

MEETING MINUTES
Department of Youth and Community Development Youth Board
New York City Workforce Investment Board Youth Council
March 3, 2005
UBS, 1285 Avenue of the Americas, 14th floor
New York, New York

Youth Board/Youth Council Members Present:

Peter Borish	Charles Langere	Susan Royer
Ellen Chen	Rae Linefsky	Sibyl Silberstein
Sheri Clarke Joseph ¹	Pardice McGoy ³	Caliaf St. Aubyn
Ivelisse Fairchild	Richard McKeon (YB	Kurt Sonnenfeld
Reg Foster (YC Chair)	Chair)	Lena Townsend
Karen Fulbright-Anderson	Andrew Miller ⁴	Lynette Velasco
Mohamed Ghanem	Jeanne B. Mullgrav ⁵	Nancy Wackstein
Ellen Howard-Cooper ²	Maureen O'Connor	
William Janowitz	Rev. William Franc Perry	

Guests:

Miguel Almodovar; Rebecca Brown; Ruth Caraballo; Christopher Caruso; Christopher Cesarani; Cindy Colter; Renna Draynel; Bryan Egan; Richard Fish; Karen Fleshman; Lisa Gulick; Everett Hughes; Brenda Jenifer; Martin Laird; Janice Molnar; Anthony Ng; Mike Nolan; Michael Ognibene; Vincent Perneti.

Youth Council Chair Report

Youth Council Chair Reg Foster called the meeting to order at 8:50 a.m. He reported on "Equipped for the Future," the national project to create a work readiness credential indicating that individuals have developed a certain set of skills sought by employers.

The New York State Workforce Investment Board Emerging Workers Committee, including members from the Departments of Labor and Education, are working on the credential in New York. Some controversy has emerged that the credential will serve as a substitute for a high school diploma. The NYS Department of Education wants the credential to fit within the Regents requirements. All involved want to ensure that young people have the skills they need to succeed in the workplace.

Mr. Foster drew attention to the 2005 meeting dates in the materials. The Youth Board/Youth Council will meet on June 9, 2005; September 8, 2005; and December 8, 2005. All meetings will take place from 8:30- 10:00 a.m.

¹ Representing John Mattingly, Commissioner, New York City Administration for Children's Services

² Representing Verna Eggleston, Commissioner, New York City Human Resource Administration

³ Representing Peter Kleinbard, Youth Development Institute

⁴ Representing Neil Hernandez, Commissioner, Department of Juvenile Justice

⁵ Commissioner, Department of Youth and Community Development

Youth Board Chair Report

Youth Board Chair Rich McKeon gave a report. First, he congratulated Franc Perry for his family's near-final adoption of a daughter from the foster care system.

The Youth Board/Council are planning a corporate sector youth employment program, modeled on Boston's success, to reward outstanding participants in SYEP with further employment opportunities and exposure to corporations. The corporations would hire and pay the youth employees directly.

To garner support for this project, Erana Stennett hosted a luncheon at Bloomberg LP in January with representatives of 20 Fortune 400 companies that are members of the Partnership for New York City, Commissioner Mullgrav, Reg Foster, Rae Linefsky, and Rich McKeon.

The Partnership members described their current youth employment efforts and discussed developing future collaborations with DYCD.

One of the Partnership members drew attention to the Work Opportunity Tax Credit, a federal tax credit of up to \$750 for employing certain summer youth, which sunsets on January 1, 2006.

Recently, Commissioner Mullgrav, Reg Foster, Rae Linefsky, Erana Stennett, and Rich McKeon met to develop a proposal for a modest pilot program, seeking corporate summer jobs for 100 young people screened by a handful of outstanding CBOs. The planning committee is looking for a corporate CEO who could serve as the honorary chairperson of this project. Rich McKeon asked the members to contact Commissioner Mullgrav, Erana Stennett, or him if they have a CEO-level contact who might be interested in championing this effort.

Youth Board/Council member Nancy Wackstein asked if the corporate employers would pay the participants' wages, and Rich McKeon said they would.

