

MEETING MINUTES
Department of Youth and Community Development Youth Board
Workforce Investment Board Youth Council
June 1, 2006, 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
DYCD, 156 William Street
New York, New York 10038

Present:

Youth Board/Youth Council members:

Ana Isabel Garcia Reyes	Lena Townsend	Susan Royer
Andrew Miller ¹	Maureen O'Connor	Sibyl Silberstein
Ellen Chen	Nancy Wackstein	Tom Pendleton ³
Erana Stennett	Peter Borish	
Ernesto Lozano FN	Peter Kleinbard	
Felcia Devine FN	Rae Linefsky	
Jeanne B. Mullgrav	Renna Draynel FN	
Ivey Fairchild	Rich McKeon	
Karen Fulbright-Anderson	Sarah Haas ²	

Guests:

Susan Arroyo, Yvette Furman, Jeremy Reiss, Mario Bruno, Jenny Roper, Megan Keenan, Rebecca Brown, Suzanne Lynn, Robin McClary, Chris Caruso, Bill Chong, Karen Fleshman, Susan Haskell, Mike Nolan, April Chambers, Chris Cesarani, Miguel Almodovar, and Alan Cheng

Rich McKeon called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone present and thanked Commissioner Jeanne B. Mullgrav for hosting the meeting. He presented the March 2, 2006 meeting minutes and other committee minutes for approval; a motion was made and all were approved. Mr. McKeon next asked Commissioner Mullgrav if she had any remarks or updates she wanted to share.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Mullgrav thanked Mr. McKeon for his introduction and welcomed everyone present. She informed the gathering that the Youth Workforce Development Out-of-School Youth (OSY), In-School Youth (ISY) and Runaway Homeless Youth (RHY) services programs had completed the Request for Proposals process and is successfully underway.

Looking forward Commissioner Mullgrav highlighted recent planning for the future of the Beacons. She informed that gathering that at the Beacon 15th Anniversary April Forum strategies for the program were discussed, including: Strengthening our connections to older youth; Promoting greater community involvement; Applying a "strategic philanthropy" model of investment; and, increasing data collection and evaluation. She informed the gathering that the Youth Week theme this year will be "Are You Connected," which will address the issue of disconnected youth and that DYCD is considering opening or closing with a conference, as discussed at the last meeting.

¹ Attended the meeting on behalf of Neil Hernandez, Commissioner, Department of Juvenile Justice

² Attended the meeting on behalf of Verna Eggleston, Commissioner, Human Resources Administration

³ Attended the meeting on behalf of Michelle Cahill, Senior Counsel, NYC Department of Education

Commissioner Mullgrav next provided highlights from SYEP 2005 and what to expect for 2006. She informed the gathering that SYEP 2005 had almost 70,000 applicants and enrolled 41,608. She added that participants earned \$6.00 per hour and worked 24 hours per week; applications were available at New York City public high schools, library branches and also downloaded from www.nyc.gov/dycd; 1,957 Youth with Disabilities were served; and, that 15% of worksites were in the private sector including JPM Chase, Staten Island Yankees, law firms and technology companies. Further, she commented that through various educational materials, including a training video, participants were instructed on how to use the debit cards and avoid fees. For SYEP 2006 she informed everyone that improvements to technology/efficiency will continue and youth will be able to begin the application process online; participants will earn \$6.75 per hour, the new NYS minimum wage; and that there is an effort to expand the “fee-free” ATM network of banks. She commented that as of the date of this meeting it looked positive that New York State will provide necessary funding for DYCD to meet the service level from 2005, despite higher wages, with the program running from July 5, 2006 to August 19, 2006.

Commissioner Mullgrav next updated the gathering on the work of the Interagency Coordinating Council on Youth Services (ICC), which has been focusing on the topic of Disconnected Youth. She informed the members about the February 23: Workshop, “Developing Effective Programs and Services for Disconnected Youth” at CUNY Graduate Center, where youth and providers presented their perspectives on how the City can re-engage young adults and encourage young people to stay in school and employed. She told the group that panelists included representatives from Covenant House, CUNY Prep, Friends of Island Academy, Latino Pastoral Action Center, and The Door, as well as representatives from the NYC Economic Development Corporation, who presented the Comprehensive Neighborhood Economic Development Initiative targeted to Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn. She described how at the conclusion of the workshop, attendees reflected on how their agencies could enhance services to disconnected youth, improve coordination with other agencies, and support the CNED program. She thanked Reg Foster for generously arranging for IBM’s sponsorship of this meeting and acknowledged Youth Council members Nancy Wackstein and Rae Linefsky for their attendance.

In relation to the Federal Budget Commissioner Mullgrav explained that DYCD is concerned about President Bush’s Federal FY 2007 Budget proposal. She highlighted that the impact of proposed budget on funding for Youth Workforce Training in NYC by explaining that NYC currently receives \$35 million in WIA Youth funding for City Fiscal Year 2006, however, DYCD anticipates this funding will be cut by almost \$3.4 million for City Fiscal Year 2007. Additionally, she explained that in the adopted Federal Fiscal Year the national youth allocation is \$940.5 million; however, the President’s Federal FY 2007 proposal for WIA Youth is \$840.5 million nationally. She explained that foremost, this allocation is proposed for consolidation with WIA Adult, Dislocated Workers, Employment Services, WOTC and Workforce Information grants into a new \$3.4 billion state block grant, which will primarily fund Career Advancement Accounts (CAA) - CAA’s would not be available to In-School Youth, which means In-School programs would be eliminated.

