

MINUTES
Meeting of the Department of Youth and Community Development Youth Board
And
New York City Workforce Investment Board Youth Council
September 8, 2005
Economic Development Corporation
110 William Street 8th floor
New York, New York 10038

Present:

Youth Board/ Youth Council members:

Peter Borish	Rae Linefsky	Dave Pollak
Ellen Chen	Richard McKeon	Sibyl Silberstein
Alison Clarke ¹	Andrew Miller ²	Lena Townsend
Ivy Fairchild	Jeanne Mullgrav	Lynette Velasco
Rev. Michel Faulkner	Maureen O'Connor	Nancy Wackstein
Reg Foster	Tom Pendleton ³	
William Janowitz	Franc Perry	
Charles Langere	Michelle Pinnock ⁴	

Guests:

Dan Barasch, Bill Bloomfield, Rebecca Brown, Chris Caruso, Chris Cesarani, Bill Chong, Brian Egan, Karen Fleshman, Susan Haskell, Everett Hughes, Suzanne Lynn, Elizabeth Norman, Michael Ognibene, Jeremy Reiss, Miriam Schreiner, Marilyn Shea, Ana Ventura

Youth Board Chair Report

Youth Board Chair Rich McKeon called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m. He reported that a name has been selected for the Youth Board/ Youth Council initiative to seek corporate sector summer youth employment opportunities: Corporate Allies Program of Internships, Training, and Leadership (CAPITAL 2006). He has lined up the following companies to provide career orientations to potential CAPITAL participants: Bank of America, North Fork Bank, Seedco, and the Intrepid Museum. He asked members to arrange for corporations to offer career orientation seminars in the fall for potential CAPITAL 2006 participants to help them understand corporate employment opportunities, and the skills and education required to succeed. A list was circulated and members signed up to contact corporations.

Rae Linefsky asked if Reg Foster will make a formal request to the WIB to participate in CAPITAL. Reg Foster replied that he would do so at the WIB meeting on

¹ Representing Verna Eggleston, Commissioner, Human Resource Administration

² Representing Neil Hernandez, Commissioner, Department of Juvenile Justice

³ Representing Michele Cahill, Senior Counselor for Education Policy, Department of Education

⁴ Representing Tino Hernandez, Chairman, New York City Housing Authority

September 14. Nancy Wackstein asked if Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) providers had been contacted. Karen Fleshman replied that she had explained CAPITAL to the SYEP providers at an August meeting and would provide further information at their October close out meeting. Rae Linefsky volunteered to assist in drafting criteria for nominations to the program. Ivy Fairchild asked if it was alright for companies to commit to providing orientations but not summer employment. Rich McKeon replied that it was fine to seek commitments for the orientations. Rich McKeon further reported that Andrew Alper, President of the Economic Development Corporation, and Erana Stennett, Vice Chair of the Youth Board, are reaching out to William Rudin, President of the Association for a Better New York, to find a champion for this program.

Youth Council Chair Report

Youth Council Chair Reg Foster discussed the Executive Committee's follow through on the disconnected youth resolution passed at the June 2005 meeting. The Youth Board and Youth Council will 1) host a series of policy breakfasts to generate consensus on topics the Young Adult Task Force identified as outstanding; 2) coordinate with the Young Adult Task Force on the release of its report; 3) work with the Interagency Coordinating Council on Youth on the subject of disconnected youth. The topics for the disconnected youth policy breakfasts will be:

- An overview of the issue by a labor economist and success stories from employers and young people who began working and pursued education after a period of disconnection
- Best practices for providers serving disconnected youth
- Improving coordination between employers, providers, and government to address the needs of disconnected youth and their prospective employers

Rev. Michel Faulkner asked to what degree community stakeholders will be engaged in the policy breakfasts. He expressed concern about designing programs without community input. Reg Foster replied that providers were significant participants in the work of the Task Force. He expressed interest in discussing with Reverend Faulkner how to increase community input. Rev. Faulkner volunteered to host a focus group with disconnected young people. Commissioner Mullgrav commented that DYCD is strongly committed to ensuring all voices, especially those of people to be served, are heard in the development of programs, and that the Youth Workforce Development Concept Paper DYCD published in August 2005 was the product of many focus groups DYCD convened with youth, providers, employers, and experts. She further commented that every RFP DYCD produces is based on the viewpoint of people working in the field, and that she welcomes Rev. Faulkner's input. She suggested that he work with Deputy Commissioner Suzanne Lynn to organize the focus group. Reg Foster suggested that Rev. Faulkner participate in the Executive Committee conference calls, where the disconnected youth topic is discussed, and extended the invitation to all interested Youth Board and Youth Council members. Lena Townsend expressed that it is important to

approach the community with a tangible solution. Michelle Pinnock offered NYCHA facilities to host the policy breakfasts.

