

**MINUTES**  
**Youth Board/WIB Youth Council**  
**March 3, 2009**  
**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 members<sup>1</sup>:

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

***Guests:***

Courtney Hawkins, Julia Bator, Andrea Coleman, Doug O'Dell, Yvette Furman, Bill Chong, Carolann Johns, John Cirolia, Maricela Brea, Ryan Pirtle McVeigh, Daphne Montanez, Melinda Mulawka, Sheila Scharfman, Megan Keenan, May Chin, William Kamen, Susan Haskell and Christopher Cesarani

Youth Board Chair Richard McKeon called the meeting to order and welcomed.

***Commissioner's Report***

Deputy Commissioner Bill Chong welcomed the members and proceeded with an agency update.

***Federal and State Legislative Updates***

Mr. Chong provided the members with a brief overview of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), and the Governor's proposed Youth Programs Block Grant, and the impact on DYCD. He explained that President Obama signed ARRA into law on February 17 and that this legislation will provide New York City with substantial new funding for youth and

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

<sup>2</sup> Bill Chong was in attendance for Commissioner Mullgrav

<sup>3</sup> Sheila Scharfman was in attendance for Commissioner Neil Hernandez.

<sup>4</sup> Dominique Jones was in attendance for Commissioner John Mattingly.

<sup>5</sup> Joseph LaMarca was in attendance for Chairman Ricardo Morales

community development programming through the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and Community Services Block Grant (CSBG). He highlighted that DYCD is working closely with our partners in City and State government to ensure that all funding is efficiently administered. He further noted that it is DYCD's goal to ensure that it funds programs that will have the maximum positive impact, particularly within high-need communities.

Mr. Chong next updated the members on the New York State Executive Budget Recommendations that were released on December 16, 2008. He informed the members that part of this proposal includes the Youth Programs Block Grant (YPBG). He highlighted how this proposal is of great concern to DYCD because the grant combines youth prevention and intervention services with state mandated services, including: Youth Development and Delinquency Prevention (YDDP); Special Delinquency Prevention Program (SDDP); Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Act; Alternatives to Detention and Alternatives to Residential Placement; and, Mandated Services: Secure and Non-Secure Detention Services. He added that the recommended funding of \$90 million, would include a 24.5% decrease from \$118 million, the YPBG legislation would eliminate state oversight of youth development and prevention, and it makes local Chief Executive Officers responsible for designating lead agencies to administer the block grant. He summarized by explaining that this measure potentially eliminates the current youth bureau system, which serves over 2 million youth statewide.

Mr. Chong noted that in response to this proposal DYCD and the Department of Juvenile Justice submitted joint testimony on the State Executive Budget before the New York State Senate Finance and Assembly Ways and Means Committees on January 15. He explained that testimony comments were focused specifically on the impact of consolidating funding for mandated youth detention services with youth prevention programs. (A copy of this joint testimony was provided with materials). Mr. Chong also thanked the Youth Board Funding and Resource Allocation Committee, who upon learning about the impact to DYCD at a recent meeting, have offered to advocate for youth development services.

### ***New York City Housing Authority Community Centers Transition to DYCD***

Mr. Chong noted that Mayor Bloomberg recently announced a plan to ensure continuity of youth services at 25 NYCHA Community Centers by shifting responsibility to DYCD. He explained that beginning on February 2, and through December 31, DYCD-funded Beacon community centers established comprehensive satellite programs at each of 25 NYCHA community centers. He highlighted that Beacon providers were selected based on geography – looking at community needs, and the location of existing Beacon programs to the NYCHA sites. Finally, he informed that members that as part of the final phase of this transition, DYCD will issue a Concept Paper, followed by a Request for Proposals (RFP), seeking proposals from qualified community-based organizations interested in operating programs at the 25 sites.

### ***Summer Youth Employment Program Awards***

Next, Mr. Chong informed the members that DYCD announced 69 SYEP awards to programs located throughout the five boroughs, and will administer five awards as part of the new Vulnerable Youth competition. He noted that contracts begin on April 1, 2009 and run for three years, with an option to renew for up to three additional years, and that the list of organizations is included in your

meeting booklet. Mr. Chong encouraged the members to also read Commissioner Mullgrav's memo for further agency highlights.

***Today's Presentation: Older Foster Care Youth and Promising Workforce Strategies***

Mr. McKeon called on Youth Council member Rae Linefsky, the moderator of today's presentation to introduce the meeting's guest speakers. Ms. Linefsky explained that today's presentation would focus on the The Academy at F.E.G.S., how it came to be a model of best practices for older youth aging out of the foster care system, and the involvement and leadership role of the Heckscher Foundation. She then introduced and welcomed Julia Bator of the Heckscher Foundation, Andrea Coleman and Courtney Hawkins of F.E.G.S., and, Doug O'Dell of SCO Family Services.

