

MEETING MINUTES
Department of Youth and Community Development Youth Board
Workforce Investment Board Youth Council
June 9, 2005, 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
IBM, 590 Madison Avenue at 57th Street
New York, New York

Youth Board/ Youth Council members present:

Ellen Chen	Charles Hamilton	Lilian Perez ⁴
Maureen O'Connor	Rae Linefsky	Robert Purga
Ellen Howard Cooper ¹	Richard McKeon, Chair,	Susan Royer
Sheri Clarke Joseph ²	Youth Board	Sibyl Silberstein
Rev. Michel Faulkner	Milga Morales Nadal	Kurt Sonnenfeld
Reg Foster, Chair, Youth	Jeanne B. Mullgrav	Nancy Wackstein
Council	Tom Pendleton ³	
Karen Fulbright-Anderson	Franc Perry	*Dave Pollack
Ana Isabel Garcia Reyes		

Youth Board Chair's Report

Youth Board Chair Rich McKeon called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. He reported that the corporate sector youth employment initiative will launch in 2006. He requested that members reach out within their own companies for internship positions for participants. Tom Pendleton recommended coordinating the project with Junior Achievement, which organizes a National Job Shadow day annually on the 2nd day of February. Nancy Wackstein suggested DYCD contact corporate leaders who serve as board members at DYCD-funded community based organizations. Karen Fulbright-Anderson suggested that non-profits could also serve as employers for this program. Rich McKeon asked that members contact Karen Fleshman with information about internships or any questions about the initiative.

Youth Council Chair's Report

Youth Council Chair Reg Foster provided an update on the work of the New York State Workforce Investment Board (WIB). The work readiness credential continues to be developed by the Emerging Worker and Skills Standards Joint Subcommittee of the State WIB. As part of that process, test sites are being sought to develop an assessment of the instrument.

¹ Representing Commissioner Verna Eggleston, Human Resources Administration

² Representing Commissioner John Mattingly, Administration for Children's Services

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

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

* Dave Pollack attempted to join the meeting by conference call, but was unable to, due to technical difficulties.

Mr. Foster next provided an update on the New York City WIB's local area plan. As part of the WIB's planning process, the Youth Council was asked to develop an Action Plan, which identifies the routine work and long term initiatives of the Youth Council. Mr. Foster asked for a motion to adopt the draft Action Plan distributed with the meeting materials. Karen Fulbright-Anderson moved to adopt the Action Plan. Ana Garcia Reyes seconded the motion. The Youth Council Action Plan was adopted by unanimous vote.

DYCD Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Mullgrav thanked Reg Foster and IBM for hosting the meeting. She also thanked the Youth Board/Youth Council who served as Out-of-School Time proposal evaluators: Karen Fulbright-Anderson, Maureen O'Connor, Milga Morales-Nadal, Kurt Sonnenfeld, Lena Townsend, Sibyl Silberstein, Ivy Fairchild, and Peter Borish' colleague, Gwin Griesbeck.

Out-of-School Time

Commissioner Mullgrav congratulated her staff for completing the review process of OST proposals. DYCD anticipates sending letters inviting providers determined eligible to negotiate a contract on Monday, June 13. Chancellor Klein will send an email to all principals in the Department of Education on June 14 which will include a list of schools where OST programs will be located. Commissioner Mullgrav explained that technology was used in an innovative way to improve the efficiency and organization of the OST proposal review process, which could serve as a model for other City agencies' procurement processes. DYCD plans to inform parents about the locations of OST programs through the 311 call center, the Summer Fun Guide, and by sending letters to parents of current participants in ACS-funded programs. DYCD will continue to work closely with ACS to ensure a smooth transition.

The Wallace Foundation has agreed to support DYCD in the areas of communications, attendance tracking, and outcome monitoring, and the Clark Foundation agreed to provide additional support for fifteen priority middle schools that will receive supplemental educational services. These middle schools are a priority because of their poor academic performance. This is particularly important as the Children First educational reforms instituted by Mayor Bloomberg and Chancellor Klein have led to a dramatic improvement in academic performance by elementary school students but middle school students have not made such rapid advances. The Clark Foundation funding will be administered by the Fund for the City of New York.