Reg Foster asked the members to consider sponsoring the policy breakfasts. Peter Borish asked if the breakfasts would be by invitation only, and where they would occur. Lynnette Velasco cautioned that this is a sensitive issue, and care should be taken when inviting participants. Reg Foster said that while invitations will go out to stakeholders who are engaged on this subject, the breakfasts will be open to the public, and located in a central place in Manhattan. The people invited might vary from topic to topic, but a core group will likely attend all the breakfasts. Rae Linefsky asked what the end result of the policy breakfasts would be. Reg Foster said that the goal was to form consensus about how to move forward. Rev. Faulkner called for a parallel process of community outreach, and said that he was concerned that a solution developed without community input would not be effective. Reg Foster said that the work of the Task Force had been driven by community input. Deputy Commissioner Suzanne Lynn described the extensive focus groups that went into the Youth Workforce Development Concept Paper. Commissioner Mullgrav explained DYCD's ongoing process of seeking community input. For the Runaway and Homeless Youth RFP, for example, DYCD spoke with parents, runaway and homeless youth, GLBTQ runaway and homeless youth, and homeless adults who had been runaway and homeless youth to find out what intervention they wished they had had as a young person that would have helped them avoid homelessness in the future.

Reg Foster next discussed the Youth Board/ Youth Council's role in the release of the Young Adult Task Force report. Bill Bloomfield spoke on his plans to release the report in the third week of September. DYCD will not have formal involvement in the report release, but will be listed as a task force participant. Reg Foster said that since the Youth Board and Youth Council had adopted a resolution that cited the report, he would like to provide a comment for the report's press release indicating that the Youth Board and Youth Council find that the report has value, and that the Youth Board and Youth Council are undertaking activities in response to the report's recommendations. A consensus was reached that Reg Foster could provide such a comment.

Reg Foster reported that the Interagency Coordinating Council on Youth will begin a year-long focus on disconnected youth at their meeting on September 20. Rich McKeon and Nancy Wackstein, the Youth Board representative to the ICC, will present on the Youth Board and Youth Council resolution at the meeting.

Franc Perry moved to adopt the minutes from the June 9, 2005 minutes. Dave Pollak asked that the spelling of his name be corrected, and Maureen O'Connor asked that her name be alphabetized under 'O.' Sibyl Silberstein seconded the motion, and the minutes were adopted as amended.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Jeanne B. Mullgrav praised DYCD staff who worked hard to ensure that OST programs would be up and running at the start of the school year. Providers are currently obtaining enrollment information. DYCD staff conducted responsibility determinations and, for the first time, shepherded providers through the School Age Child Care licensing process, resulting in a higher standard of quality. She thanked the Youth Board for suggesting that DYCD staff conduct site visits to potential providers, and said that the visits had yielded important considerations. She acknowledged DYCD's ongoing work with the Wallace and Clark foundations to obtain additional resources for OST. The Clark Foundation has granted one million dollars to enhance OST services at priority middle schools. She acknowledged Deputy Commissioner Bill Chong and Assistant Commissioner Chris Caruso for their leadership and hard work.

DYCD released a Concept Paper on Runaway and Homeless Youth Services on August 26, and will receive comments through September 16. The Concept Paper calls for enhanced preventive and follow-up services through the addition of "community connection coordinators" at drop-in centers in all five boroughs, since young people runaway from homes in all five boroughs. She thanked the Department of Juvenile Justice for sharing the home zip codes of young people involved in the juvenile justice system, which were helpful in determining where preventive and follow-up services should be located. Another new aspect of runaway and homeless services will be the involvement of liaisons to City agencies that have contact with many runaway and homeless youth, to help link young people to resources. Another focus is on designing specialized services for GLBTQ and parenting young people, since many are thrown out of their homes. DYCD will also expand the number of crisis shelter providers and beds in Transitional Independent Living (TIL) facilities. Commissioner Mullgrav acknowledged Susan Haskell, the new Assistant Commissioner for Vulnerable Youth, for her work in this area.

