

MINUTES
Youth Board/WIB Youth Council
March 3, 2010
Department of Youth and Community Development
156 William Street
New York, New York
8:30 AM to 10:30 AM

Present:

Youth Board/Youth Council members¹:

Ana Garcia Reyes *	John Rhea * ⁴	Peter Kleinbard *
Anthony Sumpter, Sr. *	Kimberley Hayes *	Rae Linefsky *
Arnold Dorin *	Kurt Sonnenfeld, EdD *	Raymond Codrington *
Ellen Chen	Lena Townsend	Reg Foster *
Erana Stennett* ²	Lynette Velasco	Richard F. McKeon *
Gregory Hambric *	Maureen O'Connor *	Rick Amato
Howard Knoll *	Milga Morales Nadal, PhD *	Robert Purga
Ikra Ahmad *	Nancy Wackstein *	Sgt. Margaret O'Gara
Issa Spencer	Nadine Reid	Sibyl Silberstein, PhD *
Ivelisse Fairchild *	Neil Hernandez * ⁵	Susan Royer *
Jeanne B. Mullgrav *	Omoniyi Amoran *	Tom Pendleton *
John Mattingly * ³	Peter Borish *	

Guests:

Andrew Miller, Carson Hicks, Cesar Cardenas, Nina Aledort, Deldreana Peterkin, Mary Kelly, Tracy Garcia, Lakimja Mattocks, Nancy Ann Ramos, Yani Fernandez, Kate Yager, David Fischer, Miguel Almodovar, Robert Frenzel-Berra, Joseph LaMarca, Juan Ramos, Miguel Almodovar, Philip Weinberg, Ryan Dodge, Bill Chong, Suzanne Lynn, Susan Haskell and Christopher Cesarani

Welcome and Call to Order

Youth Board Chair Rich McKeon called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and introduced Commissioner Mullgrav.

¹ An * indicates the member's presence at the meeting.

² Erana Stennett was present for a part of the meeting by speaker phone.

³ Mary Kelly was in attendance for Commissioner John Mattingly.

⁴ Deidra Gilliard was in attendance for Chairman John Rhea.

⁵ Nina Aledort was in attendance for Commissioner Neil Hernandez.

Commissioner's Report

Welcome New Youth Board Members

Commissioner Mullgrav began her remarks by reporting that Mayor Bloomberg had appointed two new members to the NYC Youth Board – Kimberly Hayes, who was recommended to the Board by City Council, and Issa Spencer who replaces Jermaine Williams as one of our two youth members. She highlighted that Ms. Hayes has experience in the not-for-profit community as a consultant and as an employee directing programs for Minisink Town House and the New York City Mission Society; her expertise includes community relations, contract management and outcome measurement; and, that she has a Master's Degree from Teacher's College at Columbia University and a BA in Social Development Psychology from Bloomfield College. The Commissioner then highlighted that Mr. Spencer is a high school junior at Jane Addams School for Academics and Careers who participates in a range of leadership activities from tutoring to advising on issues, such as health research, school policing, and urban policy; and, also took part in the Teen ACTION Youth Advisory Board – Teen ACTION is the subject of today's meeting. She welcomed both new members to the meeting and congratulated them on their appointment to the Board.

New York State Budget and SYEP

Commissioner Mullgrav informed the members that on February 9, she attended the Association of New York State Youth Bureaus (ANYSYB) annual Legislative Breakfast and was joined by Youth Board members Richard F. McKeon, Ivelisse Fairchild, and Ikra Ahmad and former youth representative Jermaine Wright, who attends SUNY Albany now. She recapped meeting with several members of the State Legislature to inform them of the importance of the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) and the need to restore State funding for summer jobs. She asked Richard McKeon if he had remarks he wanted to share about the trip. Mr. McKeon first asked Ivelisse Fairchild if she had any comments about Albany. Ms. Fairchild emphasized how important it is right now for members to keep youth development programs out in front of legislators' attention, as law makers grapple with competing priorities during these tough budget decision making times. Mr. McKeon asked if youth representative Ikra Ahmad had anything to add about the trip to Albany. Ms. Ahmad commented that it was a valuable experience for her and her peer Jermaine Wright to meet with legislators. She added that young people are seeking work experience through summer jobs, yet many are faced with a lack of opportunities. Mr. McKeon then added that beyond the letter writing of the past he and other members have sought venues for dialogue. He called on Ms. Linefsky, who shared with the members that she and Mr. McKeon joined representatives from community based organizations and advocates at a February 12 City Council hearing on SYEP. She explained that both she and Mr. McKeon testified from the perspective of the private sector, highlighting how summer jobs for young people help stimulate the economy, are a source of employees for non-profits and promote financial responsibility and career development for our youth. Mr. McKeon noted that at that hearing the Council voted in favor of two resolutions: one urging the State to restore funding for SYEP; and the other urging the Congress to provide \$500 million for a national summer jobs program. Commissioner Mullgrav noted that Deputy Commissioner Suzanne Lynn also testified at this City Council hearing. She added that DYCD submitted written testimony to