Commissioner Mullgrav stated that last summer, a small percentage of SYEP participants worked in private sector jobs, as DYCD balanced the notion of supporting private employment with public dollars against the benefit of participants' exposure to the private sector. This summer, DYCD hopes to find private sector employers who will pay the summer employees' wages and offer the employees "real world" work experience, not as a charity program, but with high expectations that the young people will produce results. She also referenced the Work Opportunity Tax Credit, which offers employers a tax break for hiring certain summer youth.

III. Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Jeanne B. Mullgrav thanked David Pollak for hosting the meeting.

Commissioner Mullgrav stated that on December 22, 2004, DYCD released the Out-of-School Time (OST) RFP, the largest procurement in DYCD's history. The RFP is rich in public resources. DYCD received over 1100 proposals, which staff are in the process of opening. The logistical challenge of processing so many proposals is led by Michael Ognibene. Commissioner Mullgrav thanked the Youth Board and Youth Council members for volunteering to evaluate proposals.

On January 18, DYCD, The New York Times Foundation, and the Literacy Assistance Center co-sponsored a *Summit on Immigrant Family Literacy Programs*, which featured a panel discussion with Deputy Mayor Dennis Walcott and Deputy Chancellor of Education Carmen Farina.

YouthWeek 2005 will take place from April 9-16, with a focus on community service. DYCD is collaborating with City Year and Children for Children and organizing YouthWeek earlier this year to coincide with National Youth Service Day.

IV. Committee Reports

Funding and Resource Allocation

Karen Fulbright-Anderson reported on the Funding and Resource Allocation committee, which met once since the last Youth Board/ Youth Council meeting.

Karen Fulbright-Anderson reported in more detail on the Immigrant Family Literacy Summit at the New York Times on January 18. Several Youth Board/ Youth Council members attended the summit, along with foundation program officers. An Immigrant Family Literacy Alliance is now forming. The goal is to galvanize greater commitment to supporting family literacy programs throughout the city. A second meeting will occur at the New York Times on March 9.

Karen Fulbright-Anderson thanked the Youth Board and Youth Council members who have volunteered to evaluate Out-of-School Time proposals, and encouraged those who have not done so already to volunteer. She also suggested that members seek volunteers among their colleagues.

The concern raised by Peter Borish at the committee's November meeting, that DYCD staff should conduct a site visit to any first-time OST proposer being considered for award before negotiating a contract to ensure that the proposer is capable of delivering the service, had been considered and addressed. On page 68 of the OST RFP, it states that "A site visit after award, but prior to contract execution, may occur."

Karen Fulbright-Anderson introduced Janice Molnar, Deputy Commissioner for Program Operations, who explained the OST request for proposals and DYCD's review process.

The OST RFP Option I contains separate competitions for elementary, middle and high school-age young people, to encourage developmentally-appropriate programming. Option II is for OST services leveraging private funding, and allows proposers considerable flexibility. The RFP contained lists of sites proposers could access free of charge to provide OST services, and other free resources from City agencies. DYCD and the Department of Education arrived at a historic memorandum of understanding, whereby the Department of Education will offer free snacks, opening fees, security, and fingerprinting to OST providers operating in the public schools. Other options in the RFP are for OST programming in Parks facilities, technical assistance, and evaluation services. The timeline for evaluating the proposals and implementing the programs was included in the meeting materials at Tab 4. In addition to Youth Board and Youth

Council members, other City agency staff, parents, and community leaders will also evaluate proposals.

Nancy Wackstein asked how many proposals had been received under each option. Janice Molnar replied that to date, proposals are still being opened, so this number is unknown.

Anthony Ng asked how many organizations applied. Janice Molnar replied that similarly, this number is unknown at this time.

Charles Langere raised a concern about funding to support evening programs in elementary school. Janice Molnar replied that evening programs for elementary students could be funded under Option II, the public/private match option. Mario Bruno added that the addenda states that high school programs funded under Option I can operate from 6:00-9:00 pm.

Nancy Wackstein asked when programs will be notified that they have received funding. Janice Molnar replied that they will be notified as early as possible so that organizations can begin planning.

