

MINUTES

Youth Council Meeting August 8, 2012 11:00 a.m.

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

Members Present

Sonja Holloway, Chair
Willie J. Fields

Vida Chan Lin

Sgt. Mark Sharp (phone)

Members Absent

Dan Rose

Alex Garza

Staff Present

Ardell Galbreth
Clentine January
Jennifer Padilla

Suzanne Potter
Rick Villalobos
Kimberly Colagioia

Carol Turner
Jim Kostecki
Byron Goynes

Madelin Arazoza
Heather DeSart

Others Present

Denise Gee, HELP of Southern Nevada
Donna Bensing, New Horizons CLC
Sharaf Rogers, Nevada Partners, Inc.
Michael Simmons, GNJ Family Life Center
Suzanne Burke, Southern Nevada Children First
Jodeci Elder, Nevada Partners, Inc.
Anthony Butler, Nevada Partners, Inc.
Latonya Alford, Nevada Partners, Inc.
Lori Thomas, Nevada Partners, Inc.

Nicole Jacobs, HELP of Southern Nevada
LaTanya Runnells, Nevada Partners, Inc.
Sharon Morales, LCCCF
Dr. Tiffany Tyler, Nevada Partners, Inc.
Arisa McNeal, Southern Nevada Children First
Arielle Holloway, Nevada Partners, Inc.
David Guess, Nevada Partners, Inc.
Keith Start, Nevada Partners, Inc.

(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 11:36 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

MOTION: A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented by Sgt. Mark Sharp and seconded by Willie J. Fields. Motion carried.

3. - FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

Dr. Tiffany Tyler, Nevada Partners, Inc. (NPI) – Dr. Tyler reported that NPI has successfully expended \$678,000 that was in danger of being recaptured. In March, NPI was informed about the potential of nearly \$1.8 million being recaptured and after careful review and analysis, NPI came up with an aggressive spending plan to expend \$678,000 and serve over 100 youth with occupational skills training/certification, work experiences, job shadowing, and other services. Dr. Tyler thanked the Board for having confidence in NPI and the great partnership and reminded everyone that there is a standing invitation to visit NPI and learn more about the work they do firsthand.

4. – DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION: Approve the Youth Council Meeting Minutes of June 13, 2012

MOTION: A motion to approve the Youth Council Meeting Minutes of June 13, 2012 with a change to the language for agenda item 6 to read: “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” was made by Sgt. Mark Sharp and seconded by Vida Chan Lin. Motion carried.

5. – INFORMATION: Welcome Vida Chan Lin & Willie J. Fields to the Youth Council

6. – DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION: Approve staff’s recommendation to execute a contract with Southern Nevada Children First in an amount not to exceed \$16,470 for four (4) Native American Youth Work Experiences through September 30, 2012

Byron Goynes provided background and an overview of the program. Last year Workforce Connections worked with U.S. Fish & Wildlife on an initiative through the federal government. This year, U.S. Fish & Wildlife reached out to Workforce Connections to carry out the program a second time. The purpose of the initiative is to reach out to Native American youth to show them how to take care of the reservoirs and the rural land of the Indian reservations. This is a non-WIA program with 100% of the funding coming from U.S. Fish & Wildlife and 100% of the funding going directly to the program participants. Workforce Connections has partnered with Southern Nevada Children First (SNCF), who will provide the direct services. SNCF has processed the new enrollments and the youth are currently working through the end of the summer.

SNCF was identified to serve these youth because 1) at the time, they were serving less youth than the other service providers and 2) its proximity to the Fish & Wildlife office, wherein the youth are required to meet each morning before being assigned to a worksite.

Workforce Connections staff will meet with Fish & Wildlife to enhance the program for next year and to address such issues as transportation to enable the program to expand to the rural areas.

MOTION: A motion was made to approve staff’s recommendation to accept funding from U.S. Fish & Wildlife and execute a contract with Southern Nevada Children First in an amount not to exceed \$16,470 for four (4) Native American Youth Work Experiences through September 30, 2012 by Willie J. Fields and seconded by Vida Chan Lin. Motion carried.

