

MINUTES
workforceCONNECTIONS
YOUTH COUNCIL
Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Members Present

Chanda Cook
Dan Rose
Sonja Holloway
Matthew Weinman
Sergeant Mark Sharp

Members Absent

LaShae Thomas
Ken LoBene, Chair
Eloiza Martinez, Vice Chair

Staff Present

John Ball, Executive Director
Suzanne Potter
Kelly Henwood
Byron Goynes
Andy Anderson
Adriana Burnett
Wendy Villanueva
Cornelius Eason
Ted Watkins
Rosie Boulware

David Jefferson, COO
Tameca Ulmer
Sylvia Spencer
Jenaya Butler
Rick Villalobos
Stacey Rainwater
Jeannie Kuennen
Heather DeSart
MaryAnn Avendano
Mike Hopper

Others Present

Karl Rostrom, HELP of Southern Nevada
Ron Hilke, DETR
Monique Harris, So. NV Children First
Lisa Popovsky, AHEC
Xavier Foster, Unity Village
Raymond Giddens, Unity Village
Ken Lange, Olive Crest
Brooke Reid, Nevada Partners

Robricous Goode, Nevada Partners
Warren Evans, Nevada Partners
Asha Jones, Nevada Partners
Brooke Reid, Nevada Partners
Akidra McCoy, Nevada Partners
Judy Tudor, Dept. of Family Services
Helicia Thomas, GNJ Family Life Center
Matt Hirsch, United Way

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

Agenda Item 1 - Call To Order, confirmation of posting, roll call. The meeting was called to order by Ms. Chanda Cook at 11:05 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 was present.

Agenda Item 2 - Approval of agenda with inclusions of any emergency items and deletion of any items. *Motion was made to approve the agenda as presented by Dan Rose and seconded by Mathew Weinman. The motion carried.*

Agenda Item 3 - Approval of Youth Council meeting Minutes of November 18, 2009. *Motion was made to approve the minutes as presented by Matt Weinman and seconded by Mark Sharp. The motion carried.*

Agenda Item 4 – PRESENTATION: YouthBuild Las Vegas

Mr. Andy Anderson announced that Arizona Charlie's Hotel and Casino and American Casino Entertainment Properties made a donation of \$1,000 to the YouthBuild program. The check was presented by Andrea Dempsey, Community Connections, and Alan Carter. A photo opportunity was provided.

Mr. Rick Villalobos made a presentation on the YouthBuild Las Vegas program. YouthBuild is a program that serves at-risk youth in the Las Vegas community that focuses on construction and education. Mr. Villalobos presented the history of YouthBuild, the program's vision, mission and values, and the five components of the program: construction, education, counseling, graduation, and leadership development. YouthBuild has partnered with Desert Rose High School for the educational component, where the youth will focus on earning their high school diploma or GED. The youth in this component earn an incentive of \$70 per week providing they attend 19 hours of school instruction during the same week. YouthBuild has partnered with Nevada Partners Inc. (NPI) for the construction component where the youth will be involved in all aspects of residential construction. YouthBuild has an agreement with Habitat for Humanity that will provide the youth an opportunity to work on a construction site to build a house from the ground up in the Vegas Heights area. YouthBuild has also partnered with NPI for the counseling component. The youth will receive case management and work closely with a Career Developer in this phase of the program. The graduation component requires the youth to attain their GED or high school diploma, be involved with the program for a minimum of 6 months and a maximum of 9 months, perform 30 hours of community volunteering with an emphasis on making a difference in the Las Vegas community, receive satisfactory progress reports in vocational training, which will be determined by the construction trainers, and maintain an attendance record of no more than 5 missed work-school days for the entire term of the program. Upon meeting the 5 aforementioned criteria, the youth are able to graduate from the program. The fifth and core component of the program is Leadership Development where the youth will learn to serve their communities and make a difference as leaders in the community. YouthBuild participants, Zakiah Lancaster, Javarrio Everfield and Angel Flores shared their personal experiences with the YouthBuild Las Vegas program.

Mathew Weinman distributed his business card to Ms. Lancaster, Mr. Everfield and Mr. Flores and requested they contact him for possible job opportunities upon completion of the program.

Agenda Item 5 – DISCUSSION and ACTION: Foster Youth RFP Contract Recommendation: To approve the negotiation and execution of a contract with Olive Crest in the amount of \$426,667 Kelly Henwood and Matt Hirsh, United Way provided an overview of the Workforce Services for Transitioning Foster Youth RFP process and details of the recommendation to approve the negotiation and execution of contract with Olive Crest in the amount of \$426,667 for a 16-month allocation. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made to approve the negotiation and execution of a contract with Olive Crest in the amount of \$426,667. Mark Sharp moved to approve and Dan Rose seconded. The motion carried.

Agenda Item 6 – DISCUSSION and ACTION: Proposed Allocations for Unobligated WIA Youth Funds Kelly Henwood provided background and overview of the general categories to direct unobligated contract/program funds as presented in the agenda. Ms. Henwood distributed the PY 2009 WIA Title I Youth Funding – Mid-Year Contract Funding Projection worksheet that shows the amounts being proposed for each

of the funding categories. John Ball provided additional background. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made to approve the recommended funding categories. Mark Sharp moved to approve and Matt Weinman seconded. The motion carried.