Nancy Wackstein asked how parents will know about programs, since the programs start operating September 1.

Janice Molnar replied that it is difficult to state with certainty when the proposal evaluation process will be completed. If readers finish their work in a timely fashion, the awards to programs could be announced before the end of the school year.

Lynette Velasco suggested that the Summer Fun Guide might be useful to communicate the location of the new OST programs to parents.

Commissioner Mullgrav said that she, too, views the Summer Fun Guide as an excellent way to disseminate information about OST programs, and this year's guide will direct readers to information about the OST programs that will start on September 1.

Youth Council Executive workgroup

Reg Foster thanked Janice Molnar, and reported on the Youth Council Executive Committee. The main role of the committee is to set an agenda for the Youth Council and identify the role of the Youth Council. Rae Linefsky raised the question of whether a discussion should be scheduled to define the role of the Youth Council. Karen Fulbright-Anderson said that one of the things the Executive workgroup has discussed is the overlapping interests of the Youth Board and Youth Council. Kurt Sonnenfeld raised the issue of the Youth Council as a committee of the Workforce Investment Board, and the WIB's authority to define the scope of the Youth Council.

Reg Foster said that going forward, the Youth Council Executive officers and the Youth Board Executive officers will meet with the chairs of the committees to develop agendas for the meetings and fulfill the mission of both boards.

Reg Foster announced that a quorum had been reached. He asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the December 9, 2004 Youth Board/ Youth Council meeting. Peter Borish moved to accept the minutes, Sibyl Silberstein seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Reg Foster said that as Marilyn Shea, Executive Director of the Workforce Investment Board, presented at the last Youth Board/Youth Council meeting, the Workforce Investment Board is adopting a sector-based strategy to workforce development, focused on the hospitality and health care industries. The goal is to align economic development and workforce development resources with growing sectors. The WIB has asked the Youth Council to identify its role in the sector-based approach.

Reg Foster reported that in San Diego, the Youth Council works with growth sectors to identify summer job opportunities, including internships and job shadowing, to give young people exposure to career ladders.

Youth First Stop

Rae Linefsky reported that the First Stop committee began with tremendous enthusiasm, but due to funding issues related to the delay in WIA reauthorization, the plans to develop a brick and mortar center has been put on hold. In the interim, the committee continues its work, focusing on developing a private sector summer employment program for youth, and developing the Youth Council's response to the WIB's sector-based strategy, ensuring that young people's needs are addressed. Rae Linefsky stated that there is only one economy in New York City, and the WIB should help young people access the growth sectors by offering employment and education that will prepare young people for these jobs.

Kurt Sonnenfeld asked about the First Stop concept.

Rae Linefsky replied that currently, New York City does not have a First Stop, a central clearinghouse of information about employment opportunities for young people, although there are five Workforce One center, where adults age 18 and over can access workforce entry assistance. Due to the unknown outcome of WIA reauthorization, it is difficult to plan a First Stop right now. Developing a First Stop will require fundraising.

Lynette Velasco raised the issue of the preparation required for young people to access careers in publishing. Rae Linefsky replied that internships are a great way for young people to develop experience. Corporations and young people need to be matched appropriately so that both have a rewarding experience.

Special Events

Franc Perry reported on the work of the Special Events committee. Works by the winners of the DYCD Art Contest are on display on the DYCD web site. The deadline for the Hans Christian Andersen Art Contest will be March 11, and an awards ceremony will take place at Scandinavia House on April 2. All Youth Board/Youth Council members are invited.

The most significant upcoming special event is YouthWeek, which will take place April 9-16 to coincide with National Youth Service Day on Saturday April 16. The theme for YouthWeek 2005 is community service and active citizenship. This year's YouthWeek is being presented in partnership with Children for Children and City Year New York

YouthWeek will kick off on Friday, April 8 with a press conference and town hall meeting on engaging youth in public service careers. Following the town hall meeting will be a Service Fair, where 16-21 year olds will learn about public service opportunities

like Americorps. Commissioner Mullgrav will address the audience, which will include members of the media, Americorps program representatives, and hundreds of NYC youth interested in community and public service. Beginning Saturday April 9 and continuing for a week, Beacon Programs in each borough will host a series of events celebrating community service projects. Each participating Beacon will develop a different community service project in line with their program activities and the needs of the local community. Beacon youth, Beacon staff, community members, and parents will then come together to celebrate the young people's service to their communities.

