

**MEETING OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL
OF THE
NEW YORK CITY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
MINUTES**

**DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
156 WILLIAM STREET, 2ND FLOOR AUDITORIUM
MONDAY, JUNE 14, 2004, 8:00 A.M.**

Youth Council Members Present: Rick Amato; Ellen Chen; Ellen Howard Cooper (for Verna Eggelston)¹; Ivelisse Fairchild; Rev. Michel Faulkner; **Reg Foster (Chair)**; Dr. Karen Fulbright-Anderson; Garth Harries (for Michelle Cahill); William Janowitz; Rae Linefsky; Richard McKeon; Dr. Milga Morales-Nadal; Jeanne B. Mullgrav²; Maureen O'Connor; Michelle Pinnock (for Tino Hernandez)³; Caliaf St. Aubyn; Erana Stennett; Kurt Sonnenfeld; and, Lena Townsend

In Attendance: Miguel Almodovar; Mario Bruno; Chris Cesarani; May Chin⁴; Bill Chong; Karen Fleshman; Yvette Furman; Everett Hughes; Robin McClary; Janice Molnar; Lisette Nieves; Michael Ognibene; Dan Symon; and, Lazar Treschan

The meeting was called to order by Chair Reg Foster at 8:10 a.m.

DYCD Commissioner Jeanne B. Mullgrav welcomed the group, detailed DYCD's vision of integrating youth development principles into youth employment programs, and discussed the merger of the Youth Board and Youth Council. Commissioner Mullgrav described how, in keeping with the aforementioned vision of DYCD, because of similar duties, and in the interest of efficiency, she proposed and Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg agreed, that the Charter-mandated Youth Board and the Workforce Investment Act-mandated Youth Council should be integrated.

Commissioner Mullgrav explained that, in keeping with philosophical considerations, DYCD has made sure that there are no members on the Council that would have any conflicts with procurement policies at DYCD. Commissioner Mullgrav further explained that all community based organizations, whether they have contracts with DYCD or not, will have a channel for feedback to the agency and to the Youth Council.

Commissioner Mullgrav introduced the Youth Council Chair, Reg Foster. Mr. Foster stated his support of the Youth Council/Youth Board integration, and provided an update on the New York City Workforce Investment Board meetings and other State meetings that he attends in his capacity as Chair. The Youth Council members introduced themselves.

¹ Designee of New York City Human Resources Administration

² Commissioner, Department of Youth and Community Development

³ Designee of New York City Housing Authority

⁴ New York City Workforce Investment Board Liaison to the Youth Council

Overview of DYCD Youth Employment Programs

Assistant Commissioner Mario Bruno provided an overview of In-School Youth (ISY) employment programs. Eligible youth are NYC residents between the ages of 14 and 18 currently attending school. Fifty-one DYCD-funded ISY contractors serve 6,900 youth, with \$20.4 million in contracts. Chair Reg Foster asked DYCD to provide Youth Council members with a list of current ISY, Out-of-School Youth, and Summer Youth Employment Program contractors.

Robin McClary, Director of Out-of-School Youth (OSY) employment programs, presented an update. The goal of OSY program is to engage young people ages 16 to 21 living in NYC who are not high school graduates, graduates with limited skills and unemployed in training opportunities that will prepare them to start careers. According to a study by the Community Service Society, the unemployment rate among teenagers in NYC is 28% and there are over 200,000 youth in New York City that are OSY eligible. OSY programs help youth attain educational certification by improving their literacy and mathematical skills through project-based learning. Currently, 18 OSY contractors serve 1,400 youth with \$13.5 million in funding.

Youth Council member Karen Fulbright-Anderson asked how DYCD measures the effectiveness of its programs. Chair Reg Foster suggested that this be an agenda item for a future Youth Council meeting.

The Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) overview was presented by Assistant Commissioner Miguel Almodovar and Dan Symon, SYEP Director. Mr. Almodovar provided an overview of the prior SYEP program model. Mr. Symon presented the innovations DYCD has introduced to SYEP, including: targeting SYEP resources to the zip codes with the highest unemployment in NYC, a five day work week, payment by debit cards, promotion of financial literacy and education, placement of 10% of participants in the private sector, and offering SYEP on Staten Island. Current SYEP funding is enough to serve 17,000 youth, but the budget has not been finalized. Pending allocation of resources, DYCD hopes to serve up to 39,000 youth, and the contractors are prepared to ratchet up their services if the funding comes through.