DYCD released a Concept Paper on youth workforce development programs July 15 and received comments through August 8. Commissioner Mullgrav thanked the members who responded to the Concept Paper. Some of the new features outlined in the Concept Paper include a stronger connection to academic enhancement, and focus on partnerships and meaningful and relevant work experience. Commissioner Mullgrav thanked Workforce Investment Board Executive Director Marilyn Shea for helping DYCD staff to connect with employers.

Out-of-School Time

Youth Board Funding and Resource Allocation Committee Chair Ellen Chen drew members' attention to the resolution endorsing the OST selection process and awards at Tab 7 in the materials. She summarized the milestones on the path to OST. The planning process began with a Mayoral summit in October 2003. DYCD released a Concept Paper on OST in the Spring of 2004 and the RFP in December 2004. In

February 2005, DYCD received 1100 proposals for OST funding, which were reviewed by staff of DYCD and sister agencies and Youth Board and Youth Council members. In June 2005, DYCD announced the organizations that had been deemed eligible to negotiate for an award: 40% of the applicants for a total of 569 programs. Each of the 58 targeted zip codes will receive a program. Public schools will host 320 programs; 32 will be located in NYCHA community centers; and 13 in Parks facilities. The Partnership for Afterschool Education (PASE) was awarded the contract to provide technical assistance to providers, and Policy Study Associates was awarded the contract to evaluate the entire system. Rich McKeon asked if there were any surprises during the process. DYCD General Counsel Everett Hughes replied that the process was tight, and had shown that the timeframe for a large competition can be minimized while following the Procurement Policy Rules when the Mayor asks all City agencies to work at the same pace. Bill Chong replied that the process ensured OST will serve neighborhoods that had not been served before, ensuring an equitable distribution of resources. Lynette Velasco commented that she was impressed by DYCD's holistic approach to young people, which resonates with her experience teaching literacy. Maureen O'Connor, who participated as a proposal evaluator, thanked DYCD for its efficient use of technology, and commented that the training she received was excellent. Ivy Fairchild, who also evaluated proposals, expressed appreciation for DYCD staff who delivered and picked up her proposal on time. Ellen Chen congratulated staff, and said she hoped the site visits had been fruitful.

Peter Borish moved to adopt the resolution at tab 7, reprinted at the end of these minutes, and acknowledged Ellen Chen for her leadership throughout the process. He commented that it is always inspiring to visit CBOs and meet highly qualified staff who could be making significantly more money yet are dedicated to helping others. Nancy Wackstein asked if the Youth Board would have a similar endorsement role with other DYCD youth programs. Commissioner Mullgrav replied that the Youth Board is one of many across the State, required by State law to provide oversight to Youth Development and Delinquency Prevention-funded programs. Because YDDP constitutes part of the funding for OST, the Youth Board has a formal role in OST. Franc Perry seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

Karen Fleshman asked members to please send updated information for their bios listed on the DYCD website and announced that the next meeting will be on December 8 from 8:30-10:00 a.m. at a location to be determined.

Lena Townsend asked about efforts to support people displaced by Hurricane Katrina. Rev. Faulkner said he is part of a state-wide task force, and that the Jamaica Armory would be open to accept donations. Health benefits will be available to people who move to New York.

Rich McKeon adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Youth Board OST Endorsement Resolution

Whereas: The Out-of-School Time program of the Department of Youth and Community Development is the result of a planning process initiated by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg in October 2003; and

Whereas: Youth development program providers, funders, and City agency staff contributed to the development of the Out-of-School Time Concept Paper DYCD issued in Summer 2004; and

Whereas: Comments received from community stakeholders and the public at large on the Concept Paper were reflected in the Out-of-School Time Request for Proposals issued by DYCD in December 2004; and

Whereas: DYCD has adhered to the New York City Procurement Policy Rules in organizing the Out-of School Time procurement and making awards; and

Whereas: under the laws of the State of New York, the Youth Board has advisory responsibility for DYCD's development of youth programs and policies; and

Whereas: DYCD has consulted with the Youth Board throughout the OST procurement process; and

Whereas: Some Youth Board members participated as evaluators of OST proposals; and

Whereas: DYCD program staff conducted site visits to all first time City contractors deemed eligible to negotiate an award in satisfaction of the Youth Board's request;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Youth Board of the City of New York endorses the procurement process of OST services organized by the Department of Youth and Community Development and the awards of OST contracts to community-based organizations selected through said procurement process.