

MINUTES

*workforce*CONNECTIONS
Youth Council Meeting
Wednesday, October 12, 2011
11:00AM

Members Present

Ken LoBene, Chair	Sonja Holloway, Vice-Chair	Chanda Cook (Phone)
Dan Rose	Sgt. Mark Sharp	Chris Sullivan

Members Absent

Lori Goodwine

Staff Present

John Ball	Suzanne Potter	Heather DeSart	Sylvia Spencer
Rick Villalobos	Lucy Ivins	Jennifer Padilla	Emilio Pias
Gina Campbell	Byron Goynes	Lori Thomas	Kim Colagioia
Kelly Woods	Clentine January		

Others Present

Rene Cantu, Latin Chamber of Commerce Community Foundation	Nicole Jacobs, Olive Crest
Anntesha Chesterton, Olive Crest	Stacy Smith, NyE Communities Coalition
Janice Rael, Nevada Partners, Inc.	Jan Heaton, HELP of Southern Nevada
Donna Romo, DETR	Asha Jones, NPEF
Tyrone Thompson, SNRPC Regional Initiatives Office	Patricia Baker, ESN

(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 11:04 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.

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 Dan Rose and seconded by Sgt. Mark Sharp. Motion carried.

Agenda Item 3 - First Public Comment Session

None

Agenda Item 4 - ACTION: APPROVE the meeting minutes from the Youth Council meeting on July 13, 2011
A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes from the Youth Council meeting on July 13, 2011 as presented by Sonja Holloway and seconded by Sgt. Mark Sharp. Motion carried.

Agenda Item 5 - ACTION: APPROVE the meeting minutes from the Youth Council meeting on September 16, 2011
A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes from the Youth Council meeting on September 16, 2011 as presented by Sgt. Mark Sharp and seconded by Sonja Holloway. Motion carried.

Agenda Item 6 - INFORMATION: Ready for Life Graduation Initiative Update

Rick Villalobos, Ready for Life Systems Director, provided a brief overview of the Youth Council Ready for Life Graduation Initiative meeting last month. The goal of the meeting was to bring partners together to discuss the significance of the graduation initiative and to plan objectives and next steps. In attendance was Clark County School District Deputy Superintendent Pedro Martinez and representatives from the School Partnership Program, Adult Education, Jr. Achievement, United Way, and NAACP. The meeting was facilitated by Tribal Minds.

The outcomes include an agreed upon working knowledge that in order to succeed there must be community and business involvement and there needs to be an infrastructure that works together systematically. Key success factors

include ensuring community ownership, volunteerism (2,000 graduate advocates/mentors), resources, and budget. A barrier to success is lack of buy-in from students, community, and businesses.

The Ready for Life Graduation Advocate Initiative is partnership collaboration with Workforce Connections, Clark County School District, and United Way to increase the graduation rate by mentoring at least 2000 senior high school students. Ten high schools are targeted wherein senior students will be connected with a Mentor and Graduate Advocate Coordinator who will provide the mentorship, assistance, support, and resources necessary to ensure the students graduate by June 2012. The 2,000 senior students at the ten target school are currently not on track to graduate.

Mr. Villalobos provided a brief overview of the Graduate Advocate Initiative job descriptions as shown on page 8 of the agenda packet. Three positions have been filled, including Byron Goynes, RFL Community & Employment Liaison and Gina Campbell and Lori Thomas, RFL Graduate Advocate Coordinators. The agency will interview candidates for the RFL Advocate Director position and eight RFL Graduate Advocate Coordinator positions.

Chanda Cook provided an update on the Nevada Public Education Foundation Ready for Life Education Matters PR campaign sponsored by the Leadership Las Vegas Class of 20101 who secured over \$200,000 of free media for the month of October. Bill boards are on display around the valley, 48 of which are on display at Town Center. Additionally, there are television and movie theater public service announcements (PSA), radio, internet and print ads as well as PSAs from Governor Sandoval and UNLV's Coach Rice. The purpose of the campaign is to raise awareness for the Ready for Life Graduation Advocate Initiative. The call to action is to join the movement, become a Mentor, and graduate more youth. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Cook provided an overview of the Ready for Life: *Our Shared Youth Vision 2011 Youth Well-Being Report Summary* and 27 key youth well-being indicators. The report analyzes local and statewide data reflecting important changes in the youth serving social services sector so that the community can specifically pinpoint and respond to policy areas in need of attention.

Agenda Item 7 - INFORMATION: Re-Entry Report ~ Sylvia Spencer

Sylvia Spencer provided highlights from the Youth Re-Entry Programs and Academic Achievement in Southern Nevada Executive Summary, provided on page 19 of the full agenda packet.

In the spring of 2008, the Youth Council established a commitment to provide services to adjudicated youth within the juvenile justice system, including a provision to provide allowable funding for programs that could be justified within WIA regulations. The services are to include both pre- and post-release activities to provide a consistent and stable connection back to their home and community.

