

MINUTES
Youth Board/WIB Youth Council
January 31, 2011
The Hispanic Federation
55 Exchange Place
New York, New York
8:30 AM to 10:30 AM

Present:

Youth Board/Youth Council members¹:

Ana Garcia Reyes *	John Mattingly * ²	Peter Kleinbard *
Anthony Sumpter, Sr. *	John Rhea * ³	Rae Linefsky *
Arnold Dorin	Kimberley Hayes *	Raymond Codrington *
Ellen Chen	Kurt Sonnenfeld, EdD *	Reg Foster *
Erana Stennett *	Lena Townsend *	Richard F. McKeon *
Gregory Hambric *	Lynette Velasco	Robert Purga
Howard Knoll *	Maureen O'Connor *	Sgt. Margaret O'Gara
Ikra Ahmad	Milga Morales Nadal, PhD *	Sibyl Silberstein, PhD *
Issa Spencer	Nancy Wackstein *	Susan Royer *
Ivelisse Fairchild	Nadine Reid	Tom Pendleton *
Jane Reiss *	Omoniyi Amoran	Victoria Sammartino*
Jeanne B. Mullgrav *	Peter Borish *	

Guests:

Lillian Rodriguez López, Philip Weinberg, Megan Sheekey, Ava Lopez, Elaina Hurardo, Vicki Hirschfeld, Matilde Roman, Ronnie Fuchs, Marsha Davis, Manuel Leyva, Bill Chong, Suzanne Lynn, Alan Cheng, Megan Keenan, Sandra Escamilla, David Fischer, Susan Haskell, Christopher Cesarani and Heriberto Barbot, Jr.

Welcome and Call to Order

Youth Council Chair Reg Foster called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and thanked Lillian Rodriguez López and the Hispanic Federation for hosting the day's meeting. Mr. Foster then informed the members that due to a very packed agenda, action items would take place at the end of the meeting. He then introduced Commissioner Mullgrav.

¹ An * indicates the member's presence at the meeting.

² Ronnie Fuchs was in attendance for Commissioner John Mattingly.

³ Kim Toro was in attendance for Chairman John Rhea.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Mullgrav encouraged everyone to review her memo in the meeting booklet for updates and highlights of the recent quarter and then commenced brief updates, and proceeded to introduce the presentation and discussion topic.

Presentation Background

Commissioner Mullgrav highlighted that in New York City, the youth unemployment rate (36.2% for 16 – 19 year olds) is almost 4 times the adult rate (of 9.5%). She continued that looking ahead for 2011, DYCD is planning to focus on opportunities for the Youth Board and Youth Council to focus on issues of disconnected youth and youth workforce development, including: exploring both secondary and post-secondary educational opportunities for disconnected youth; and opportunities to support youth employment programs, including today's Mayor's Fund presentation.

Core Elements of DYCD Workforce Initiatives

Commissioner Mullgrav highlighted that DYCD programs target resources to high need groups and communities through the RFP process. She noted that relevant to today's discussion is that 28 percent of YAIP participants are Latino, with slightly fewer of those being males; 27 percent of SYEP participants are Latino, and 23 percent of Ladders for Leaders are Latino – with 34% of all males being Latino, more than any other ethnic group; and in our WIA programs, about a third of participants are Latino.

She added that one key element of DYCD's programs are subsidized jobs, which are critical for young people to practice their workplace skills, develop real job experience, and to earn money. She continued by emphasizing how comprehensive programming is a key component of youth workforce development programs and recognizes that young people are still developing, and cannot be expected to achieve career gains without other supports – including health and mental health, educational, counseling, and housing.

