

MINUTES
Youth Board/WIB Youth Council
June 3, 2009
Bloomberg L.P.
731 Lexington Avenue
New York, New York
8:30 AM to 10:30 AM

Present:

Youth Board/Youth Council members¹:

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

Guests:

Jagdeen Phanor, Darryl Rattray, Wilson Cano, Yvette Furman, Philip Weinberg, Ryan Dodge, Bill Chong, Carolann Johns, John Cirolia, Maricela Brea, Suzanne Lynn, Julia Breitman, Sheila Scharfman, Maricela Brea, Carolann Johns, Joseph LaMarca, Miguel Almodovar, Leslie Dunbar, Joe Catrambone, Susan Haskell and Christopher Cesarani

Welcome and Call to Order

Youth Council Vice Chair Rae Linefsky called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone present and thanked Erana Stennett for arranging for the use of meeting space at Bloomberg LP. Ms. Linefsky also welcomed new Youth Council member Howard Knoll, Senior Director of the Casey Family Programs, and Philip Weinberg, who was recently appointed as the new President of the NYC Workforce Investment Board (WIB). As there have been many significant updates relating to the Workforce Investment Act and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) that impact DYCD workforce programming, Ms. Linefsky turned the Youth Council Chair's report time over to Commissioner Mullgrav.

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

² Dominique Jones was in attendance for Commissioner John Mattingly.

³ Meg Von Glahn was in attendance for Mr. Omoniyi Amoran

⁴ Joseph LaMarca was in attendance for Chairman Ricardo Morales

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Mullgrav also thanked Ms. Stennett, welcomed everyone present and proceeded with an agency update.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Budget Updates Introduction

Commission Mullgrav began with an update concerning the significant developments at DYCD in recent months, related to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding (aka ARRA or stimulus funding). She explained that DYCD will be administering \$78M in ARRA funding through the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and the Community Service Block Grant (CSBG). She added that after intense planning with oversight agencies, our city partners, advocates and community-based providers, we have created an outline for ARRA funding, which is pending final approval. She directed the members' attention to the chart under Tab No. 3, summarizing the allocations for 4 WIA ARRA initiatives – the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), Subsidized Internships for Disconnected Youth, Go to School, Get a Job, and Parks Opportunity Program, Back to School and Work - totaling \$29.02 million. She described how the funding in these four program areas will be spent on wages to provide paid jobs and internships to youth, ages 14 to 24. Commissioner Mullgrav expressed that young people will be the most impacted by increasing unemployment at a time in their lives when employment is critical to future success. Further, she explained that we also know that young people typically cash their paychecks and put their earnings directly back into the economy, providing precisely the impact Congress is seeking.

Commissioner Mullgrav noted for the members the expectations for each of the four programs planned to receive WIA ARRA funding. She explained that the majority of the funds - \$18.5 million - will be spent on the SYEP and a minimum of 30 percent will support out-of-school youth. She noted that current plans anticipate an enrollment of 51,000 young people in SYEP, in contrast to 43,000 youth last summer. She also noted that for the first time SYEP will be available to young people up to age 24, expanded from age 21. She made the members aware that as of the date of this meeting, DYCD has received over 139,000 applications for Summer 2009.

Secretary Hilda Solis Visit

Next, Commission Mullgrav highlighted that on May 28 US Department of Labor Secretary Hilda Solis came to New York City to visit WIA employment initiatives. She explained that, together with Youth Council Chair Reg Foster and others, the Secretary was provided with a tour of one of DYCD's Out-of-School Youth at the International Sheet Metal Workers Union Local 28 in Queens, and were also joined by partners in from the SYE programs. She commented that the Secretary was very interested in New York City's work.

Community Service Block Grant (CSBG)

Commissioner Mullgrav next noted that the same chart under Tab No. 3 also highlights the allocation of the \$49 million dollars that will be available through ARRA CSBG funding. She noted that the largest portion of \$17.4 million will support SYEP, the next significant amount of \$14.1 million will be for OST Option II and summer programs, and the remainder will be used to enhance: fatherhood programs; adult literacy/ABE & GED; adult literacy/ESOL & immigrant employment services; immigrant services/domestic violence programs; and, Beacon programs. The Commissioner concluded her remarks and welcomed any questions from the members.

