

MINUTES
*workforce***CONNECTIONS**
YOUTH COUNCIL
May 11, 2011

Members Present

Ken LoBene, Chair
Sonja Holloway, Vice-Chair
Chanda Cook
Eloiza Martinez
Daniel Rose
Sgt. Mark Sharp

Members Absent

Lori Goodwine
Chris Sullivan
Jillian Prieto (3rd Absence)

Staff Present

John Ball	Ashok Mirchandani	Suzanne Potter	Heather DeSart
Sylvia Spencer	Rick Villalobos	Lucy Ivins	Gina Campbell
Byron Goynes	Lori Thomas	Lauren Stewart	Nancy White
Jennifer Padilla	Kim Colagioia	Kelly Woods	Clentine January
Cornelius Eason	Nick Brown, Intern	Joe Marra, Intern	

Others Present

Renee Cantu Jr., Latin Chamber Foundation	Nicole Jacobs, Olive Crest
Jennifer Bevacqua, Olive Crest	Donna Romo, DETR
Ann Barron, Urban League	Denise Gee, HELP of Southern Nevada
Brittany Aase, HELP of Southern Nevada	Leon Jackson, The NIA Project
Tiffany Tyler, Nevada Partners, Inc.	Asha Jones, Nevada Public Education Foundation

(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.

Mr. LoBene announced to the Youth Council that Matt Weinman tendered his resignation from the Youth Council effective immediately.

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 with the deletion of Agenda Item 5 by Eloiza Martinez and seconded by Dan Rose. Motion carried.***

Agenda Item 3 - ACTION: APPROVE the meeting minutes from the Youth Council meeting on April 13, 2011 ***A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes from the Youth Council meeting on April 13, 2011 with the following correction by Sgt. Mark Sharp and seconded by Eloiza Martinez. Correction: Agenda Item 6, paragraph 5, line 4; change to NPEF assists (from is responsible for) in recruiting partners to volunteer at the booths. Motion carried.***

Agenda Item 4 - DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: ACCEPT the staff recommendation for a no cost contract extension with Olive Crest through December 30, 2011.

Clentine January provided information to the Youth Council about the purpose of the no cost contract extension with Olive Crest through December 31, 2011. The no cost extension will allow Olive Crest more time to work with the 25 enrolled youth to meet performance and complete the objectives of the contract. Background on this item is provided in the agenda packet on page 7 -8. John Ball made a request to change the end date of the no cost extension to December 31, 2011.

A motion was made to accept the staff recommendation for a no cost contract extension with Olive Crest through December 31, 2011 by Eloiza Martinez and seconded by Dan Rose. Motion carried.

Agenda Item 6 – DISCUSSION: Project 5000 Kids (P5K) Update

Nancy White, P5K Program Manager, provided the following update:

- Joe Marra and Nick Brown are the P5K interns at workforceCONNECTIONS.
- P5K is placing students in summer work experiences as they become available; more than 57 students have been connected to various employers.
- The P5K Team is contacting the business community requesting paid and non-paid internship positions for the summer and looking for sponsorships for internships.
- Members of the P5K Team were speakers at the Summerlin Rotary Club on April 19th wherein the Team provided a presentation about the Project 5000 Kids' Nevada Graduation League mentoring program and received a positive response.
- Members of the P5K Team staffed a booth at the Nye County Business Expo on April 22nd and 23rd and made arrangements with members of the business community for additional sponsorships for paid internships in Pahrump for this summer.
- On April 25th, the P5K Team was a guest on the *workforceCONNECTIONS* radio show at station KCEP.
- On April 26th, the P5K Team had the opportunity to present the Project 5000 Kids Program to the Board of Directors of the Speedway Children's Charities; P5K will apply for a grant with this organization.
- On April 28th, P5K was one of four community organizations that received the "Driving Change Award" at the JYD 2011 Rally 4 Kids Charity Event.
- On April 29th, P5K participated in the Senior Teen Town Hall at the Clark County Government Center.
- On April 30th, P5K ran a booth at the annual Mega Scout Expo at Floyd Lamb Park.
- On May 7th, members of the P5K Team attended the picnic for Governor Brian Sandoval at the Pahrump Valley Winery.
- P5K staff is continuing to develop Project 5000 Kids' Nevada Graduation League mentoring program.
- P5K staff developed new collateral materials to market P5K.

Chanda Cook asked Ms. White if P5K has developed the background check component for the mentoring program and stated that Clark County School District provides background checks and would be a good partner to consider.

Ken LoBene directed the Youth Council's attention to the Agenda Action Item Fact Sheet form on page 10 of the agenda packet and stated that the form will be the standard form staff will use to present action items such as program, project, funding, and contract recommendations.

Mr. Ball, for the record, proposed that subsequent to earlier discussions regarding the relationship between the Boy Scouts and the LGBT Youth, staff will review the issues in that regard to ensure that the Youth Council is clear of all complications.