7. – INFORMATION: Summer School Update

Clentine January provided a Summer School Update. 184 youth attended the first session, 89 youth attended the second session, for a total of 273 youth. Possible reasons for low

enrollments are 1) summer school information received in June; 2) youth preferred work over school; 3) class availability, and 4) transportation.

A new approach will be taken moving forward including 1) starting recruitment through In-School Youth Programs through funded partners; 2) work with the CCSD Summer School personnel beginning January; 3) work with community agencies serving youth, and 4) begin recruitment in April.

MOTION: 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: Graduate Advocate Initiative “In-House” Close-Out Report

Kimberly Colagioia provided an overview of the Graduate Advocate Initiative (GAI) Close-Out Report provided in the agenda packet. Ms. Colagioia reported that 373 youth are enrolled in the GAI program, 196 have achieved their high school diploma and have graduated, which is a 52.5% success rate with graduation. A graduation ceremony is scheduled for August 15th and it's expected that the number of graduates will increase significantly. HELP of Southern Nevada will work with the youth who have not graduated to ensure that they do achieve their high school diploma and graduate.

Debbie Tomasetti spoke briefly about the program's mentoring component. Approximately 60 youth were matched with mentors and received one-on-one mentoring for up to one hour each week for the duration of the program.

Denise Gee, HELP of Southern Nevada reported on the program's successes. HELP began working with the youth around April-May, including providing support services and case management. HELP assisted the youth prepare for their work experiences, including drug testing and background checks and matching the youth goals to related careers. A total of 125 youth are working at various employers, which will be increased by approximately 100 youth before the program is completed at the end of summer. HELP will provide one year of follow up services after the program ends, including case management, supportive services, and assisting youth transition into post-secondary education in the fall.

With the help of Byron Goynes, Workforce Connections, HELP recruited a number of employers that are providing work experiences for the youth, including McCarran Airport, MGM properties, Farmers Insurance, Small Business Institute, Marshall's and various radio stations. The youth have received great compliments from the employers who are impressed with the knowledge, professionalism and manners demonstrated by the youth.

9. – INFORMATION: YouthBuild Las Vegas 2009 Close-Out Report & 2011 Cohort Report

Jennifer Padilla provided a YouthBuild program update and summarized the 2009 Close-Out Report and 2011 Cohort Report provided in the agenda packet.

10. – INFORMATION: PY2011 4th Quarter Performance Report

Rick Villalobos provided a brief overview of the 4th quarter local and statewide performance results provided in the agenda packet.

11. – INFORMATION: Youth Funding Plan

Carol Turner provided a summary of the Youth Funding Plan provided on page 33 of the agenda packet.

Jim Kostecki, Finance Manager provided a summary of the Awards and Expenditures report distributed at the beginning of the meeting. Mr. Kostecki reported that both Nevada Partner's and Nye Communities fully expended the additional funds they received. HELP of Southern Nevada has through September to expend the \$1.2 Million they received.

12. – PRESENTATION: Nevada Partners, Inc. ~ LaTanya Runnells, Positive Youth Impact Program

LaTanya Runnells, Positive Youth Impact Program Manager provided a presentation and several youth participants shared their positive experiences with the Nevada Partner's Youth Program and their plans for the future. Jodeci Elder, Arielle Holloway, Anthony Butler, David Guess, and LaTonya Alford were among the youth that shared.

13. – SECTION PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

Suzanne Burke, Program Manager - Southern Nevada Children First (SNCF): Ms. Burke - Program Manager, congratulated Nevada Partner's youth for their accomplishments and congratulated staff for doing an amazing job.

Ms. Burke thanked Byron Goynes for his assistance with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife program. The youth are getting great experience working on the reservation. SNCF is interested in facilitating the program next year if it is extended.

15. – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:31 p.m.