

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Department of Youth and Community Development Youth Board**  
**Workforce Investment Board Youth Council**  
**December 7, 2006, 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.**  
**Harlem Children's Zone, 35 East 125th Street**  
**New York, New York 10035**

***Present:***

Youth Board/Youth Council members:

Alison Clarke <sup>1</sup>	Lena Townsend	Rev. Michel Faulkner
Ana Garcia Reyes	Rev. William Franc Perry	Rich McKeon
Bryan Rivera <sup>2</sup>	Maureen O'Connor	Sibyl Silberstein
Taman Paisley <sup>3</sup>	Milga Morales Nadal	Susan Royer
Dodd Terry <sup>4</sup>	Nancy Wackstein	Tom Pendleton <sup>5</sup>
Ivelisse Fairchild	Peter Kleinbard	William Janowitz
Jeanne B. Mullgrav	Peter Borish	
Karen Fulbright-Anderson	Rae Linefsky	
Kurt Sonnenfeld	Reg Foster	

***Guests:***

Alyson Palmer, Bill Chong , Chris Caruso, Chris Cesarani, Dara Rose, David DuPuy, Jamal Williams, Jenny Roper, Karen Fleshman, Laban Reeves, Mario Bruno, Michael Ognibene, Miguel Almodovar, Robin McClary, Susan Haskell, Suzanne Lynn, Yael Bat Chava, and Yvette Furman,

Youth Council Chair Reg Foster called the meeting to order and asked Commissioner Mullgrav if she would like to give a report on DYCD.

***Commissioner's Report***

Commissioner Mullgrav thanked Geoffrey Canada and the Harlem Children's Zone for hosting the meeting and sponsoring the breakfast. She continued her remarks by highlighting significant accomplishments that took place at DYCD during 2006, such as: completing the first year of Out-of-School Time programs, a redesign of our system to serve runaway and homeless youth, and the start of new In-School and Out-of-School WIA Youth programs. Commissioner Mullgrav thanked the members for their efforts to educate the public about the impact of federal funding cuts to Workforce Investment Act (WIA) supported programs and the follow-up letter written by the Youth Board and Youth Council in support of funding for WIA Youth Programs.

Commissioner Mullgrav informed the members that the fall was busy, with many events marking the significant accomplishments of DYCD. October marked the 10<sup>th</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Attended the meeting on behalf of Verna Eggleston, Commissioner, Human Resources Administration

<sup>2</sup> Attended the meeting on behalf of South Bronx Job Corps

<sup>3</sup> Attended the meeting on behalf of Neil Hernandez, Commissioner, Department of Juvenile Justice

<sup>4</sup> Attended the meeting on behalf of John Mattingly, Commissioner, Administration for Children's Services

<sup>5</sup> Attended the meeting on behalf of Michelle Cahill, Senior Counsel, NYC Department of Education

Anniversary of the merger of the Department of Youth Services and the Community Development Agency, known now as DYCD. Additionally, October was a time to celebrate National Lights on After School at Boys and Girl's Harbor OST program in East Harlem, and the kick-off of our Adolescent Literacy Programs at Scholastic, Inc. Commissioner Mullgrav shared with the members that November was the month for DYCD's second annual conference to mark Runaway Prevention Month, which attracted more than 300 people at the Harlem PAL. She added that also during November Girl's REACH celebrated the completion of its first year at Oxygen Media with the Commission on Women's Issues and CAPITAL had its celebration, which was hosted by Youth Board member Erana Stennett at Bloomberg, LP.

Commissioner Mullgrav next highlighted initiatives scheduled to be launched next year. She explained that DYCD released two Concept Papers, one for the Beacon Programs, and one for Immigrant Services, which will have corresponding RFP's released in the very near future.

Commissioner Mullgrav concluded her remarks by extending an invitation for the members to join DYCD at its Holiday Party on December 13<sup>th</sup>, at Remy's Lounge in Downtown Manhattan and then turned the meeting back over to Rich McKeon.

#### ***Youth Board Chair Report***

Rich McKeon welcomed everyone present and began his report by directing the members' attention to the CAPITAL 2006 two page summary under meeting book tab four. He recapped the program's successes – 16 participating employers, outfits from dress for success and career gear, positive feedback from employers and participants and offers to some interns to return to their internships next summer. Mr. McKeon informed the members that DYCD has hired a full time director for the program and that he looked forward to exploring with him for supporting the 2007 program. Mr. McKeon next turned the meeting over to Reg Foster.

#### ***Youth Council Chair Report***

Mr. Foster informed the group that he looked forward to strategizing together on new ways to help support youth workforce development programs in the New Year.

- He recapped for the members the panel discussion that he, Deputy Commissioner Suzanne Lynn, Michelle Cahill of the NYC Department of Education; and, Consultant Mark Elliott participated in at the Workforce Investment Board meeting on September 13 on Preparing NYC's Youth for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.
- Mr. Foster recapped for the group that on September 18, in collaboration with the New York Association of Training and Employment Professionals' (NYATEP), the New York City Employment and Training Coalition (NYCETC), and the Youth Council, hosted a gathering at ConEdison to inform WIA funded youth providers about WIA PY 06 reductions in funding.
- He added that on October 5, 2006, the Youth Board and Youth Council jointly sent letters to Senators Schumer and Clinton urging them to continue to fight to preserve funding for Workforce Investment Act funded programs (the letters were under meeting book tab three).