Ms. Bator explained that Heckscher Foundation programs have a long track record of primarily benefiting New York City younger youth. She continued that, as part of its portfolio strategic planning, she was charged with developing a focus on older youth disconnected from school and employment. She described the nine month research phase, which included convening and working with both public and private stakeholders, which included the Department of Youth and Community Development, Administration for Children's Services (ACS), Department of Education, F.E.G.S., SCO Family Services, The Door, the Vera Institute of Justice, the Fund for the City of New York and others. She added that the next phase included an "invitation" or RFP for planning grants to devise programming to assist at risk youth aging out of foster care with youth workforce development services. She highlighted that the resulting initiative – The Academy – became an open enrollment partnership program for youth ages 17 to 21 aging out of the foster care system, a model also to be considered and evaluated for statewide use. She noted that the partnership includes F.E.G.S., Children's Village, Good Shepherd, Jewish Child Care Association, Safe Space and SCO Family Services.

Doug O'Dell added that the significance of open enrollment means that the program is open to all at risk youth from this population. Andrea Coleman added that the program offers unique flexibility through a "no rejection" policy by focusing on individualized services to youth at different levels of need. She continued by highlighting that the partnership of specialized agencies enhances that flexibility.

Peter Borish asked for opinions in relation to agency selection and the array of a continuum of services, noting that traditionally the challenge is no one agency being able to do everything. Dominique Jones of ACS commented that The Academy model provides a "nucleus" that you can leverage as part of a holistic approach – the hope is that this is a model from which others can learn and emulate. She also noted that the model is a key resource to bridge older youth from residency into independence.

### ***Youth Council Report – Rae Linefsky***

Ms. Linefsky thanked the presenters and directed the members' attention to the next agenda item – a call for a resolution concerning Local Workforce Investment Area priority of service. Ms. Linefsky explained that USDOL was asked the Local Workforce Investment Area to state local priority of service preferences for youth. She explained that the proposed resolution included with the day's meeting materials states the Workforce Investment Board Youth Council's preference to prioritize New York City residents for federal Workforce Investment Act funded workforce programs. She further explained that should the Youth Council approve this resolution, it will then be offered to the WIB Policy Committee for the Board's corporate records. [After the members reviewed the proposed resolution, a motion was made to approve and then seconded. There being no objections, the priority of service resolution was approved by the Youth Council.]

### ***Youth Board Report – Richard F. McKeon***

Mr. McKeon directed the members' attention to the next two items of meeting business – a report on the February 5 Youth Funding and Resource Allocation (FRA) Committee meeting and the approval of the Committee and December 3 Quarterly meeting minutes.

Ms. Chen provided a recap of the meeting, as reflected in the minutes. She explained that the committee meeting primarily focused on the legislative updates mentioned in Bill Chong's report that were still evolving at the time. She added, that due to the critically negative impact that the YPBG could have on the youth development system, the committee asked DYCD staff to assist them in preparing an advocacy letter to key state legislators. Mr. McKeon directed the members' attention to the draft letter provided with meeting the day's meeting materials. He asked the members whether there was a motion for support to send letters to key state legislators on the Youth Board's behalf. [After the members reviewed the proposed letters, a motion was made to support the communication of the Board's opposition to the YPBG, and then seconded. There being no objections, Mr. McKeon was approved to send the letters on the Board's behalf.]

Mr. McKeon next asked if there was a motion to approve the February 5 Youth Board FRA Committee minutes and the December 3 Quarterly minutes of the Youth Board and Youth Council. [A motion was made to approve the minutes, and then seconded. There being no objections, the minutes were approved.]

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

**Resolution on Priority of Service for New York City Disconnected Youth  
Workforce Investment Board Youth Council  
March 3, 2009**

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 NYC Workforce Investment Board Youth Council (WIB YC) and DYCD Youth Board are dedicated to promoting education, life skills development, and employment for young people in New York City; and

WHEREAS, the WIB YC and the DYCD Youth Board wish to confirm that addressing the needs of disconnected youth in New York City is a high priority issue; and

WHEREAS, the need for employment and training services for the over 100,000 youth ages 16 to 21 in New York City, who are not in school and not working, is well-documented;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the WIB YC recommends that DYCD continue to implement a New York City residency requirement for eligibility for accessing WIA Out of School Youth employment services, to better address the needs of the disconnected youth in New York City, effective immediately.