

MINUTES
Youth Board/WIB Youth Council
June 3, 2010
Department of Youth and Community Development
156 William Street
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	Rick Amato
Howard Knoll *	Maureen O'Connor	Robert Purga *
Ikra Ahmad *	Milga Morales Nadal, PhD	Sgt. Margaret O'Gara
Issa Spencer	Nancy Wackstein *	Sibyl Silberstein, PhD *
Ivelisse Fairchild	Nadine Reid	Susan Royer
Jane Reiss *	Omoniyi Amoran	Tom Pendleton *
Jeanne B. Mullgrav *	Peter Borish *	

Guests:

Philip Weinberg, David Fischer, Mary Kelly, Carson Hicks, Laura Smith, Barbara Morgan, Lisa Crook, James Peterson, Daphne Montanez, Nancy Ramos, Andrew Miller, Cesar Cardenas, Nina Aledort, Susan Haskell and Christopher Cesarani

Welcome and Call to Order

Youth Council Chair Reg Foster called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and introduced Commissioner Mullgrav.

Commissioner's Report

Welcome New Youth Board Members

Commissioner Mullgrav began her remarks by introducing new Youth Board member Jane Reiss. She informed the members that Ms. Reiss is the Chief Marketing Officer, and Executive Vice President at NYC & Company, the City's official marketing, tourism and partnership organization. She highlighted that recently, as part of the Mayor's 3-week

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

² Ronnie Fuchs was in attendance for Commissioner John Mattingly.

³ Deidra Gilliard was in attendance for Chairman John Rhea.

interagency swap of executive level staff Ms. Reiss lent her experience and expertise to DYCD and shared her interest and commitment to young people. Commissioner Mullgrav welcomed Ms. Reiss and expressed that she looks forward to further ideas and advisement from her as she joins in the work of the Youth Board.

NYC Executive Budget

Commissioner Mullgrav explained that since 2008, DYCD has implemented eight rounds of gap-closing actions. She noted that the priority has been to help the City meet its fiscal obligations while supporting children and family through the recession. Some of the most significant budget actions to date include: \$25.9 million reduction of the Out-of-School Time Program and \$4.13 million in reductions to the Beacon Program. She noted that the funding level of \$99.5 million for OST, despite cuts, is still more than doubled since its inception. She added that with the innovative use of \$2.5 million in stimulus funds the Beacon Centers will be able to maintain a traditional budget level for each program.

Commissioner Mullgrav continued by explaining that as part of the Fiscal 2011 Executive Budget, DYCD was asked to identify an additional \$4.75 million in savings. She informed the members that DYCD's Executive Budget for next year is \$293.6 million, of which \$174.1 million is city tax levy, \$82.8 million federal, \$11.5 million state and \$25.7 million from other funds. She noted that in addition to some cost-savings measures, DYCD made the decision to eliminate the city tax levy portion of the Adult Literacy program to save \$4.6 million. She explained that, while difficult, DYCD remains committed to Adult Literacy services by investing a mix of city and federal funding totaling \$6.1 million to serve approximately 4,500 participants next year. She also noted that these measures help preserve other city tax levy supported programs – such as OST, Beacons and the Summer Youth Employment Program, as well as DYCD's other adolescent and family literacy programs.

Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)

Commissioner Mullgrav explained that the City's Executive Budget restores a \$1 million proposed reduction in SYEP funding from the Preliminary Budget and commits an additional \$9.7 million in city funding. She continued that this funding will allow us to add over 7,000 SYEP jobs.

OST Middle School Programs

Commissioner Mullgrav added that there was some additional encouraging news. She explained that there was also a restoration of \$600,000 of City funding that will support 1,940 slots at summer day camp programs located at 30 middle schools restored for the Out-of-School Time initiative. She continued that the New York Community Trust has committed to raise \$700,000 in private funding for the same programming, for a total restoration of \$1.3 million. She noted that this unique public-private partnership is the result of our ongoing dialogue with a wide range of stakeholders on the importance of our afterschool and summer camp programs and that DYCD is grateful for their support. She also noted that there is an article included with the meeting materials highlighting how the private sector to the initiative to help restore valued

quality programming. Commissioner Mullgrav acknowledged the OST Sustainability Committee for its focus on public private partnerships of this nature.

New York State Budget

Commissioner Mullgrav highlighted that DYCD is still short of the 52,000 young people we were able to serve last year with support from our partners in state and federal government. She explained that the the funding we received last year included \$19.5 million from the state in TANF funding and \$28.5 million in federal stimulus funding. She continued with the update that at present the Governor's Budget proposal completely eliminates state support of SYEP, and attempts to allocate additional federal funding have so far been unsuccessful.

SYEP 2010 Update

Commissioner Mullgrav informed the members about the status of SYEP, which started receiving applications on April 19. She noted that in total 143,006 applications have been received, that approximately 80% were completed online, and that SYEP has also received 5,776 worksite applications for review by DYCD and SYEP contractors. She further informed the members that this summer DYCD plans to use handheld wireless devices to monitor worksites in real time and reduce paperwork so that staff may spend more time in the field. She added that DYCD is also piloting a project with the Department of Consumer Affairs to offer free checking accounts with no minimum balance requirements to participants 18 and over, and that to date six banks with branches located across the City have signed on: Chase, Citibank, Checkspring Bank, Cross County Federal Savings Bank, Municipal Credit Union, and New York Community Bank. She highlighted for those present that SYEP is a seven-week program open to all New York City residents between the ages of 14-24, participants work up to 25 hours a week and earn the minimum wage of \$7.25 and that the program will run from July 6 through August 21.