the State Executive Budget Joint Hearing on Social Services, which emphasized that the proposed cut of \$19.5 million in State funding for summer jobs would result in a reduction of nearly 17,000 jobs. She reminded the members that last summer, DYCD received 139,597 SYEP applications and with City, State and Federal funding, plus additional support from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, enrolled 52,255 youth – more participants than ever before. She extended a special thanks to Richard F. McKeon, Rae Linefsky, Ivelisse Fairchild and Ikra Ahmad for representing the Youth Board and Youth Council and expressing the concerns of this body over the planned reductions and need to protect summer jobs.

New York City Budget

Commissioner Mullgrav next turned to the City Budget by highlighting how this is another challenging period for New York City. She noted that last quarter, as discussed with the Executive members of the Youth Board and Youth Council, each agency has been asked to identify reductions. She added that in FY10, DYCD's target reduction is approximately \$9.6M, and in FY11 our target is approximately \$14M. She noted that she would be testifying about this budget at our March 15th City Council hearing and listed the services impacted by the Mayor's budget proposal: 33 school year only OST elementary and middle school programs in non-target zip codes; the elimination of 1,943 middle school summer slots; a reduction of contracts to 66 city-funded beacon programs by 1.6M in FY10 and 1.8M in FY11; reducing adult literacy contracts by 4% in FY10 and 8% in FY11; and, reduce SYEP slots by 662 for summer 2010 and 2011. She added that other reductions will include: unallocated funds in OST; and, delayed opening at 4 NYCHA Community Centers.

Youth Workforce Development

Commissioner Mullgrav informed the members that on January 15, DYCD hosted morning and afternoon pre-proposal conferences to outline the requirements and purpose of the OSY Workforce Development Programs Request for Proposals (RFP), which we released on December 23. She explained that the goal of OSY is to help young people gain the skills they need to build successful careers. She added that programs will be evaluated according to the following outcomes: placement in employment with career potential; placement in an advanced occupational training program; or placement in postsecondary education leading to an associate's degree or higher. She continued that there will be a separate competition for each borough, as well as a citywide competition for a total funding allocation of \$13,985,000. She noted that the deadline to apply for this RFP was Wednesday, January 27, 2010, and that new contracts will begin on July 1, 2010.

Ladders for Leaders Employer Outreach Meeting

Commissioner Mullgrav noted that on January 6, DYCD organized a Ladders for Leaders employer outreach meeting at the headquarters of Y&R Advertising. She described the audience of invitees as senior managers from local companies to learn more about Ladders and how they can help young New Yorkers who have everything they need to succeed except connections get a leg up in the business world. She noted the following companies that sent representatives:

McGraw Hill Publishers; Accenture – a NYC WIB member organization; New York-Presbyterian Hospital; American Century Investments; and Red Works Worldwide.

She next informed the members that on December 14, 2009, 81 Ladders for Leaders alumni were awarded a \$2,000 college scholarship, which are funds sent directly to the schools upon documentation of enrollment. She noted that the total amount to be disbursed is \$162,000, all of which was contributed by Ladders employers and program partners. She thanked the Ladders partners on this Board and Council as well as Workforce Investment Board members for their support in this initiative, including: Bloomberg; IBM Corporation; Aspen Institute; Brooklyn College; Berkeley College; CUNY College Now; and Macy's. She also noted that as of the December 14, 2009 deadline to apply for the program, a total of 719 applications were received.