Peter Kleinbard asked if there is any documented public breakdown of the SYEP and other ARRA funding. Commissioner Mullgrav responded that the DYCD and City's websites breakdown the demographics of SYEP and track the ARRA funding by program area. Howard Knoll asked about steps being taken in relation to engaging youth about the programs being offered. Commissioner Mullgrav highlighted that youth takes place on many levels from the use of technology, such as the DYCD website and Youth Connect, to outreach conducted by contracted community-based organizations (CBOs). Peter Borish asked about how community-based organizations are handling budget strategies under current economic conditions to make sure services are successfully implemented. Commissioner Mullgrav explained that DYCD can monitor the ability of CBOs to meet payroll, ensure an appropriate number of staff are employed to properly implement programming and offer technical assistance. Erana Stennett commented that Mayor Bloomberg just recently announced a new initiative to help New York City nonprofits cope with the cash crunch, as a result of the economic downturn. Rae Linefsky noted that in times like these we see challenges for small non-profits, which are some times the only resources for services in a neighborhood. Reverend Faulkner asked what types of technical assistance are being offered to help programs manage themselves more efficiently. Commissioner Mullgrav told the members that she would invite Denice Williams to talk about what supports and initiatives are available to non-profits. Erana Stennett noted that many of the non-profits served by corporate philanthropy overlap are the same CBOs in the DYCD portfolio and that sharing where each side sees priorities will help in decision-making.

Presentation: The Cornerstone Initiative

Commissioner Mullgrav thanked the members for their questions and feedback. She then introduced Assistant Commissioner Darryl Rattray who was in attendance to deliver a presentation on DYCD's Cornerstone Initiative. She noted that the Cornerstone Initiative is opportunity to further leverage existing resources and enhance service delivery.

Mr. Rattray began his presentation by explaining that with support from NYC Housing Authority (NYCHA), DYCD has assumed the administration of youth programs at the centers. He continued that DYCD will soon issue a Cornerstone Initiative Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking qualified providers to offer youth and community services at 25 NYCHA community centers and directed the members' attention to the already issued concept paper issued on May 6. He described the purpose of the Cornerstone programs as focused on providing high-quality, innovative youth development activities for children and young adults, while facilitating

programming for adults of all ages and working to support vibrant community centers at each of the 25 sites. Erana Stennett asked if there would be any change in service delivery previously offered at the NYCHA centers. Mr. Rattray explained that the services would remain free of charge and that planning has been informed by preliminary input from a wide range of stakeholders including the NYCHA Council of Presidents, NYCHA Resident Associations, NYCHA residents, youth and parent focus groups and surveys, as well as relevant research to meet current needs. He continued by highlighting that primary program goals would include: ensuring a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment; promoting healthy physical, emotional and social development; involving and engaging youth in structured activities to build literacy and other core skills; giving youth “choice” and “voice” in program implementation; broadening horizons, encouraging appreciation for diversity and fostering community engagement; providing positive adult role models and encouraging parental involvement, and intergenerational activities; building life-life skills to foster social responsibility and reduce risk behavior; facilitating access to health, mental health or other relevant services; and, facilitating programming for adults and seniors primarily through co-locators. Rae Linefsky asked if there were any pre-marketing relationships with Workforce1 Centers occurring. Commissioner Mullgrav responded that we DYCD works with the NYC WIB, and through them the Workforce1 Centers, to keep them informed of DYCD’s programs, the types of services they offer and populations they serve. Ms. Linefsky added that she has heard from many agencies that have more than one DYCD contract a desire to see if there are ways to streamline the intake of required information. Commissioner Mullgrav responded that she would contact DYCD’s Agency Chief Contracting Officer to reach out to her to discuss the topic.

Youth Board Report

Richard McKeon gave brief remarks, directing the members’ attention to first approving the meeting minutes from March 3, 2009 located under Tab No. 1 [A motion was made to approve the minutes, then seconded, and noted that the minutes were approved]. Next he encouraged all the members to read Commissioner Mullgrav’s update memo in the meeting materials, which also highlights the defeat of the Youth Programs Block Grant, proposed as part of the State Executive’s budget. He reminded the members that the Youth Board did write to key State legislators urging that decisions concerning the state budget not be made disproportionately and at the expense of youth in New York.

Finally, Mr. McKeon invited all the members to participate in one of the DYCD Summer of Service (SOS) days being coordinated by DYCD. He explained that the SOS days are focused on providing SYEP participants with volunteer opportunities in keeping with Mayor Bloomberg’s NYC Service call to action, that events would take place throughout the city and that the focus would be on improving the green spaces – parks, gardens and play grounds – at neighborhood parks and city housing centers. He encouraged all the members to take part in SOS and contact Deputy Chief of Staff Ryan Dodge at DYCD for further information.

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