

**MINUTES**  
**Youth Board/WIB Youth Council**  
**March 9, 2011**  
**Hostos Community College Art Gallery**  
**500 Grand Concourse**  
**Bronx, New York**  
**8:30 AM to 10:30 AM**

***Present:***

Youth Board/Youth Council members<sup>1</sup>:

Ana Garcia Reyes *	John Rhea * <sup>3</sup>	Rae Linefsky *
Anthony Sumpter, Sr. *	Kimberley Hayes	Raymond Codrington
Arnold Dorin	Kurt Sonnenfeld, EdD *	Reg Foster *
Ellen Chen *	Lena Townsend *	Richard F. McKeon *
Erana Stennett	Lynette Velasco	Robert Purga
Gregory Hambric *	Maureen O'Connor *	Sgt. Margaret O'Gara
Howard Knoll	Milga Morales Nadal, PhD	Sibyl Silberstein, PhD
Ikra Ahmad	Nancy Wackstein	Susan Royer
Issa Spencer	Nadine Reid	Tom Pendleton *
Jane Reiss	Omoniyi Amoran	Victoria Sammartino*
Jeanne B. Mullgrav *	Peter Borish *	
John Mattingly * <sup>2</sup>	Peter Kleinbard	

***Guests:***

Felix V. Matos Rodriguez, Andrew O. Moore, Melinda Mulawka Mack, Elizabeth Wilson, Fatiha Makloufi, Andrew Miller, Sharon Sewell, Amy Landesman, Heriberto Barbot, Bill Chong, Alan Cheng, Megan Keenan, Susan Haskell and Christopher Cesarani

***Welcome and Call to Order***

Youth Board Chair Richard McKeon called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and thanked Felix V. Matos Rodriguez, President of Hostos Community College, and Youth Board member Ana Garcia Reyes for hosting today's meeting. He then introduced Commissioner Mullgrav.

***Commissioner's Report***

The Commissioner recommended that the members review her updated letter in the meeting materials for updates regarding Requests For Proposals for Literacy Services and Fatherhood Curriculum, as well as an update on Ladders for Leaders for 2011, among other items. She explained that the bulk of her update would focus on New York State and Federal budgets, which have required a great deal of attention, due to their impact on DYCD's programs and services to young people and our communities.

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<sup>1</sup> An \* indicates the member's presence at the meeting.

<sup>2</sup> Ronnie Fuchs was in attendance for Commissioner John Mattingly.

<sup>3</sup> Kim Toro was in attendance for Chairman John Rhea.

## *New York State and Federal Budget*

Commissioner Mullgrav noted that the City of New York understands that in this challenging economic climate, difficult budget decisions are required; however, the tough choices must be equitable and rational, without unduly shifting the fiscal responsibilities to localities, or disproportionately impacting our young people and the most vulnerable. She highlighted that of particular concern to DYCD on the state level are the budget recommendations eliminating all state funding for summer jobs, translating to a loss 5,500 jobs for NYC, and the proposed Primary Prevention Incentive Program (PPIP), which would eliminate approximately 4,800 afterschool slots in our Out-of-School Time programs, as well as 38 crisis center beds for runaway and homeless youth.

On the federal level, Commissioner Mullgrav noted DYCD's deep concern about the proposed cuts to Community Services Block Grant funding, which assists over 30,000 New Yorkers, Community Development Block Grant funding that supports 14 Beacon Centers and Adult Literacy Programs, and Workforce Investment Act funding that supports 4,427 In-School Youth and 620 Out of School Youth. She informed the members that DYCD was actively working to help legislators, community-based organizations, community members and staff to understand the impact of these proposals, and she noted that DYCD hosted an informational event for its 100 largest CBO's regarding the budget proposal impact. She also informed the members that DYCD was organizing borough-based community events to alert communities about the impact of reductions, specifically related to our Community Services Block Grant programs. Commissioner Mullgrav shared that she had traveled to Albany to share concerns directly with legislators, including providing testimony for a hearing on February 5, and she thanked Richard F. McKeon for representing the concerns of the board at that hearing. She also thanked Rae Linefsky for her help in communicating the impact of these proposals with members. She explained that DYCD was urging our representatives to demonstrate their commitment to young people and make them a priority in the State FY 2011-12 Budget and specifically to restore funding for summer jobs at a minimum of \$15.5 million, the partial restoration allocated last year; and continue to provide dedicated funding to youth bureaus across the state to meet the various needs of young people, and oppose the new Primary Prevention Incentive Program and the disproportionate funding cut to youth and family services.