In relation to the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), which funds over 200 community-based organizations providing more than 100,000 people with a broad array of services, that includes DYCD contracts, NYC currently receives \$30.3 million; however, the President's FY 2007 budget proposals request no money for CSBG. She explained that she is working with the Chairs of the Youth Board/Youth Council to develop a position letter to alert Congress of the devastating effects that these cuts will have on human services in New York City.

Commissioner Mullgrav concluded her remarks with an update on CAPITAL 2006 referring everyone to the brochures included with the meeting materials and describing how the youth participated in 3-hour orientation programs on February 22 and 23. Finally, she thanked the Youth Board/Youth Council for their involvement and support of the initiative.

Youth Board Report

Mr. McKeon expressed appreciation to Commissioner Mullgrav for her report and added that he and other members continue to work closely with DYCD staff on CAPITAL. He explained that during the month of April he hosted a round of mock interviews for participants during school holidays, the majority of the young people gave up free time to journey midtown and participate. He thanked Erana Stennett for making possible, through Bloomberg, L.P., suiting from Career Gear and Dress for Success for all the youth in the program.

Mr. McKeon next introduced Deputy Commissioner for Community Development, Suzanne Lynn, for further updates on the CAPITAL program. She explained that there were challenges in maintaining the level of interest of all the participants in this initial program and that some had dropped out. Rae Linefsky suggested an evaluation or some form of documenting the CAPITAL process for later review. Erana Stennett suggested reaching out to ISY and SYEP groups to inform them of the work-readiness needs of the youth, as experienced by staff coordinating the initiative. Suzanne concluded by mentioning the plans underway for a CAPITAL kick-off event to take place at the NASDAQ MarketSite Tower in late June.

WIA OSY Presentation

Rich McKeon was grateful for Ms. Lynn's updates and introduced Megan Kennan, Director of the Out-of-School Youth initiatives. Ms. Keenan provided a presentation on WIA funded OSY initiatives. Her overview highlighted the new WIA emphasis on older youth; the performance Measures and challenges from the Common Performance Measures; lessons learned from administering the OSY programs relocated to DYCD in 2003; DYCD's goals and Vision for OSY services through its RFP; and, the potential impacts on the program from the President's proposed federal budget. Ms. Keenan took the time to re-emphasize the last point at the conclusion of her presentation, as the President's proposed budget calls for a consolidation of WIA funds into a block grant to the states, which many fear would provide less-than comprehensive services. Mr. McKeon thanked Ms. Keenan for her report and asked that DYCD continue to keep the Youth Board/Youth Council informed of budget developments, so that they can continue to play a role urging Congress to provide adequate funding.

Youth Council and Youth Board/Youth Council Committee Reports

Mr. McKeon turned the meeting over to Youth Council Vice Chair, Rae Linefsky, who provided the Youth Council Report. Ms. Linefsky explained that both she and Youth Council Chair Reg Foster are members of the WIB Strategic Planning Committee, and that this committee is working with consultants, the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning, to map information about education and training programs in New York City's healthcare sector, as part of the WIB's healthcare sector strategy. She also mentioned at that meeting was the Center for Urban Future report, "Chance of a Lifetime," which highlighted the growth in the healthcare sector and the implications for youth. Ms. Linefsky next updated the gathering about the work of the Youth Board/Youth Council Program Workgroup and that at its last meeting they discussed evaluating, documenting and future steps for CAPITAL. The workgroup suggested evaluating the impact of the program on youth participants' attitudes and those of employers.

Mr. McKeon thanked Ms. Linefsky for her report and then asked Ms. Haskell for updates from the Youth Board Funding and Resource Allocation Committee and the Youth Board/Youth Council Special Events Workgroup. Ms. Haskell informed the members that the Funding and Resource Allocation Committee was provided with a presentation by Assistant Commissioner Richard Fish on Family Literacy services at its last meeting and that the Special Events Workgroup discussed the kick-off and closing event strategies for CAPITAL, as well as activities for YouthWeek 2006.

Ms. Haskell also noted for the members that a separate handout for the N.Y. Association of Training and Employment Professionals summit, "The World and Our Workforce: The Importance of Education and High Skills To New York's Competitiveness in the Innovation Economy," would take place on June 8, 2006, if members were interested in attending. She also added that at the conclusion of a three year review, DYCD and the Department of Small Business Services were praised by the U.S. Department of Labor for their willingness, commitment and actions to improve the level and quality of services to persons with disabilities. She explained that the Workforce Investment Act requires universal access to all programs funded under its authority and that this positive comment from the USDOL, references one level in which DYCD is taking steps to ensure that young people, regardless of challenges and barriers, have equal access to services from the Local Workforce Development System that will help them achieve self-sufficiency.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting Summary:

- Explore suggested CAPITAL exit poll or evaluation method with DYCD staff.
- Follow-up with YB/YC Chairs on strategies, which could involve them, concerning the Federal Budget.