

MINUTES
Youth Board/WIB Youth Council
December 3, 2008
IBM
590 Madison Avenue
New York, New York
8:30 AM to 10:30 AM

Present:

Youth Board/Youth Council members¹:

Ana Garcia Reyes *	Kurt Sonnenfeld, EdD *	Reg Foster *
Anthony Sumpter, Sr. *	Lena Townsend *	Rev. Michel Faulkner *
Arnold Dorin *	Lynette Velasco	Richard F. McKeon *
Charles Hamilton	Maureen O'Connor *	Rick Amato
Ellen Chen *	Milga Morales Nadal, PhD	Robert Purga
Erana Stennett *	Nancy Wackstein *	Sgt. Margaret O'Gara
Gregory Hambric *	Nadine Reid	Sibyl Silberstein, PhD *
Ikra Ahmad *	Neil Hernandez * ³	Susan Royer
Ivelisse Fairchild	Omoniyi Amoran	Tino Hernandez
Jeanne B. Mullgrav *	Peter Borish *	Franc Perry, Esq.
Jermaine Williams *	Peter Kleinbard	
JoEllen Lynch *	Rae Linefsky *	
John Mattingly * ²	Raymond Codrington *	

Guests:

Tom Pendleton, Yvette Furman, Bill Chong, Carolann Johns, Noel De La Rosa, John Cirolia, Maricela Brea, Ryan Pirtle McVeigh, Daphne Montanez, Stephanie Martinez, Nicole Halsey, Marsha Davis, Anthony Ramirez, Suzanne Lynn, Michelle Yanche, Anthony Ng, Susan Haskell and Christopher Cesarani

Youth Council Chair Reg Foster called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the IBM corporate offices.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Mullgrav welcomed the members and thanked Mr. Foster for making their training room available for today's meeting.

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

² Nicole Halsey was in attendance for Commissioner Neil Hernandez.

³ Marsha Davis was in attendance for Commissioner John Mattingly.

Youth Connect e-Blast Launch

Commissioner Mullgrav explained how DYCD is focusing on the best ways to communicate information about resources for youth using technology as a tool. She highlighted the October 10, launch of the *Youth Connect* e-Blast, which was sent by email to more than 70,000 New York City young people who have expressed an interest in our employment and after school programming. She described how *Youth Connect* is an online expansion of DYCD's existing telephone hotline (formerly Youthline), which fielded approximately 47,000 calls in the last fiscal year. She explained that *Youth Connect* e-Blasts are sent out every month to subscribers and referenced the most recent example sent included in the meeting booklets. She directed the members attention to how it each e-blast includes the latest information on how, when and where to sign up for a variety exciting opportunities and she invited everyone present to subscribe to *Youth Connect* and share comments or questions via our website. She concluded by highlighting that in addition to the eblasts, since October 10, more 175 inquiries via email from youth, parents and service providers have been received - the top categories referenced to date were employment, followed by internships and SYEP-specific inquiries, OST, Beacon programs and runaway and homeless youth services. This is a new feature to our website.

Procurement

Commissioner Mullgrav updated the members on several funding opportunities in various stages, including the: Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) Request for Proposals (RFP); Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Request for Proposals (RFP); and Family Literacy Services Concept Paper.

DYCD Budget Approach

Commissioner Mullgrav provided updates on the economic downturn and how DYCD implements creative approaches to streamlining costs. She explained that DYCD has been fortunate to identify savings without having to substantially cut programming and that the agency's approach is guided by the following values: maintaining core programs; identifying efficiencies; no across the board cuts; avoid destabilizing communities where we have just invested; draw down funds from other sources; and, utilizing evaluation and performance analysis.

Youth Workforce Development

Reallocation of In-School Youth (ISY) and Out-of-School Youth (OSY) Employment Program Funds

Next, Commissioner Mullgrav directed the members' attention to an email that was sent to them on November 12, outlining some structural changes to WIA funding allocations. She explained that on July 1, 2009, DYCD will reallocate more than one third of the existing ISY funding (\$12.6M) to OSY to significantly increase the number of participants in OSY. She continued by explaining that in future years, the amount of ISY funds to be transferred to OSY will further increase as ISY contracts expire and follow-up obligations on existing cohorts are met. She added that current ISY contracts will be renewed September 1, 2009 to serve existing juniors and non-graduating seniors, including the 12-month follow-up period.