Ladders for Leaders Update

Commissioner Mullgrav next informed the members that on April 9, NASDAQ hosted an employer breakfast for NYC Ladders for Leaders, the corporate internship program operated by DYCD and the NYC Commission on Women's Issues. She continued that senior managers from CBS, American Cancer Society, City Year, Everyday Health, Merrill Lynch, New Video, Foundation for the Advancement of Women Now, Océ Business Services, Wildlife Conservation Society and Verizon were in attendance. She highlighted that to date Ladders has cultivated 195 pledged internships and 170 firm commitments from 54 employers, with \$282,100 in committed donations, and that the the program currently has 203 young people enrolled. Commissioner Mullgrav informed the members that, if they would like to become involved with this program, they should reach out to Daphne Montanez, DYCD Director of Corporate Outreach.

Youth Council Report and Presentation

Mr. Foster thanked Commissioner Mullgrav for her update. Ms. Wackstein noted her concerns over cuts in City funding for adult literacy programs. Mr. McKeon asked if there were any update on the condition of Assistant Commissioner Miguel Almodovar who was undergoing intensive treatment for cancer. Ms. Linefsky asked if there was anything the Youth Board/Youth Council could do for Mr. Almodovar and the possibility of funding an internship in his name was suggested. Mr. Foster suggested that the members commenting get together after the meeting to discuss further these topics raised with DYCD staff.

Mr. Foster next directed the members' attention to the approval of the meeting minutes from March 3, 2010 under tab 1 and the March 19, 2010, Youth Board OST Sustainability committee meeting under tab 2. There being a quorum present he asked for a motion to approve these minutes (a motion was made, then seconded without objected and the minutes approved).

Mr. Foster then informed the members that in keeping with the budget discussions and maximizing all of our resources, including our volunteerism, the first presentation of the day would focus on the competitive "Race to the Top" grant, and then the members would also here more updates about opportunities for community service.

Presentation No. 1: Race to the Top

Reg Foster introduced Barbara Morgan, Director of Federal Legislative Affairs at the NYC Department of Education, and Laura Smith, Assistant Commissioner at the NYS Education Department, who joined the meeting to present and answer questions about "Race to the Top" (RTT). Ms. Morgan explained that RTT was announced by President Barack Obama on July 24, 2009 and is a competitive grant focused on promoting Innovation, reform, and excellence in America's public schools. She noted that although New York did not make the first round of the competition, on June 1 the city submitted an application for round two. She explained that significant to this application will be the reforms incorporated that were enabled by the state legislature last month and signed into law by the Governor. She noted that the reforms: 1) establish a new teacher and principal evaluation system that makes student achievement data a substantial component of how educators are assessed and supported; 2) raise our charter school cap from 200 to 460 and enhances charter school accountability and transparency; 3) enable school districts to enter into contracts with non-profit Education Management Organizations in New York State for the management of their persistently lowest-achieving schools and schools under registration review; and, 4) appropriate \$20.4 million in capital funds to the State Education Department to implement its longitudinal data system. She informed the members that New York's application is eligible for an award of \$696 million.

Presentation No. 2: Opportunities for Community Service

Mr. Foster next introduced DYCD Assistant Commissioner Darryl Rattray and Director of Capacity Building Rien Murray for the final meeting presentation focused on community service opportunities through DYCD. Mr. Murray reminded the members that last year Mayor Bloomberg launched "Service NYC" to encourage volunteerism, which included DYCD

collaboration with an array of partners to connect 1,385 young people to meaningful volunteer opportunities in all five boroughs. He explained that taking this initiative to another level, this year DYCD is providing 16 awardees selected from 36 proposals micro-grants of \$1,000-\$1,500 to the DYCD-funded summer camp programs that propose the most innovative and ambitious service project in their neighborhood. He thanked the members for their direct involvement in projects last year and added that DYCD staff will keep members informed of Summer of Service events and again welcome their participation.

Mr. Rattray highlighted many of the DYCD afterschool initiatives that utilize completion of service components as a condition for participation. He highlighted the DYCD Nike Beacon Girl's Basketball League makes it a pre-condition for a community service project to be completed before play. He explained how "Step-It-Up" incorporates a service project in to the choreography of dance – groups compete with choreographed dance performances that highlight a social or community topic teens are working to address. He invited the members to attend upcoming events.

Youth Board Report

Mr. McKeon introduced Peter Borish, who gave the members an update on the OST Sustainability Committee. Mr. Borish reminded the members that the minutes of the March 19 meeting are included under Tab 2 of the meeting materials. He explained that at this first meeting the committee discussed ways to: promote public awareness of OST, connect with private partners, and connect with other OST initiatives. He noted that the meeting concluded with the committee setting four priorities: pursuing corporate collaboration in building sponsorship for OST neighborhood programs, demonstrating to foundations how OST addresses many youth development priorities, making the role of OST organizations a topic with federal officials, and encouraging Mayor's leadership and ensuring that he remains informed of the continuing successes of his administrations' OST system. Mr. Borish explained that as next steps he will be speaking with Mr. McKeon and DYCD staff. Commissioner Mullgrav noted that the recent public/private collaboration with the New York Community Trust to help restore OST Middle School programming are encouraging, and will help serve as an example of how this program addresses many youth development priorities with a larger philanthropic audience. Mr. McKeon agreed and commented that opportunities to meet with other audiences will be a discussion topic.

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