Agenda Item 7 – DISCUSSION: Request for Proposals (RFP) Update

Due to a variety of external and internal issues, including operational, staffing, and technical difficulties, final deliberations for contract recommendations did not take place as scheduled. The team of evaluators will meet all day on May 23rd to complete the evaluation process. Contract recommendations will be made at the Adult & Dislocated Workers Committee and Youth Council meetings on June 8th and receive final approval at the Board of Director's meeting on June 28th. Programs will begin July 1, 2011. Discussion ensued.

Agenda Item 8 – DISCUSSION: WIA Year-Round Services Update

Clentine January provided a brief summary on the year-round youth monitoring process completed in March 2011. Programmatic monitoring summary reports for Nye Communities Coalition, Help of Southern Nevada, Nevada Partners, Inc., Project WE Group, and Olive Crest are provided on page 14 – 18 of the agenda packet. Most of the providers have all the required youth case file documentation, met the 60-day deadline for youth assessment, and have documented case notes in the file and/or system. Follow-up is required for one provider, who has until June 3rd to provide all missing documentation. Technical assistance was provided during the monitoring as needed. Overall the providers are doing very well programmatically.

John Ball provided an overview of the Provider Contract Expenditure Report on page 19 of the agenda packet. None of the providers have any red flags and/or serious expenditure issues. Nye Communities had issues during start-up but have increased its spending. Project WE has had issues with submitting timely invoices and providing adequate expenditure documentation. Staff conducted Fiscal monitoring yesterday and verified program expenditures. Going forward, Project WE has a good understanding of expectations and deliverables. Staff will continue to monitoring Project WE closely. Discussion ensued.

Agenda Item 9 – INFORMATION: a. Upcoming Events

Ken LoBene announced that on June 2, 2011 Housing and Urban Development and Federal Home Loan Bank are sponsoring a faith-based, non-profit and community-based organization grant writing seminar at the West Charleston Library. Representatives from several federal agencies will be present.

Rick Villalobos, YouthBuild Las Vegas Manger, announced that on May 27, 2011, YouthBuild will be having their 2nd Employability Conference at the Texas Station Hotel, wherein the second cohort of participates will graduate from the program. An invite will be e-mailed to the Youth Council members after the meeting.

Chanda Cook invited the Youth Council members to attend the Nevada Public Education Foundation Education Hall of Fame Awards and 20th Anniversary Celebration on May 16, 2011 at the Nevada Legislature in Carson City, NV. The purpose of the event is to recognize the newest inductees into the Education Hall of Fame and celebrate 20 years of securing and sustaining resources in Nevada.

Ms. Cook shared highlights from the Nevada Public Education Foundation (NPEF) impact report. Over the past six years, NPEF has given out close to \$1,000,000 in funds, impacting over 105,000 youth directly, not to speak of the youth that will be carried over and served for multiple years by grants. NPEF has leveraged \$23,500,000 in funds with other Ready for Life partners to serve youth in Nevada.

b. Funding/Development Update

Nancy White provided an overview of the funding development report provided on page 21 of the agenda packet. Stacey Wedding met with the Dawn LaBonte from the Wells Fargo Foundation to renew the funding P5K received last year. Project 5000 Kids participated in the NevadaGIVES Speed Dating for Funders & Nonprofits event and made new connections with potential funders. The most noteworthy connection was with Speedway Children's Charities. In partnership with Byron Goynes, Stacey Wedding contacted Vince Zamora, City of Las Vegas about supporting Project 5000 Kids in a way that meets the needs of both the City and the youth P5K is supporting through its summer internship program; several ideas are in the works.

Ms. White provided an update on grant opportunities:

- P5K recently was approved for a \$5,000 grant request from Bank of America
- P5K is awaiting a decision on a request for 18 round-trip airline tickets from Southwest Airlines

c. Service Provider Update

Tiffany Tyler, Nevada Partners, Inc. announced that on May 21, 2011 at 8:00 a.m., NPI will have their Annual Employability Olympics to give youth the opportunity to showcase the skills they have developed over 12-week work readiness training. On May 19th, NPI is holding an in-service for employers who will be providing job shadowing, tutoring, internships, and work experiences for NPI's youth this year. Beginning May 30th 40 WIA supported youth will begin their work placements which will end June 30th.

Ms. Tyler reported that NPI has exceeded their planned enrollment performance and will have 288 youth completing a work readiness training this week at nine locations throughout the community. Also, a group of parenting and

pregnant teens successfully completed a parent support group with an emphasis on parenting, reproductive health, and other areas critical to that population.

NPI participant and Desert Rose student Kevin Smith shared his experience with the program. Mr. Smith is 20 years old and recently located to Las Vegas from Sacramento, CA. Since joining the program in February 2011, Mr. Smith obtained his GED, Warehouse/Forklift certification, and CPR card and will attend CSN this summer.