- Mr. Foster noted the release in September of the report and recommendations from the City Commission for Economic Opportunity. He continued by telling the members that he was pleased to see young people at the forefront of the Commission's recommendations — he explained that the report identified Young Adults, Young Children and the Working Poor as populations identified as critical for services aimed toward reducing poverty.

***Workgroup and Committee Reports***

The Program Workgroup, the Special Events Workgroup and Funding and Resource Allocation Committee provided brief updates on their work (meeting minutes were included the members' materials for the day).

- Rev. Franc Perry thanked the members who were able to support special events during 2006 and told the gathering that he looked forward to new projects in 2007.
- Maureen O'Conner for Rae Linefsky told members that the Program Workgroup was on tract with an internet safety conference for spring 2007.
- Peter Borish for Ellen Chen informed the members about the Immigrant Initiatives Concept Paper presentation that took place at the last Funding and Resource Allocation Committee meeting and that the gathering discussed OST in further detail as a follow-up to the Policy Study Associates presentation at the September 7 regular meeting.

***Panel Discussion on Out-of-School Time***

Mr. Foster turned the meeting over to Commissioner Mullgrav who provided background on the next agenda topic. Commissioner Mullgrav explained that as a follow-up to members request for more discussion on OST programming, a panel of experts were invited to today's meeting to discuss with members how we can continue to improve the quality of OST Programs. She explained how the New York OST system is unified by goals and standards that promote the positive development of young people, that it was developed through an open process that examined the work of experts, that it incorporates new ways of thinking about program participation, and that we are pleased with initial feedback and evaluation of our programs. Commissioner Mullgrav turned the meeting over to Assistant Commissioner Chris Caruso, who would be moderating the discussion. Mr. Caruso introduced the panelists: Geoffrey Canada, President/CEO of Harlem Children's Zone, Prof. Pedro Noguera, Steinhardt School of Education at NYU, and Jane Quinn, Assistant Executive Director, Children's Aid Society.

He offered the first question to Geoffrey Canada: What are elements that HCZ offers that work to achieve results just described? Mr. Canada began his remarks by telling the members that good youth development feeds young people necessary skills and knowledge without them knowing (he an gave example of his martial arts classes). The results of good youth development work are not often seen in direct measurement and the larger results are not visible for years later. He noted that short term some results are visible, such as good health, good attendance, however, it is critically important to create links, between schools and community orgs where the line of responsibility for young people remains continuous to build further on positive development.

Mr. Caruso then offered the next question to Prof. Pedro Noguera: What role should OST programs play in relationship to the City's Children First initiative? Prof. Noguera commented that he did not feel that public schools provided adequate supports for young people to achieve in school and explained that "enhanced" activities after school reinforce the value of learning. He explained that research demonstrated that these activities – the chess club, cultural activities, etc., in comparison to solely academic "drill" activities, better engages and connects young people to school.

Mr. Caruso directed the final question to Jane Quinn: What has the national experience and research shown about the benefits of OST programs? Ms. Quinn highlighted how, though OST as a field is fairly young, cities, such as Los Angeles, which has a 15 year old program called LA's Best, have been able to do a longitudinal study. She continued by telling the members that research shows that when young people participate in high quality programs they have better academic and social skills, and health. The studies also shows higher graduation rates.

Peter Borish asked about evaluation, how should we do it and how do we determine whether one OST program is better than another? Mr. Canada explained that the field is very early in understanding the how and what, and when considering this topic we have to 1) include training and support of the delivery of service and 2) look at what it actually costs to produce an outcome, as well as bear in mind that the ability to produce an outcome will vary from organization to organization.

Prof. Noguera noted that long term systemic evaluation is important to highlight whether programming overall is having an impact, however, there are short term outcomes that that can be demonstrated immediately, such as better attendance at school, healthier habits, and improved social skills, however, the extent of these successes will depend on the continuum of caring connections the young people have in their lives.

Jane Quinn added that high quality OST programs also impact on the skills a young person will need for the workplace. She referenced a book by Frank Levy and Richard J. Murnane, "Teaching the New Basic Skills," which highlights how today's corporations are searching for a mix of hard and soft skills – the types of skills not often taught in schools.

Yael Bat Chava, Director of DYCD's Planning, Research and Program Development commented that Policy Studies Associates will be looking at different outcomes over a period of time from meeting attendance during year one to levels of engagement and academic success by year three.

Mr. Borish asked where the resources would be best be focused. Mr. Canada commented that the key to the success in any evaluation of outcomes for this new system will be the devotion of resources to train the staff making the long term connections to young people. Commissioner Mullgrav noted the importance of setting aside funding for

evaluation – even at the expense of additional services – in order to advance the field for higher quality services in the future.

Karen Fulbright Anderson made an end note to the discussion by summarizing that an interim outcome to look for is recognizing that all programs can not do all things and that training for staff will help foster the long term outcomes members are hoping to see achieved, such as higher graduation rates and academic success.

[Note: Harlem Children's Zone staff offered a tour of facilities to the members at the conclusion of the meeting, which many of the members and guests accepted.]

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