Youth Week will culminate in National Youth Service Day on Saturday, April 16. Young people, community members, city officials, volunteers from the Mayor's Office of Volunteers and sponsor organizations will engage in a large-scale service project.

Karen Fulbright-Anderson asked if the goal of Youth Week is to encourage public service. France Perry replied that yes, as an extension of last year's focus on financial responsibility, this year, Youth Week encourages young people to become more engaged in their communities.

IV. Impact of Federal and State Executive budgets

Assistant Commissioner Cindy Colter presented the status of Community Service Block Grant funding in the Federal budget.

DYCD is the Community Action Agency for the City of New York. This designation originated with the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, part of President Lyndon Baines Johnson's war on poverty. Across the country, there are 1200 local Community Action Agencies that organize processes for low-income neighborhoods to determine their service needs and then fund services through competitions. Funding comes from the Federal government in the form of the Community Service Block Grant (CSBG). In FY 2005, DYCD received \$30 million in Federal Community Service Block Grant funding, which funded services for 113,000 families and individuals provided by 200 CBOs. Service priorities are set by residents of the neighborhoods where the services are provided, and include youth leadership, legal advice and assistance for immigrants, and housing advocacy.

On February 7, 2005, President Bush announced his Executive Budget, which contained a proposal to consolidate eighteen different federally-funded community development programs, including CSBG, into the "Strengthening America's Communities" block grant. The eighteen programs to be consolidated currently receive \$5.3 billion in funding. The President proposed \$3.7 billion to support the "Strengthening America's Communities"—a 30% cut. Additionally, "Strengthening America's Communities" would be administered by the Department of Commerce.

DYCD has organized two informational meetings for the Neighborhood Advisory Boards (NABs), Community Advisory Board (CAB), and CSBG-funded providers. In total, almost 400 people attended these two meetings. They received packets detailing the impact of the loss of CSBG funding for each Congressional district in NYC and contact information for the NYC Congressional delegation.

DYCD Budget Director Chris Caruso provided an update on the impact of the Governor's Executive budget on DYCD. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families is the Federal block grant which replaced Aid to Families with Dependent Children when the Federal government enacted welfare reform in 1996. The State of New York has a TANF surplus due to the drop in welfare caseload since 1996, when TANF was baselined at \$2.6 billion for New York State. Last year, \$9 million in State TANF funds supported approximately 8,000 Summer Youth Employment Program slots in NYC. Governor Pataki's Executive budget proposes to roll these TANF funds into a block grant, the Flexible Fund for Family Services, at diminished funding levels. The loss of these funds, coupled with the unfunded minimum wage increase, could result in 14,000 less NYC SYEP jobs this summer.

DYCD is active on the Interagency TANF Task Force charged with responding to the Governor's FY 2006 Executive Budget. The Task Force has developed an impact statement and is working through the Mayor's Office in Albany to educate State legislators on the impact of FFFS on NYC, including the potential loss of State TANF funds for SYEP.

Kurt Sonnenfeld asked if it would be useful for the Youth Board/ Youth Council to advocate on behalf of these programs. Assistant Commissioner Cindy Colter said that yes, it would be helpful, in particular, for the Youth Board and Youth Council to highlight how the loss of these funds impacts individuals. Mayor Bloomberg has expressed his opposition to the proposed changes and Commissioner Mullgrav has traveled to Albany twice since the Executive Budget was announced to seek further support for SYEP. Youth Council Chair Reg Foster said he would ask the Youth Board/ Youth Council Executive officers to draft a letter to the appropriate elected officials. It was decided that the Executive officers would act on behalf of the Youth Board/Youth Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.