Brittany Aase, Help of Southern Nevada provided details on the upcoming 4th Annual Eagles Charity Ride on May 22, 2011. To raise money for the organization, HELP will receive \$3 for every \$10 ticket sold for the June 2nd Las Vegas 51's baseball game. On June 20th, a golf tournament will be held at the Paiute Golf Course to benefit HELP.

Ms. Aase stated that eight youth participants are in the process of completing work readiness training; upon completion these youth will begin a work experience. Currently in the program, 15 youth are engaged in a work experience. Two youth are awaiting results from their high school proficiency; upon receipt, these youth will be exited from the program and meet the performance measure. Eight youth are working on a GED; four youth are planning on attending CSN over the summer and six youth are planning on attending youth in the fall.

Denise Gee, Help of Southern Nevada, announced that Ms. Aase will be relocating to Long Beach, CA and terminating her employment with HELP by the end of June 2011. Ms. Aase has a Masters in higher education and counseling and will be looking for new employment in the same field. Ms. Gee stated that Ms. Aase is an excellent employee, comes highly recommended and would appreciate any job leads in the Long Beach area. Ms. Aase thanked the Youth Council and staff for the job opportunity.

Jennifer Bevacqua, Olive Crest thanked the Youth Council for approving a no-cost contract extension to work with 25 former foster youth. Ms. Bevacqua, updated the Youth Council of Olive Crest's progress: six youth have made gains at least one EFL level in literacy and numeracy; seven youth have improved at least one grade level in math and four youth have improved at least one grade level in reading; two youth attained a GED, three youth are enrolled in GED programs, one youth is enrolled in post-secondary education at Desert Rose, one youth is enrolled in an associate's degree program, three youth are receiving tutoring to prepare them for their proficiency test, and an additional four youth will be enrolled in a GED program over the next two weeks. Ten youth are in a work experience, nine youth are in unsubsidized employment, and two youth are in subsidized employment that will lead to permanent, unsubsidized employment. Two other youth are in the process of seeking employment.

Dan Rose provided his e-mail address to Ms. Bevacqua and extended an invitation for the foster youth to tour the Sheet Metal Apprenticeship training center.

Matt Hirsh, United Way of Southern Nevada, briefly addressed the Youth Council regarding lessons learned from the Foster Youth Program collaborative with workforceCONNECTIONS, Olive Crest, Manpower, Department of Family Services, and the Housing Authority. Mr. Hirsh stated that gains were made upon working more closely with the Olive Crest regarding program performance and program system and design. Some of the challenges included age of foster youth served, getting and keeping the youth engaged, and effectively incentivizing youth for performance. Mr. Hirsh agreed to provide the Youth Council a one page summary of the program's next steps and recommended changes to make the program more effective including new processes, partnerships, and collaborations.

Stacy Smith, Nye Communities Coalition, addressed Nye's program expenditures. Ms. Smith briefly explained that program dollars were set aside for a work experience project at a shrimp farm in the Death Valley area. However, due to federal guidelines that prohibits the placement of youth in a work experience across the Stateline the project could not be funded under WIA. On a positive note, Ms. Smith, stated that the ten youth planned for the project were hired by Shoshone.

The Elk's Lodge hosted a barbeque celebration and presented a plaque to recognize Nye's youth for the improvements made to the community through work experiences; approximately 60 youth attended the event.

Nye Communities, in partnership with Project 5000 Kids, is planning a new event called Futurefest. Ms. Smith thanked Lucy Ivins, P5K for coining the name. Futurefest is a volunteer fair to connect youth with the various organizations and businesses in the community that youth can volunteer their services. Futurefest includes an education component wherein representatives from various colleges and universities will be on sight to answer questions and provide information to the youth. Food and music will be provided to boost attendance.

Chanda Cook made a comment that this program would be a good candidate for Access funds. Ms. Smith concurred and stated that she has been in discussion with Asha Jones in this regard.

d. Updates from Youth Council Members

Sgt. Mark Sharp shared how the Explorer Program helped him with his career at Metro.

e. Executive Directors Report

Regarding the WIA Federal budget update, John Ball stated that the State level funding allocations for the next program year are consistent with the current year with a slight increase in WIA Formula Youth funds.

The agency is strategically looking at the flexibility of Adult and Youth funding streams, particularly those that overlap and serve the age group of 16-21. Heather DeSart, Adult & Dislocated Worker Program Manager and Sylvia Spencer will work together on identifying opportunities and possibilities for strategic funding planning. Staff will present their analysis to the Board.

Agenda Item 11 – Public Comment

Rosalyn Brooks, Director of the Tonopah Community Garden provided details of her organization. Tonopah Community Garden is a public garden located on five acres near downtown Las Vegas off of Bonanza and Martin Luther King. The garden produces tomatoes, okra, lettuce, peas, carrots, radishes and is operated by volunteers and public donations. Ms. Brooks facilitates an educational agricultural component that has served over 250 local youth and a group of senior citizens since its inception one year ago, including 18 adjudicated youth who completed their community service hours working at the garden.

Agenda Item 11 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:21PM