Workforce Investment Act Reauthorization

John Albert, DYCD's Director of External Affairs provided an update on the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) reauthorization. Chair, Reg Foster added that one version of the reauthorization may no longer require Youth Councils, however, the New York State Department of Labor (NYSDOL) has stated publicly that their intention at this time is to make Youth Council's mandatory for local Workforce Investment Board's in New York State even if WIA reauthorization makes it an option.

Youth Council member Reverend Michel Faulkner asked what role the Youth Council could play in advocating on WIA reauthorization. Youth Council member Ivelisse Fairchild asked what role contractors would play in advocacy. Commissioner Mullgrav responded that it would be appropriate for the Youth Council to enact a

resolution on WIA reauthorization and it would be inappropriate for DYCD to ask the contractors to advocate. Chief of Staff Lisette Nieves said that DYCD's youth employment contractors largely advocate through the coalitions they form with other providers.

Chair Reg Foster directed DYCD staff to prepare draft resolutions on WIA reauthorization for the Youth Council to vote on. Youth Council member Erana Stennett suggested that the Commissioner and Chairs of the Youth Board and Youth Council should speak to the membership of the Association for a Better New York and the Partnership for New York City to engage business leaders in advocating for New York City in the WIA reauthorization. Chair Reg Foster commended Ms. Stennett's idea.

Selection of Committees

The next item of business was for the Youth Council members to select committees on which to serve. Chair Reg Foster, in consultation with DYCD staff, suggested the formation of three committees: Youth One Stop, Special Events, and Meeting Rules. DYCD staff who will support the committees discussed the work of each committee:

Lisette Nieves, Chief of Staff of DYCD, presented the Youth One Stop committee. The majority of young people who call 311 are in search of employment, yet currently there is no comprehensive referral and information source offering support for young people seeking employment in the City of New York. The Youth One Stop committee will assist DYCD to develop a One-Stop Center to link young people to employment counseling, aptitude testing, information, referrals, and follow-up.

Youth Council member Rae Linefsky spoke about the work the United Way is doing to create a Youth One Stop. She said that it is particularly critical to develop this resource because the number of young people in NYC who are not in school and are unemployed is expected to grow sharply in the near future, straining all social service agencies.

The following Youth Council members signed up to join the Youth One Stop committee: Rae Linefsky, Ivy Fairchild, Michele Pinnock, and Maureen O'Connor.

The Youth One Stop committee will meet on July 1, 2004, at 8:00 am, 6th Floor Conference Room, DYCD, 156 William Street.

Yvette Furman, Director of Communications, and Karen Fleshman, Director of Special Projects, described the work of the Special Events committee. Ms. Furman discussed DYCD's annual Youth Week. This year Youth Week will take place from August 2-6, 2004, and feature the theme: "Money Smarts for Youth-Investing in Our Future." Youth Week will kick off with a breakfast sponsored by Citibank on July 29. DYCD is collaborating on a conference and job fair for young people with disabilities in September, 2004. Ms. Fleshman discussed DYCD's plans for a Youth Employment Conference, which will take place on November 10, 2004 at the New York University Kimmel Center. Special Events committee members will help DYCD to plan these events.

The Special Events committee will meet on June 23, 2004, at 8:00 am in the 6th Floor Conference Room at DYCD, 156 William Street.

Chris Cesarani, Senior Policy Manager and WIB Liaison, presented an overview of the Meeting Rules committee. This committee will revise rules for guiding Youth Council meetings at the request of the Chair. This committee will also develop and propose a slate of candidates for the positions of Vice Chair and Secretary.

The following Youth Board members signed up to serve on the Meeting Rules committee: Rich McKeon and Karen Fulbright-Anderson. A meeting has not yet been scheduled for this committee.

Youth Council member William Janowitz suggested the formation of a communications committee, with the function of marketing youth employment programs to the young people of NYC. Mr. Janowitz expressed the concern that often young people do not know about the great programs they can access. He said that this committee could focus on developing appropriate communications strategies to ensure young people are aware of youth employment services. Chair Reg Foster commended this idea, and said that it will be addressed in a future meeting.

Adoption of Meeting Schedule

The Youth Council members agreed to meet quarterly going forward, as well as to the formation of the committee workgroups. The Youth Board/Youth Council meetings will be held at a location to be determined, at the following times: September 9, 2004, 9:00-11:00 a.m.; December 9, 2004, 9:00-11:00 a.m.; March 10, 2005, 9:00-11:00 a.m.; and Thursday, June 9, 2005, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Chair Reg Foster adjourned the meeting at 9:25 a.m.