part of Department of Child and Family Services. Ms. Sims reported that 70% of the youth obtained a high school diploma/GED and 50% of the youth obtained employment. Employers include Kids-R-Us Academy (24-hour day care center), Target, Carpet Galore, Big 5 Sporting Goods, Dairy Queen, McDonalds, Century Link, Michael's, Abercrombie & Fitch, Dollar Tree, Monte Carlo Hotel and

Casino, and Cloud Carpets & Draperies. One youth obtained a vocational certificate from the Academy of Dental Careers, 10% of the youth entered into post-secondary education, and one of the youth received a full scholarship to UNLV.

Ms. Sims stated that the partnership with the Youth Parole served as a great asset to the participants and all partners involved. The youth had easy access to the parole officers and workforce staff.

Rick Villalobos recognized Ms. Sims and Jamie Killian, Caliente Youth Center for meeting or exceeding performance measures, facilitating a successful program, and for doing such great work.

#### **10. – INFORMATION: YouthBuild Las Vegas 2011 Update**

Jennifer Padilla, YouthBuild Las Vegas (YBLV) Program Coordinator provided an update. YBLV recently held their graduation ceremony at the Texas Station on June 1<sup>st</sup>, wherein 27 YBLV participants graduated. Texas Station donated the space for the event.

Ms. Padilla reported that this year so far 18 out of 27 participants earned their high school diploma and/or GED, 16 participants received the HBI Pact (pre-apprenticeship training), 65% of the participants have received some type of certificate, and 90% of the participants received literacy/numeracy gains (reading/writing and/or math).

Recently the YBLV participants completed the “What’s it mean to be Green?” Program and 100% of the participants passed the exam.

Ms. Padilla reported that by the end of the month approximately 50% of the youth will be placed in post-secondary education and/or employment. Currently 11 – 12 participants are employed.

YouthBuild participant Sebastian Ramirez, who recently earned his GED and high school diploma, talked about his experience and success with the program. According to Ramirez, the YouthBuild program completely changed his life. Ramirez plans to attend college this spring.

#### **11. – INFORMATION: Youth Funded Partner Overview**

This is an information item provided on page 44 of the agenda packet. The item includes an overview of the funded partners, # of youth to serve, funding amounts, cost per, and a description of the target populations and services provided for the Summer Component/Year-Round program, Out-of-School and In-School program, and the Re-Entry program.

#### **12. – INFORMATION: 2011 Youth Performance Report**

The local and statewide common measures performance reports provided on page 50 of the agenda packet are for information only. Workforce Connections has met or exceeded all performance measures.

#### **13. – INFORMATION: Operation Healthcare Bound Report and Video**

Debra Collins, Program Specialist, provided an overview of the Operation Healthcare Bound event on May 23<sup>rd</sup> and provided a video presentation with highlights and commentary from the youth participants.

Ms. Collins reported that 125 youth attended from Nye County, Lincoln County, HELP of Southern Nevada, Nevada Partner’s, Southern Nevada Children First, Desert Rose, and the Youth Re-Entry program. The participating hospitals generously fed the youth and provided them with access to all areas of the hospital, the doctors, and staff. The youth participated in a variety of activities; they developed compounds for lip balm, watched robotic surgery and child birth, visited the helicopter pad, and had one-on-one quality time with physicians to ask questions and discuss their career interests.

Ms. Collins says the next step is to work with the funded partners to develop work experience opportunities and possible school scholarships to help get the youth engrained in the healthcare field.

Ms. Collins thanked Workforce Connections staff members, Byron Goynes Celia Diaz, Linda Yi, and Clentine January for their involvement in facilitating a successful event.

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

**Dr. Tiffany Tyler, Nevada Partners, Inc. (NPI):** Dr. Tyler extended an invitation to the Youth Council to tour the Nevada Partner's facility at any time and provided a brief overview of NPI's services and programs.

**Magann Jordan, Program Director - Youth Advocate Program (YAP):** Ms. Jordan is excited to collaborate with Workforce Connections as the new youth re-entry program provider. Ms. Jordan recognized Valerie Sims for her hard work and dedication to this population and looks forward to continuing this work with Ms. Sims.

Ms. Jordan reported that YAP has a work support program with Department of Juvenile Justice Services going on for six years now and is excited to expand YAP's services with Workforce Connections.

Taylor, a Youth Advocate Program participant, recited a poem she wrote and talked briefly about her background and her positive experience with the program and staff. Taylor stated that YAP provides her with tremendous support that's customized to fit her individual needs. Taylor stated that no matter what it is YAP finds a way to help her. Taylor is currently working as a receptionist at a salon.

**Jamie Killian, Superintendent - Caliente Youth Center (CYC):** Ms. Killian commended Valerie Sims for the work she's done with CYC and the re-entry program. Ms. Sims was phenomenal in helping CYC put together its program from scratch, Killian said. Vaughn Higbee was also recognized for his role as case manager for the re-entry program. Killian noted that Mr. Higbee helped identify youth who were most in need for these services and who would be successful in the program.

Ms. Killian extended an invitation to the Board and staff to attend Caliente Youth Center's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.

**Suzanne Burke, Program Manager - Southern Nevada Children First (SNCF):** Ms. Burke thanked the Board for the contract award and reported that the program has already started recruiting and is doing fantastically well. Ms. Burke reported that approximately 50 youth have gone through orientation.

Ms. Burke recognized Clentine January for being instrumental in helping get the program up and running, and thanked Debra Collins for making the Operation Healthcare Bound program available to the participants at SNCF. Ms. Burke reported that since attending the event, one of the youth participants has enrolled in college to become a Registered Nurse.

**Dell Schilleci, Action Parent-Teen Support:** Ms. Schilleci is a new resident to Las Vegas and a representative of Action Parent-Teen Support. Action provides a free service and support to parents with kids in crisis, including drug addiction, legal issues, gang intervention, anger issues, or whatever the need be. The program currently meets with parents and teens at the Steele Boxing and Community Wellness Center and at Beacon Academy. Action is from Southern California, where it has been up and running for the past 15 years.

#### **15. – Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:26 p.m.