Launch of Cornerstone Program

Commissioner Mullgrav informed the members that on January 4, DYCD launched the Cornerstone Program, which provides engaging activities year-round for adults and young people at 25 New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Community Centers throughout the five boroughs. She reminded the members that last June these plans were shared by Assistant Commissioner Darryl Rattray at Bloomberg as the feature meeting presentation. She noted that the term of the contracts will be from January 1, 2010 to June 30, 2012, with an option for DYCD to renew for up to three years, and that all of the programs are up and running, with enrollment exceeding initial expectations at a number of sites.

NYC Commission for LGBTQ Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Final Public Hearings

Commissioner Mullgrav noted that as previously reported, the NYC Commission for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning Runaway and Homeless Youth (LGBTQ RHY Commission) was established by Mayor Bloomberg on October 5, 2009. She explained that the Commission is charged with: devising strategies to address the unique needs of LGBTQ youth before they run away; providing homeless youth with both shelter and the support they need to live independently; or helping them reunite with their families when appropriate. She shared as an update that, as part of its work, on December 17, 2009 and January 19, 2010 the LGBTQ RHY Commission held Public Hearings at Spector Hall. And she shared that she was inspired by the outpouring of support for runaway and homeless, noting that Commission members heard from parents and service-providers, as well as personal stories of young people impacted by their sexual orientations and gender identities. She informed the members that during the coming months, Commission members from 3 subgroup areas will fine-tune recommendations to be presented in May.

Presentation: Service Learning and Achieving Change Together In Our Neighborhood – Teen ACTION

Richard McKeon thanked Commissioner Mullgrav for her updates and introduced Tracy Garcia Teen ACTION Director and Lakimja Mattocks Groundwork GWS Success Coach.

Ms. Garcia began her presentation by explaining that service-learning is a youth driven program design which allows students to learn through active participation in meaningful, organized community service. She continued by explaining that the emphasis is for the students to provide a purposeful service to the community and to society, while they also engage in reflection activities that pertain to a learning curriculum. She added that through the development and implementation of the service project, youth have the opportunity to become knowledgeable citizens who can actively contribute to their community-becoming givers of services instead of receivers. She highlighted that for DYCD, the goals of the Teen ACTION service learning program are to foster engagement in school and community and promote responsible behaviors, in particular: cultivate an ethic of service and increase civic engagement.; develop life-skills and critical-thinking skills, and encourage supportive relationships with caring adults; promote commitment to academic achievement; reduce risk behaviors that may result in teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases (including HIV/AIDS), and substance abuse; and, encourage use of health and mental health services. She explained that Teen ACTION is one of the NYC Center for Economic Opportunity initiatives focused on finding innovative ways to reduce poverty in the city.

Ms. Garcia next highlighted some examples of Teen ACTION programs, such as the Jewish Community Center Association (JCCA) working with the City College of New York, which has a service learning focus around diversity and cultural awareness. She also noted as an example East Side House's and Bronx Haven High School's work on building civic participation and social change through community gardening. Ms. Garcia then introduced Lakimja Mattocks, who shared Groundwork's "Groundwork for Success" (GWS) program. Ms. Lakimja described how GWS is a four-year program that prepares East New York high school students for success in high school and college. She continued by describing some of the successful projects students have planned and participated in, such as Hands on Graffiti Day, New York Cares Day, World AIDS Day, and Martin Luther King Day. Mr. McKeon thanked Ms. Garcia and Ms. Lakimja for their presentation.

Youth Council Report

Reg Foster explained to the members that as a result of recent new stories highlighting the high national teen unemployment rate, the executive officers made a request of DYCD to locate the most detailed public information on the youth in the city. Mr. Foster called on Robert Frenzel-Berra from DYCD's Planning, Research and Program Development unit who joined the meeting to share with the members a profile on the youth population in NYC. Mr. Frenzel-Berra explained that the sample shared was obtained from the "U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample", which is considered the most comprehensive sampling in comparison to other sources. He explained that data about the youth population made available on a more frequent basis is gathered over a shorter time period, lacks the same level of detail, has a higher margin of error, is gathered from a smaller sampling, and is therefore considered less reliable. Mr. Frenzel-Berra agreed to work with the members to further explore ways in which to better obtain and analyze the most current information on youth employment trends from existing sources. Reg Foster reminded members that the next meeting of the NYC Workforce Investment Board would be on March 10 at the Levin Institute.

Youth Board Report

Mr. McKeon made a short reminder note to the members that the OST Sustainability Committee would meet on March 19. Mr. Borish the chair of the committee invited interested members to attend.

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