Summer Youth Employment Program

Commissioner Mullgrav reported that for the first time, the full funding amount for SYEP-\$42 million, enough to support 33,400 jobs- was known in early May, as a result of commitment by the Mayor and the on-time State budget. This will allow DYCD and SYEP providers to better plan for the summer to ensure high-quality work sites, which will include the Staten Island Yankee stadium, a robot manufacturer, and a video

production studio. By the June 6 lottery, DYCD received nearly 70,000 applications. This year, the SYEP debit card will have a Visa and Mastercard logo, so participants can use it without incurring fees at stores that accept Visa and Mastercard. Also, Commerce Bank, Washington Mutual, and other banks will allow SYEP participants to withdraw funds from ATMs without incurring fees. DYCD has produced a video to educate SYEP participants about how to use their debit cards without incurring fees, featuring Youth Board/Youth Council member Mohamed Ghanem.

Legislative Report

Commissioner Mullgrav thanked the Youth Board/Youth Council for their advocacy efforts in support of the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG). The issues of block-granting CSBG and the level of appropriations have not been resolved and DYCD staff will continue to monitor developments and inform members about further developments.

Neighborhood Development Area Programs

Commissioner Mullgrav reported that on May 27, DYCD sent invitations to negotiate for Neighborhood Development Area awards to 200 organizations for 365 contracts. These contracts will support community services in neighborhoods with concentrated poverty.

Upcoming RFPs- Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Services

Commissioner Mullgrav reported that the Runaway and Homeless Youth RFP will be released this summer. The RFP will support a continuum of services for runaway and homeless youth, which will include: neighborhood preventive services; a street outreach and drop-in center that will also support a hotline; a crisis shelter; and transition-to-independent-living facilities. The RFP may benefit from additional financial support. DYCD is committed to improving services supporting gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning runaway and homeless youth.

Comprehensive Literacy RFP

DYCD is planning a Comprehensive Literacy RFP for release in Fall 2005 to support a full continuum of literacy services for adults, families, and adolescents. The adult services component (\$7.4 million) will seek proposals for standard literacy and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) programs. The family literacy component will include two parts: a continuation of DYCD's existing \$1 million program, and a new immigrant family literacy program, funded by \$1.8 million that the City recently committed and an additional \$900,000 in private funds that are being raised in collaboration with the New York Times Company Foundation. Adolescent literacy services (\$1 million) will be added for the first time. Commissioner Mullgrav thanked Maureen O'Connor for participating in a recent focus group on adolescent literacy.

Youth Workforce Development Programs RFP

Commissioner Mullgrav reported that the Youth Workforce Development Programs RFP is anticipated for release in Fall 2005. DYCD staff have convened focus groups and reached out to business leaders and employers for input on the Youth Workforce Development RFP concept paper. Commissioner Mullgrav thanked Reg Foster, Tom Pendleton, and Chuck Hamilton for participating in recent focus groups. The concept paper will be issued later this summer.

Commissioner Mullgrav also thanked the Executive Officers of Youth Board and Youth Council for agreeing to host networking breakfasts with employers and youth workforce contractors once selected next winter.

College Open House

Commissioner Mullgrav reported that DYCD organized a college open house at the CUNY Graduate Center for frontline community based organization staff. The open house is part of DYCD's efforts to help CBO staff to obtain credentials so that they can move up the career ladder. Over 100 people came and learned about a variety of colleges that offer work experience credits and other programs designed to help non-traditional age students obtain degrees.

OST Proposal Evaluation Process

Youth Board Chair Rich McKeon inquired if members who participated in the OST evaluation process would like to comment. Sibyl Silberstein said that the experience was educational and that the DYCD staff did a wonderful job supporting the evaluators. She was pleased to note that at the reconciliation conference, where evaluators who read the same proposals met to compare notes, all of the evaluators had similar thoughts about the quality of the proposals. Karen Fulbright-Anderson commented that the balance between evaluation flexibility and structure was good, and that it had been difficult to select between two outstanding proposals.