WIA ISY to OST High School Programs

Related to the reallocation of WIA funding, Commissioner Mullgrav explained that on November 12, DYCD released a new Concept Paper relating to Out-Of-School Time (OST) programs for high school youth. (this concept paper was providing in the meeting booklet). She informed the members that the WIA ISY program model will now be part of the plan for an Out-of-School Time (OST) High School programs Request for Proposals (RFP). She encouraged the members to review the Concept Paper which can be found on the DYCD website, the WIA model is under the heading Transition to Adulthood Programs. She noted that the deadline to submit comments is December 15, 2008 and new programs awarded under this RFP are expected to begin September 1, 2009.

Commissioner Mullgrav noted that these modifications were made for a number of reasons: to comply with New York State directives on federal WIA funding allocations, which mandate a reallocation of funding to programs serving older youth (OSY); to expand opportunity to disconnected youth using WIA funding; and, to manage programs for high school aged youth more effectively.

Commissioner Mullgrav introduced John Cirolia, Assistant Commissioner for Finance, who provided further a City and State budget reductions update, with particular focus on the “Program to Eliminate the Gap” (PEG) process.

City and State Budget Reductions Update

Mr. Cirolia began his update by describing how the Program to Eliminate the Gap (PEG) Process is a deficit reduction mechanism that has been in use since the 1970s and has a more than 30 year track record of success in cutting government costs and monitoring City spending levels. As part of his presentation, he distributed DYCD’s portion of the PEG. (Attached).

Efficiencies

Mr. Cirolia continued by highlighting efficiencies implemented through WIA and OST programs, particularly, the combining of federally funded Workforce Investment Act (WIA) In-school Youth program into the OST high school program to support a new OST high school model, mentioned earlier.

Next, he highlighted how DYCD will streamline overlapping OST/Beacon service area programs by consolidating 10 OST middle school programs with Beacon Centers, where they are co-located and operated by the same provider. Mr. Cirolia explained that Beacon contracts will be increased to accommodate the transfer of a majority of the OST middle school youth and that DYCD anticipates this will create savings and also represent a more efficient use of DYCD resources.

Mr. Cirolia next addressed the Summer Youth Employment Program savings identified, which are based on historic participation rates. He explained that DYCD anticipates that SYEP participants will work seven fewer hours (1 day) during the first week of the 7-week Summer 2009 program, which will result in no impact on numbers served.

Evaluation and Performance Analysis

Mr. Cirolia continued by explaining that other savings identified resulted from evaluation and performance analysis. As an example he used the expiration of OST contracts on August 31, 2008, where some providers elected not to renew, or to renew at lower levels. Further, he highlighted that additional savings were obtained by eliminating 4,190 unallocated OST slots in 2009 and 2,395 slots in 2010.

He also described how the DYCD CEO Young Adult Internship Program will realize savings of \$200,000 from unexpended funds allocated to service provider contracts. Mr. Cirolia explained that these funds result from unspent wages budgeted for participants' salaries, resulting in no impact on the numbers served.

Creative Revenue Substitutions (instead of program reductions)

Finally, Mr. Cirolia provided examples of creative revenue substitutions. He explained that DYCD's budget is adjusted to reflect prior year revenues for which there are no outstanding receivables. He also added that DYCD will realize additional revenue from recovered Workers Compensation overpayments from prior fiscal years.

Peter Borish asked about the reduction of SYEP hours and whether that indicates heading in a direction of economic and program slowdown. He added to his inquiry whether there is something that we can look at optimistically, in light of the economic down turn. Commissioner Mullgrav responded that DYCD approaches all reductions in a strategic way, foremost preserving quality programs, as well as jobs for SYEP.

Erana Stennett asked that DYCD reach out to non-profits to discuss ways where they can consolidate and implement efficiencies. Commissioner Mullgrav responded by describing how DYCD executive staff have been participating in a number of informational meetings with CBOs to discuss ways to make more efficient back office work and pool resources with other non-profits.