Agenda Item 7 – INFORMATION: Project 5000 Kids Update

Kelly Henwood provided an update on Project 5000 Kids implementation efforts including the messaging campaign and the messaging product, produced by Gina Gavan of Tribal Minds:

workHAPPENS: Who Believed in You? This message is still in draft form and will, upon approval, serve as a community-employer outreach to promote the Project 5000 Kids campaign. Ms.

Henwood stressed the importance of community-employer involvement to support and successfully carry out the Project 5000 Kids overall goal to increase the graduation rate. In order to facilitate the community-employer outreach function, the agency will be hiring at least three account/program managers to pursue leads and develop these relationships. An Employer Expo will be held in March 2010 to launch the *workHAPPENS: Who Believed in You?* messaging campaign; the exact dates to follow. Stacey Wedding will be helping out with development opportunities. Ms. Wedding has experience with non-profits and corporate foundation development.

Agenda Item 8 – INFORMATION: Extended ARRA Work Experience Contracts

Tameca Ulmer provided an overview of the ARRA Youth Extended Work Experience Contractors worksheet as presented on page 20 of the agenda. The negotiated amount of new funding is \$525,515. Out of the 22 ARRA youth providers 11 contracts have been extended for work experience to serve out-of-school youth 18 years and older beginning in March 2010 in which a total of 173 youth are to be served.

Agenda Item 9 – INFORMATION: WIA Year Round Youth Contracts Performance and Expenditures

Sylvia Spencer gave an overview of the Final PY 2008 WIA Formula Youth – Contract (Services) Plan vs. Actual report. The total allocation is \$1,983,843 of which \$1,259,991 (65%) has been expended. John Ball complimented the Youth team for a phenomenal job with the ARRA youth program and their continuing efforts with the extended work experience youth providers and other activities.

Agenda Item 10 – INFORMATION: Resource Development update

Kelly Henwood provided an update on resource development efforts and strategies. Andy Anderson provided a status update on pending grant opportunities. This update will be a standing information item on the Youth Council agenda.

Agenda Item 11 – INFORMATION: Updates from Contractors

Sylvia Spencer distributed and provided an overview of a comprehensive report on ARRA-WIA service providers. The total number of youth served was 1075 of which 97% were enrolled in and completed work readiness and 96% were placed in work experience of which 82% of those placed completed work experienced. The program achieved a 97% performance rate. Ms. Spencer provided a definition of WIA program terminations versus exits at the request of Chanda Cook.

Tameca Ulmer distributed the Latin Chamber of Commerce Summer Youth Work Experience & Training Program brochure. Ms. Ulmer spoke on behalf of Otto Merida of the Latin Chamber of Commerce to say: *On behalf of the Latin Chamber of Commerce, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Southern Nevada Workforce Investment Board for believing in us as participants*

and giving us such amazing opportunity. I also want to thank the Latin Chamber of Commerce business members that participated as employers and mentors for all of our students. My staff needs to be commended for an extremely professional job, and many members still are telling me what a wonderful program we had, and as we stated from the beginning, "It's all about the kids."

Asha Jones, Nevada Partners, Inc. (NPI) introduced Brook Reid, NPI and student ambassadors Robricous Goode and Akidra McCoy. Ms. Reid provided an overview of the Youth Ambassador program at NPI. The program is comprised of 12 youth who act as a legislative body representing approximately 300 youth currently enrolled in NPI's youth program, who represent the constituent population. The youth are responsible for communicating with the constituent body to ascertain what they want to see, what they want to do, what they need, and what type of activities and events they are interested in. Under the advice of Ms. Brooks and Mr. Warren Evans, the youth ambassadors are responsible for creating all projects, implementing their ideas, as well as developing the budget. Ms. McCoy and Mr. Goode shared with the Youth Council success stories of recent youth supportive activities including, Community Safe Night, which promoted a safe Halloween for youth, community service for the Harry Levy Garden Center to demonstrate care and concern for the elderly as well as the Walnut Recreation Center to clean up the community, and volunteered for the Las Vegas Marathon event, where the youth were on hand to give water and snacks to the runners. Future plans include participating in the Martin Luther King, Jr. parade and involvement in the Earn It, Keep It, Save It program, where the youth will complete a training and earn a certificate in tax preparation. Ms. McCoy and Mr. Goode were recently awarded Ambassador of the month.

Agenda Item 12 – Updates from Youth Council Members

Dan Rose expressed his gratitude to staff, service providers and youth.

Chanda Cook read an article titled "The Best Stimulus is a High School Diploma," which focused on how youth not graduating negatively impacts our community and how the economic development of our community will improve as we increase the High School graduation rate.

Agenda Item 12 – Citizen Participation

Donna Watson of Expertise, ARRA summer youth service provider and extended work experience contractor, commended the youth division staff for their support and patience in providing technical assistance with the WIA Youth Program.

Sylvia Spencer spoke on behalf of Commissioner Weekly regarding future allocations stating that The Summer Business Institute (SBI) is requesting additional funds to serve 150 youth.

Agenda Item 13– Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:44 a.m.