Adoption of Minutes from March 3, 2005

Sibyl Silberstein moved to adopt the minutes from the March 3, 2005 meeting, which was seconded by Franc Perry. The minutes were adopted by unanimous vote.

Interagency Coordinating Council on Youth Report

The Youth Board representative to the Interagency Coordinating Council on Youth (ICC), Nancy Wackstein, gave a report. First, she congratulated Commissioner Mullgrav and the staff for completing the Out-of-School Time award process in record time.

The ICC is composed of representatives of the 22 youth-serving agencies of the City of New York, the City Council, and the Youth Board. The goal of the ICC is to improve

coordination of youth programs. The ICC representatives meet quarterly and organize an annual public hearing. The ICC representatives serve on three workgroups: Health, Afterschool, and Court-Involved Youth. The quarterly meetings of the ICC and the work group meetings feature presentations by City agency staff, researchers, and leading practitioners of youth services.

This year's public hearing will be held on June 30, 2005 at the Department of City Planning's Spector Hall. DYCD has reached out to young people who serve on youth advisory boards and invited them to testify at the hearing. To help youth who plan to testify to understand how city government functions, DYCD will host an orientation that will cover the role of the federal, state, and local government and the New York City budget process on June 29.

Youth Board/Youth Council's role in addressing disconnected youth

Youth Council Chair Reg Foster introduced a discussion about adopting a resolution calling for the Youth Board and Youth Council to assist DYCD in addressing the disconnected youth population (the resolution is an attachment to these minutes and was included in the meeting materials). Reg Foster commented that the Youth Board and Youth Council have the responsibility for addressing the needs of young people in New York City and that a variety of researchers have identified that our City has a particularly significant problem: an extraordinary number of disconnected young people having difficulty making the transition from the education system into the workforce. He explained that Bill Bloomfield of Civic Strategies had formed a Young Adult Task Force (YATF), an ad hoc group of public and private sector stakeholders with responsibility or interest in the City's young adults, to develop recommendations about how to address this problem. The Young Adult Task Force began in 2003 with support from the Clark Foundation and participation by city agencies, community-based organizations, businesses, foundations, program providers, and intermediary groups. The Task Force is about to release its working paper, "Implementing One System for New York City's Emerging Workforce," a draft of which was included in the meeting materials. The working paper does not prescribe a particular model for youth programs.

Chuck Hamilton of the Clark Foundation commented that the Clark Foundation had been concerned for some time about the growing numbers of disconnected youth, and said that the Young Adult Task Force report could not have happened without Bill Bloomfield's passion and commitment to this topic.

Mr. Bloomfield explained the history of the Task Force. The Clark Foundation provided the funding but specified that this was to be a city-wide effort. Over the course of two years, senior and executive staff from key stakeholders working with youth met and discussed how the current youth serving system is working, identified gaps in service, and developed recommendations. DYCD and other City agencies participated, including the Department of Education, the Administration for Children's Services, the Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Small Business Services as well as funders, intermediary groups, and businesses. The Young Adult Task Force's recommendations

are: to increase the capacity of programs targeting young adults so that they can enroll 25,000 young adults by 2007, to improve the quality of programs serving young adults, and to boost the coordination of programs and organizations working with disconnected young adults. The Young Adult Task Force report will be distributed to 8000 stakeholders when finalized. The United Way is funding the Task Force to continue. Reg Foster said that he believed that the Youth Board/ Youth Council was the proper institutional home for the report's recommendations.

Rev. Faulkner noted that he is quite actively engaged with this population and decried the lack of capacity of programs to accommodate all the young people who need these services. He reported that he serves on a US Department of Health and Human Services task force addressing young people and he is conveying to the task force the scale of the problem and DYCD's efforts to address it. He asked to what degree New York State officials had been involved in the Young Adult Task Force. Bill Bloomfield replied that Maggie Moree of NYS Department of Labor and Bob Purga of the NYS Department of Education have been involved from the beginning of the task force.