DYCD's Assistant Commissioner for External Relations Andrew Miller next provided an overview of the potential impact that various proposed State and Federal budget cuts could have on services DYCD funds. He highlighted that on the State level, the potential elimination of \$8.5 million in TANF funds would result in 5,500 less summer youth employment program slots, a loss of \$7.6 million in Youth Development and Delinquency Prevention funds would remove the support for 4,800 Out-of-School Time slots, and the removal of \$1.4 million in Runaway and Homeless Youth Act funding would mean 37 fewer shelter beds. He explained that the proposed Federal cuts could potentially impact \$31.9 million in Community Services Block Grant funds, which serve 30,000 New Yorkers through a variety of innovative programs, \$8.3 million from the Community Development Block Grant which funds 14 Beacon Centers and Adult Literacy Programs, and \$21.78 million in Workforce Investment Act funding for In-School and Out-of-School Youth programs.

Rae Linefsky thanked the Commissioner and Mr. Miller for the updates. She asked if locally the few areas represented by Republican officials are being contacted about the impact to their districts. Mr. Miller responded in the affirmative that all legislators are being informed of the impact and priority of these programs in their communities.

***Presentation Background - The Emerging Drive for Post-Secondary Completion and the Role of New York City Partners***

Mr. McKeon thanked the Commissioner and introduced the day's presentation on the drive to support post-secondary completion and the role of New York City stakeholders. Commissioner Mullgrav offered that on the issue of post-secondary completion, a recent New York Times article reported that, while New York City's preparation of public high school students is better than the state's other urban school districts, statistics show that only 23 percent of general education students in New York City graduated ready for college or careers in 2009. She added that in New York City, roughly 75% of public high school students who enroll in community colleges need to take remedial math or English courses before they can begin college-level work. She noted that at DYCD, services for both disconnected and in school youth work to prepare young people for college and the workplace through educational and literacy services, internships and help with college applications and financial aid. She added that also as part of post-secondary strategy, DYCD staff is participating in 3 of the city-wide committees of Graduate NYC! - College Advisement and Internal Capacity, External Awareness and Transitional Programs for Disconnected Youth. Mr. McKeon next introduced the day's speakers: Andrew O. Moore, Senior Fellow, National League of Cities, Institute for Youth, Education, and Families, Melinda Mulawka-Mack the Project Director for Graduate NYC!, a partnership of the Mayor's Office and CUNY funded by the Gates Foundation, and Hostos Community College's Ana Garcia Reyes, Director of International Programs & Special Assistant to the President for Community Relations, along with two of her colleagues.

Mr. Moore focused on national trends, including how the job market has changed and that by 2018, 60% of jobs will require postsecondary degrees. He added that a goal of President Obama's administration is to double postsecondary credential attainment, which is similarly shared by the Lumina and Gates Foundations. He highlighted some national strategies, guided by funders like Gates, which focus resources on improving postsecondary institution performance, supporting young adult success and building national, state and local commitments by disseminating evidence of effective policies and models.

Ms. Mulawka-Mack highlighted New York City's commitment to doubling the numbers of students who earn a college degree in a timely fashion. She too emphasized the need – a college degree matters for future career success, and too few New Yorkers earn them each year. She described how her work involves working with the City's education and youth-serving organizations to align and coordinate efforts to promote success. She explained that the goals for Graduate NYC! are to increase the percentage of high school graduates achieving a 75% on Math and English Regents from 46% of 2009 graduates to 75% of 2020 graduates, and increase the percentage of high school graduates enrolling immediately in college from 59% of 2009 graduates to 70% of 2020 graduates. She emphasized that key to Graduate NYC! is working with partners to support college readiness, and that through a Gates Foundation grant, five local Communities Learning in Partnership (CLIP) committees were formed to address: academic alignment; college awareness, planning and advisement; research and analysis; accountability;

and sustainability and partnerships. She noted that participating leadership including representatives from CUNY, the Department of Education, City Hall, DYCD, The Center for Economic Opportunity and the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs. She also noted that the National League of Cities provided technical assistance on behalf of the Gates Foundation.

Ms. Garcia Reyes and her colleagues, Fatiha Makloufi and Elizabeth Wilson, highlighted many of the strategies that Hostos has in place for candidates and new students. Ms. Makloufi highlighted The College Transition Initiative and CUNY START programs, flexible full time day and part-time afternoon or evening programs for young adults. She also highlighted the CUNY Language Immersion Program (CLIP) for entering freshman who need additional English as a Second Language classes prior to entering college.

Lena Townsend noted the importance of preserving the funding streams that support out-of-school time learning. Peter Borish commented that it is important to continue to highlight where we get the most value in supporting academic success and that a budget crisis is sometimes an opportunity to reshape and retarget resources. Ms. Mr. McKeon thanked the guests for their presentations and noted the high priority it is for the Youth Board and Youth Council to support post-secondary education and advanced training.

#### ***Youth Board and Youth Council Reports***

Richard McKeon checked the attendance record and noted that there were not enough members for a quorum and vote to approve the minutes from January 31, 2011. He recommended that the minutes from January 31 be presented with the minutes from this meeting on June 1.

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