

Workforce Investment Board

Minutes of the**April 10, 2003****NYC Workforce Investment Board****YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING**Workforce1 Career Center/Bronx, 358 East 149th Street, Bronx, NYYouth Council Members Present:

Miguel Almodovar ¹	Nancy Giagnacova ³	Maureen O'Connor
Anita Cardella	Richard Green	Yaniyah Pearson
Virginia Cruickshank	Peter Kleinbard	Michelle Pinnock-Clerk ⁵
Jessica Davis ²	Emily Menlo-Marks	Robert Purga ⁶
Reginald Foster, Chairman	John Mogulescu	Nancy Wackstein
Lucy Friedman	Lisette Nieves ⁴	

In Attendance:

David Barriera	Lisa Gulick	Colin Murray
N. Casey	Adjoa Gzita	Russell Nobles
Janet Clemetson	Stacie Hochstadt	Kristin Nygreen
Victoria Curran	Robin Holmes	Michael Redlener
Renna Draynel	Megan Keenan	Jean Seltzer
Suri Duitch	Arthur Lesser	Helen Sherrer-Horton
David Farber	E. Aleah Lung	Margaret Shy
Tyrone Ford	Bret Mahema	Patricia Villasenor
Gary Granofsky	Eugenio Martinez-Ortiz	Scott Zucker

At 8:55 a.m. the Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming the members and thanking Ms. Cardella for providing refreshments.

Chairman's Report

Mr. Foster noted that questions had arisen as to the application of the New York State Open Meetings Law to Youth Council functions. He asked Ms. Nobles, DOE Deputy General Counsel, for clarification. She stated that the Youth Council was subject to the Open Meetings Law because it was a subgroup of the New York City Workforce Investment Board ("WIB"), a majority of whose

¹ Designee of New York City Department of Employment ("DOE")

² Designee of New York City Administration for Children's Services ("ACS")

³ Designee of New York City Department of Juvenile Justice

⁴ Designee of New York City Department of Youth & Community Development ("DYCD")

⁵ Designee of New York City Housing Authority ("NYCHA")

⁶ Designee of New York State Education Department Adult Education & Family Literacy ("NYSED")

members were either public officials or appointees of public officials. The law requires that meetings and deliberations of the members be open to the public; private communications among members about substantive matters, including by telephone or e-mail, are not permissible.

Mr. Foster recognized Ms. Nieves, who requested a support letter for DYCD's application for the Technologies Opportunities Program offered by the U. S. Department of Commerce, which was due in approximately two weeks. Ms. Gulick of DYCD explained that DYCD's current funding for the program expires at the end of the year. The proposal is to provide funding to create a citywide database of youth resources. Up to \$700,000 is available in federal funds, which, if awarded, will be matched by the City. Mr. Foster agreed to write a letter of support.

At 9:15 a.m., a quorum having been established, the Chairman called the meeting to order.

Approval of the Minutes of the January 14, 2003 Meeting

Ms. Menlo-Marks made a motion to amend the minutes to include a recommendation to apply some funds available for out-of-school youth programs to the summer 2003 program and to work with Commissioner Wu in advocating for additional State funding for these programs. Ms. Friedman seconded the motion, and the amendment was approved. Ms. Cardella moved to adopt the minutes as amended; Mr. Purga seconded the motion; and the minutes as amended were approved.

Public and Private Initiatives for Youth

Mr. Foster called on Mr. Almodovar, DOE Assistant Commissioner for Youth Programs, and Kristin Nygreen, DOE Executive Director for Public and Private Initiatives, for a report on the Public and Private Initiative for Youth,⁷ a program to train and place 200 young people ages 16-18 in private sector employment in summer 2003. The youth, most of whom attend vocational high schools, were to be referred by the Department of Education and trained by private sector volunteers organized and sponsored by HSBC Bank. After successful completion of the training, the youth would be placed in jobs paying \$6.50 per hour for 35 hours of work for 6 weeks.

Budget Update

Mr. Foster asked Mr. Almodovar for an update on funding for youth programs, and Mr. Almodovar noted that it had been drastically reduced. In the Summer Youth Employment Program ("SYEP"), for example, the service level was anticipated to be reduced from 36,000 youth in summer 2002 to approximately 5,000 in summer 2003.

Ms. Menlo-Marks offered a sample letter to State legislators in support of increased funding for the SYEP. She moved to have the letter submitted on behalf of the Youth Council and by individual members. Ms. Cruikshank seconded the motion, and it was approved.⁸

Mr. Foster called on Scott Zucker, DOE Assistant Commissioner for Strategic Planning/Finance, for a report on the budget for the next program year. Mr. Zucker noted that WIA in-school youth funding would be reduced from \$37 million to \$33 million, and out-of-school youth programs would

⁷ Retitled "Teen Job Connection" as of June 20, 2003.

⁸ Letters were sent to Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno on April 18, 2003. The final State budget included an additional \$15 million earmarked for the SYEP.

be reduced from \$22 million to \$17 million. He further noted that the in-school youth programs were currently running at a \$5.5 million deficit and would require a reduction of perhaps 15 – 20 percent to remain within budget for the next program year. Out-of-school youth program funding was sufficient to complete the current program year and the initiatives for the coming year.

Update on New Youth Programs Approved at the January 28, 2003 WIB Meeting

The Chairman asked Suri Duitch, DOE Director of Policy and Program Development to report on the youth initiatives approved at the January WIB meeting. Ms. Duitch noted that a program to reengage out-of-school and long-term absentee youth back into high school was being developed by DOE with The City University of New York, which would operate transitional programs at several sites to service youth aged 14 to 17 and to emphasize the development of the skills and knowledge essential to the completion of high school and success in post-secondary school. She stated that negotiations were underway on both the second initiative, to place staff in the One-Stops to work with young adults through an agreement between DOE and ACS, and the third, to add Workforce Investment Act funds to a contract formerly funded by a Youth Opportunity Grant.

The New York City Business Forum

Mr. Foster called on Mr. Purga to report on the possibility of holding a business forum sponsored by the State Workforce Investment Board's Emerging Worker Subcommittee in New York City. Mr. Purga noted that the purpose of the forum was to generate a dialogue with business leaders about ways to develop better, deeper connections between education, workforce, and business. Ideas from the forum would be used for strategic planning and to increase business involvement in youth programs. Mr. Purga further noted that Assemblywoman Kathy Nolan had championed the idea of a forum and suggested June 5, 2003, at the Citicorp headquarters in Queens as a possible date and location.

New Business

Upon the Chairman's call for new business items, Ms. Pearson inquired about the dismantling of the U. S. Department of Labor New York regional office, and it was reported by Ms. Keenan that the Secretary of Labor had proposed that the office be closed and the operations moved to the Boston regional office. Ms. Pearson requested that this topic be included in the Policy Committee's agenda.

Ms. Wackstein inquired about the next meeting date, and Ms. Hochstadt explained that it would be posted in advance on the WIB website at www.nyc.gov/workforce1.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 am.