Rich McKeon commented that he had been concerned during his involvement on the Task Force about who would take on their recommendations, but decided after much introspection that the Youth Board and Youth Council are the best situated entities to act on the Task Force's recommendations.

Nancy Wackstein said that in order for the recommendations to become reality, there would need to be coherence among funders of youth programs and that underutilized resources would need to be captured and reassigned. The Mayor would have to be involved to exert pressure to gather the resources needed to address the problem. The City agencies represented on the Youth Council and the ICC would also have to be involved.

Karen Fulbright-Anderson pointed to the ICC Report in the meeting materials, which contains the budget for youth services of each of the 22 youth-serving City agencies.

DYCD General Counsel Everett Hughes said that the OST planning process is instructive about what can be done when City agencies come together to address a problem collectively. He suggested that the Youth Board and Youth Council could serve as a catalyst for a similar effort to address disconnected youth.

Reverend Faulkner asked if other cities had successfully addressed this problem. Bill Bloomfield mentioned San Diego, San Francisco, and Boston, but cautioned that these cities did not confront as large a population of disconnected youth as New York City.

Rae Linefsky urged that the resolution pass. She pointed out that the Youth Board and Youth Council were created by government to provide just this type of direction and support and that without the involvement of government, this problem will not be addressed.

Reg Foster posed the questions of what kinds of actions the Youth Board and Youth Council could take or encourage others to take to address the problem. Bob Purga suggested advocating with the federal government on WIA reauthorization, Perkins loans, and TANF reauthorization as possible sources of funding.

Sherri Clarke Joseph of the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) Office of Youth Development pointed out that ACS just received a demonstration grant from the US Department of Labor to create a One-Stop for employment services for youth in the foster care system and is planning to contract with The Door to provide this service. She asked that the Youth Board and Youth Council help in the development of this effort.

Reg Foster called for a motion in support of adopting the proposed resolution. Reverend Michel Faulkner so moved, Kurt Sonnenfeld seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Reg Foster asked for volunteers to work as an ad hoc committee with the Youth Board and Youth Council Chairs in creating specific initiatives to carry out the intent of the resolution forward. Reverend Michel Faulkner, Sibyl Silberstein, Maureen O'Connor, Sherri Clark Joseph (representing Commissioner Mattingly, ACS), and Ellen Howard-Cooper (representing Commissioner Eggleston, HRA) volunteered.

Kurt Sonnenfeld suggested that DYCD do more to publicize its tremendous positive work. Karen Fleshman responded that it is difficult to attract media attention to good news, and asked that the Youth Board and Youth Council members use their credibility with the media to encourage greater coverage of the agency's work.

The meeting was adjourned by Rich McKeon at 10:05 a.m.

Joint Resolution on Disconnected Youth
Department of Youth and Community Development Youth Board
Workforce Investment Board Youth Council
June 9, 2005

WHEREAS: the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) provides high-quality youth workforce development programs for young people in New York City; and

WHEREAS: the DYCD Youth Board and Workforce Investment Board (WIB) Youth Council are dedicated to promoting education, life skills development, and employment for the City's young people; and

WHEREAS: Leaders from the private and public sectors participated in discussions to expand the city's program capability, as described in the report "The Time is Now: Implementing One System for New York City's Emerging Workforce," which recommends that NYC target a greater share of its collective resources towards young adults who have left secondary school without graduating; and

WHEREAS: the Community Service Society's recent report, "Out of School, Out of Work, Out of Luck?" highlights high rates of disconnection from the workforce and education and training systems among New York City's youth; and,

WHEREAS: the Youth Board and Youth Council consider addressing the needs of disconnected youth in New York City to be an issue of high priority;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the DYCD Youth Board and WIB Youth Council will assist DYCD:

to develop programs and partnerships that address the needs of disconnected youth in the City of New York, in cooperation with member City agencies, the Interagency Coordinating Council on Youth, youth providers, community members, and employers;

to advocate with the Federal, State, and local government and private funders for additional resources to support programs for disconnected youth; and

to review these programs and make recommendations to improve them.