Presentation – Latino Youth in New York City: School, Work and Income Trends for New York's Largest Group of Young People

Commissioner Mullgrav directed the member's attention to the presentation. She noted that current census data reveals that that one-third of NYC's youth are Latino, and that today's presentation is an important jumping off point for drilling down into issues confronting disconnected youth in New York City. She further noted that the recent Community Services Society (CSS) policy brief, *New York City's Future Looks Latino*, helps to raise our sensibility with respect to program outreach and providing appropriate services for all young people. She explained that DYCD seeks guidance in policy and program development from both research and the voices of the community, to offer the highest quality services. In concluding, she introduced Lazar Treschan author of the CSS policy brief.

Mr. Treschan began his remarks by describing how for this particular policy brief, he used the American Community Survey merged data spanning 2006 to 2008 to do a detailed breakdown of how different sub-groups of New York City's Latino youth are faring in education and employment. (the policy brief is attached to these minutes). He continued by highlighting that Hispanic 16 to 24 year olds are the largest ethnic groups in New York City and that this population is comprised of many subgroups with individuals from the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico and Mexico comprising the largest groups respectively. He noted that about a third of the foreign born Hispanic population within this age group are in school, while 62% of native born Hispanics are enrolled in school.

Lazar emphasized that while it is important to understand their key commonalities, Latinos are a diverse ethnic group, and we see divergent stories among the major sub-populations and in comparison with other youth populations.

Lillian Rodriguez López observed that Puerto Ricans are more transient than we thought perhaps impacting the completion of education. She also commented that there remain still deep pockets of poverty that are masked by gentrification.

Eva Lopez of South Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation (SoBRO) noted that from the provider's perspective, she is seeing higher participation rates of young women. She also agreed commented that some young people are very entrenched in poverty and it impacts on their ability to handle other issues like housing and tuition.

Elaina Hurardo, who participated in SoBRO's program, explained how SoBRO helped with more than just school.

Lillian Rodriguez López commented that there a need to advocate from a policy level for more ESL, Adult Literacy and GED prep. She observed that one problem she finds from among the Human Services organizations that the Federation represents is that many parents are moving back and forth and there is no constant in education and this means that many parents are also illiterate.

Lazar added that key is to strengthen system supports. Commissioner Mullgrav noted that a comprehensive approach is necessary so that contacts are made with more than one caring adult along a young person's development.

Erana Stennett asked about the data reviewed and any numbers relating to the criminal justice system. Ms. Rodriguez López commented that this is a highly specialized program area and would cover another meeting topic. Victoria Sammartino noted that some youth incarcerated at the Riker's Island detention facility have yet to be charged with anything, so when looking at this slice of the youth population, we have to be careful not to criminalize them. Commissioner Mullgrav noted that DYCD uses the term "vulnerable youth" as a means to capture all the categories and challenges our young people confront. Peter Kleinbard observed that drilling down in to the statistics like this is an excellent way to highlight and argue for sustaining the most essential programs, particularly during this budget crisis.

Reg Foster thanked the panelists and the members for participating in the day's discussion. He noted that this first topic of the year and the rest of 2011 provides an opportunity for Youth Board/Youth Council members to strengthen the commitment to be responsive to youth workforce development issues.

Campaign for Summer Youth

Mr. Foster next invited President of the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City Megan Sheekey and Youth Board member Jane Reis, who have been working with DYCD on a campaign in support of the City's youth. Ms. Sheekey began her remarks by inviting the members to join the Mayor and DYCD in a new campaign to expand summer opportunities for young people.

She informed the members that the Mayor, recognizing the significant decrease in federal and state supports has called for a Campaign to Create New Summer Jobs from among private sector. Jane Reiss added that NYC & Company has created advertising for the campaign, including a public service announcement from Deputy Mayor Dennis Walcott.

Reg Foster thanked Ms. Sheekey and Ms. Reiss for their work and the call to action. Rae Linefsky praised the Mayor for his actions. Mr. Foster noted that this matter should be taken up further at the next meeting with a budget update.

Mr. Foster noting the few remaining minutes left in the meeting next asked the members for a motion to approve the meeting minutes of September 22, 2010, located under Tab 1 of the meeting materials. (A motion was made, seconded without objected and then noted approved).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.