[At the conclusion of Commissioner Mullgrav's remarks and Mr. Cirolia's update, Reg Foster called for discussion on the reallocation of WIA funding. After discussion amongst the members on the topic of the reallocation of WIA funding, Mr. Foster called for a "motion to support" from the Youth Council in favor of this restructuring. A motion was made and then seconded. There being a quorum present, the motion was confirmed., with one abstention.]

Today's Presentation - Multiple Pathways to Graduation

Mr. Foster introduced Jo Ellen Lynch, CEO, and Tom Pendleton, Director, from the NYC Department of Education's "Learning to Work Initiative". Ms. Lynch began her presentation by describing the work of the office of Multiple Pathways to Graduation (MPG), as addressing how to bring more students to graduation, particularly the nearly 140,000 16-21 year old young people who have dropped out of school or are significantly off track – the In- and Out-of-School Over-age (OA) and Under-Credited (UC) youth. She explained that one such program in the MPG portfolio is the Learning to Work Initiative (LTW) guides students in making workforce connections through employability skills training, subsidized internship placement, and job development, and also through obtaining a GED. She added that although challenges exist there are promising signs as improvements to the school system continue to be made – there are schools that evidence

“recuperative power”. Further, Ms. Lynch added that not all dropouts are the same – 30% of dropouts are ready to take the GED.

Mr. Pendleton then provided an overview of the other programs in the Multiple Pathways portfolio, including: Young Adult Borough Centers; Transfer Schools; and, the Learning to Work GED program. He explained how programs utilize an “asset based” approach grounded in youth development principles, and that services are targeted based on areas of need. He added that many of the CBOs collaborating with the LTW initiative are DYCD youth development contracted agencies. He concluded by telling the member that since its start, these programs have graduated nearly 7000 participants.

Nancy Wackstein asked what primary challenges exist. Ms. Lynch responded that the problems lay with many of the schools and not the young people, who also had many other barriers to overcome. Peter Borish asked if LTW participants are tracked beyond the program – is there any measure of economic impact. Ms. Lynch responded that the focus is on the graduation rates versus employment and retention, however, many youth development CBOs do have one year periods of follow-up for their programs. Peter Borish commented that there is a need to be advocates for more funding for successful programs that build competencies, as the infrastructure for our future lies in people’s skills.

Rich McKeon directed the members’ attention to the last remaining administrative item of business, the approval of the September 4, 2008 quarterly meeting minutes included in the meeting book. [A motion was made to approve the minutes and then seconded. There being a quorum present, the motion to approve was confirmed.]

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

Department of Youth and Community Development

Description	(City Funds in 000's)			
	FY 2009 F/T HC \$	FY 2010 F/T HC \$	FY 2011 F/T HC \$	FY 2012 F/T HC \$
Consolidate OST and Beacons Programming Consolidates ten Out of School Time(OST) middle school programs that are co-located with Beacon schools.	--	(\$1,000)	(\$1,000)	(\$1,000)
Integrate Workforce Investment Funding with OST Combines federally funded Workforce Investment Act(W/IA) In-school Youth program into the OST high school program to support a new OST high school model.	\$0	(\$4,244)	(\$4,244)	(\$4,244)
Prior Year State Revenue The Department's budget is adjusted to reflect prior year revenues for which there are no outstanding receivables.	(\$848)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Refund of Workers' Compensation Overpayments The Department will realize additional revenue from recovered Workers Compensation overpayments from prior fiscal years.	(\$350)	\$0	\$0	\$0
OST Slot Reductions Eliminates 4,190 underutilized OST slots in 2009 and 2,395 slots in 2010.	(\$3,175)	(\$2,126)	(\$2,126)	(\$2,126)
Underspending in Young Adult Internships	(\$200)	\$0	\$0	\$0
2.5% Reduction in City Council Discretionary Funding	(\$1,116)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Work Hours Reduction in Summer Jobs for Teens Beginning in the summer of 2009, participants in the Summer Youth Employment Program(SYEP) will work seven fewer hours(1 day) during the seven week program.	\$0	(\$1,761)	(\$1,761)	(\$1,761)
Total Agency Program	(\$5,689)	(\$9,131)	(\$9,131)	(\$9,131)