Subsequently, ARRA funding was allocated towards services for youth at both Spring Mountain Youth Camp (a detention facility whereby youth are detained no longer than 6 months) and Caliente Youth Center (a detention center whereby a significant number of youth return to Clark County upon release); especially since ARRA funding did not require year-round commitments of participation. Additionally, wC is currently funding an "in-house" Caliente Project, which provides WIA youth services to youth who are released and returning home in Clark County.

In considering what services could be provided to incarcerated youth, wC and the Youth Council acknowledges the restrictions of WIA funding for youth services which requires, at least, a one-year commitment of participation. Therefore, Spring Mountain Youth Camp and southern Nevada's detention facilities are not feasible by nature of the youth's length of stay, and the potential risk to performance outcomes. The average of stay at detention facilities is 16 to 18 days and up to 70 or 80 days. What we did discover was that the detained youth who have not earned a high school diploma or GED, attend classes, but earn no credit towards a secondary credential.

This information was shared with NPEF, and in turn, brought this matter to the attention of CCSD. CCSD immediately committed to implementing a credit retrieval option, such as Compass Learning into the Juvenile Detention high school, indicating that "it is the right thing to do for our kids." This will allow detained youth to obtain credit using a competency-based approach as opposed to seat time.

NPEF and wC's Ready for Life staff are working with CCSD, Adult Education and Juvenile Justice to provide additional opportunities for youth to earn academic credit and credit retrieval while in juvenile detention. Discussion ensued.

Agenda Item 8 - INFORMATION: Green & Healthcare Sector Consortia Update

Kelly Woods provided the Green Sector consortia update provided on page 20 of the agenda packet. The evaluation team reviewed the RFIs submitted and are recommending the following groups to participate in the Green Sector Economy Consortium: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Nevada; Clark County School District/Desert Rose Adult High School; Community Services Agency; Gene Ward Elementary School; Latin Chamber Community Foundation; Southern Nevada Gang Task Force; Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority, and UNLV Division of Educational Outreach.

Kim Colagioia provided a Healthcare Sector consortium update provided on page 21 of the agenda packet. Ten RFI responses were received and reviewed by the evaluation team. The recommended groups that will be asked to participate in the Youth Healthcare Consortium include Community Services Agency, Clark County School District, Victory in Action, NyE Communities Coalition, three Healthcare Sector Council members, included one youth representative, and two *workforce*CONNECTIONS staff, Kim Colagioia and Linda Yi. Staff will formally notify all RFI responders of those initially selected to participate and the first meeting will be in November 2011.

Agenda Item 9 - INFORMATION: WIA Year-Round Service Provider Update

Clentine January provided the WIA Year-Round Service Provider (funded partners) Update. The funded partners have received their contracts and have been busy recruiting and registering youth for their programs. Some have been enrolled in training and placed in unsubsidized employment.

The 1st Tuesday Funded Partner meetings have been successful, which are now held at the various funded partner locations on a rotating basis. A variety of topics (data entry, common measures) are discussed at the meetings and ongoing training and technical assistance is provided.

The youth funded partners include, Clark County School District/Desert Rose, Southern Nevada Children First, HELP of Southern Nevada, Nevada Partners, Inc., and NyE Communities Coalition, who is also running an entrepreneur program this program year.

Agenda Item 10 - INFORMATION: YouthBuild Las Vegas Update

Jennifer Padilla provided the YouthBuild update. Recently the second cohort was graduated. The performance outcomes related to first and second cohorts are provided on page 22 and 23 of the agenda packet. Three out of the five performance measures were exceeded including attainment of a degree or certificate (87%); literacy and numeracy gains (83%); recidivism rate (0%). Placement in education or employment is at 44%; however, staff has until December 31, 2011 to increase this measure with youth education and employment placements and the retention rate measure (30%) will increase in January 2012.

The third cohort has started with a 100% enrollment rate (33 participants). The cohort completed the YouthBuild Challenge, which is two weeks of mental and physical screening to identify the participants who are truly motivated and committed to the program.

YouthBuild Las Vegas received the PY2011 competitive grant, which was a great achievement as 160 other YouthBuild programs around the country had their funding cut. Rick Villalobos stated that leveraging resources with the SESP grant and the Green Monster Truck program was significant in helping the local YouthBuild program win the award.

Mr. Villalobos is very confident that YouthBuild will meet or exceed all five performance measures and congratulated Ms. Padilla for doing a great job at facilitating the program.

Ken LoBene requested a schedule for when Board members can visit the YouthBuild training site; staff concurred.

Agenda Item 11 - Second Public Comment Session

Nicole Jacobs, Olive Crest, provided a program update and thanked the youth council for the opportunity to help and impact lives of foster youth. Olive Crest participant Anteesha spoke about her involvement with the program and how the experience has positively impacted her life.

Rene Cantu, Latin Chamber of Commerce Community Foundation expressed excitement and gratitude that they are being recommended to work on the Green Economy Sector Coalition and provided a brief overview of the program.

Agenda Item 12 - Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.