

MINUTES
Youth Board/WIB Youth Council
September 22, 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 members¹:

Ana Garcia Reyes	John Rhea *	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 *	Tom Pendleton *
John Mattingly	Peter Kleinbard *	

Guests:

Holly Delany Cole, Nancy Ramos, Denice Pilgrim, Anthony Ng, Dana DeStefano, Yvette Furman, Melinda Mack, Lea Kilraine, Anthony Ramirez, Ryan Dodge, Bill Chong, Cathleen Collins, Suzanne Lynn, Julia Breitman, Susan Haskell and Christopher Cesarani

Welcome and Call to Order

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

Commissioner's Report

Cornerstone Initiative RFP Released

As a follow-up to the June meeting presentation, Commissioner Mullgrav informed the members that DYCD released the \$10.41 million Cornerstone Initiative RFP on August 18, which seeks qualified not-for-profit organizations to operate programs for youth and adults at 25 New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Community Centers across New York City. As part of the planning process, she explained that DYCD conducted site visits for proposers on

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

² Juan Ramos was in attendance for Commissioner Neil Hernandez.

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

September 1, 2, and 3, and held a Pre-Proposal Conference on September 10. She further continued that the Open Houses provided potential proposers with an opportunity to walk through the Centers and get a closer look at the facilities. She noted that the deadline to submit proposals is October 1 and 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 additional years.

Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) 2009

Next, the Commissioner provided a SYEP update and noted that this summer 52,255 participants were enrolled in SYEP. She also highlighted that: youth were paid the minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour, and worked up to 25 hours per week; worked at 8,687 worksites throughout the city; had a program budget of \$66.3 million in City, State and federal contributions; included in the total budget was \$18.5 million in ARRA funding; and nearly 1,400 SYEP young people participated in the July 24 and August 7 Summer of Service events to improve green spaces around the city.

Commissioner Mullgrav also noted that DYCD participated in a 2009 Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) Exit Survey, which was in response to the US Conference of Mayors Workforce Development Councils' Youth Advocacy campaign to survey SYEP WIA ARRA participants. She highlighted that DYCD staff surveyed 1,004 SYEP participants supported by WIA ARRA funding to solicit feedback on their summer job experience and found that: over ninety percent of the participants surveyed rated their overall summer experience as excellent or good; more than forty percent indicated this was their first job; respondents rated tuition as the top expense for their wages; participants were also asked what was the most important thing learned from their job, which was getting along with their supervisor; and that DYCD will follow-up with referrals to the Young Adult Internship Program and/or Out-of-School Youth Program for the 180 participants who stated they were looking for a full-time job.

Summer of Service

Commissioner Mullgrav thanked Kurt Sonnenfeld, Maureen O'Connor, Ikra Ahmad, Rev. Michel Faulkner, Sibyl Silberstein and Rich McKeon for participating in the inaugural Summer of Service events, which kicked off on July 24, and was part of Mayor Bloomberg's NYC Service initiative. Participants were recruited from SYEP. She highlighted for the members that the projects occurred at NYCHA developments and Parks locations, and featured sustainability activities such as building planter boxes, planting flowers and vegetables, and painting. She also noted that on August 7, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg joined her and other City officials in celebrating the second and final day of Summer of Service, which attracted 783 young volunteers to service projects in all five boroughs.

Ladders for Leaders Graduation at Gracie Mansion

Next, Commissioner Mullgrav informed the members Mayor Bloomberg joined Commission on Women's Issues (CWI) Chair Anne Sutherland Fuchs and her at the of the August 11 NYC Ladders for Leaders graduation at Gracie Mansion. She thanked the members for showing their

support by joining the festivities. She highlighted that this summer there 174 graduates who interned at 60 worksites – worksites that included many of member organizations, such as Bloomberg LP, IBM, Berkeley College, Brooklyn College, as well as the organizations of many member colleagues. She continued that during the graduation ceremony the Mayor announced the four winners - Tavia Burwell, Arnold Chiu, Wesley Johnson and Lilmaka Robinson - of the American Airlines College Tour Competition, which provides select Ladders for Leaders participants with round-trip airfare to visit colleges outside of New York City.

August 4 and 5 Visit by the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) to SYEP Worksites

Commissioner Mullgrav informed the members that on August 4 and 5 representatives from the USDOL visited New York City to become acquainted with SYEP operations and observe some of the worksites for participants. She continued that at each site, USDOL representatives spoke to the direct supervisors and the young people themselves at the following locations: Columbia University Medical Center; the NYC Parks Department worksite at Riverside Park; a CVS Pharmacy; and the Red Hook Community Farm. She explained that informal feedback from the USDOL representatives indicated that they were impressed by the scale and organization of the program.

Youth Board Annual Meeting Business

Mr. McKeon thanked the Commissioner for her report and directed the members' attention to the next item of business on the agenda – the approval of the June 3 meeting minutes located under Tab No.1 in the meeting book. [A motion was made to approve the minutes, then seconded, and noted that the minutes were approved]. Next he directed the members' attention to the appointment of Youth Board officers. He explained that the September quarterly meeting is the Youth Board's annual meeting, and that pursuant to the by-laws, Youth Board Officers are appointed each year at this meeting. He continued by explaining that the Standards Rules and Nominations Committee recommends a slate to the Chair to propose to the Board. He noted that former member Franc Perry was the Chair of this Committee and that Ellen Chen had agreed to assume responsibility for the work of this committee. Ms. Chen informed the members that the committee had decided to recommend to the full board the reappointment of the current officers - Erana Stennett Vice Chair; Sibyl Silberstein, Secretary; and, Lena Townsend, Corresponding Secretary. Mr. McKeon asked if there was a motion to approve the reappointment of the Youth Board officers. [A motion was made to approve the reappointment of the Youth Board officers, then seconded, and noted that the minutes were approved].

Mr. McKeon informed the members about the formation of a new Youth Board committee – the Out-of-School Time Sustainability Committee and introduced Youth Board member Peter Borish, who agreed to chair the work of this group. Mr. Borish reminded the members that DYCD relies on the Youth Board and Youth Council as a key forum for gathering input from outside stakeholders and that their membership brings together a diverse array of perspectives - the perspectives of parents, community leaders, CBO providers, corporate leaders and young people. He noted that in recognition of the resource that the board is, the Wallace Foundation in its "OST Initiative Business Plan" recommended that the Youth Board add a Sustainability Committee. He explained that after discussions with Commissioner Mullgrav and

Richard McKeon, he agreed to Chair this committee. He continued that the mission of the Sustainability Committee is to build support for and educate the public about the importance of OST services to New York's youth, working families and the long term success of the city. Mr. Borish then invited interested members to join this committee by letting Chris Cesarani or Susan Haskell know of their your interest.

Mr. McKeon thanked Ms. Chen and Mr. Borish for their updates and work. He then directed the members to Tab No. 3 of the meeting book, which noted the Youth Board's accomplishments during the year. He thanked everyone for their work and involvement during and he looked forward to working with all of them and DYCD on directions for ongoing and new projects. Mr. McKeon then turned the meeting back over to Commissioner Mullgrav, who introduced the day's presentation.

Presentation: Building Capacity in Tough Economic Times

Commissioner Mullgrav explained that today's meeting will include presentations that follow-up on some of the members' comments and concerns that were expressed at the June meeting. She introduced Williams, Assistant Commissioner, Technical Assistance and Capacity-Building, and Holly Delaney Cole, Deputy Director of Programs at the Community Resource Exchange, who were there to discuss DYCD's efforts to maintain and build capacity during these tough economic times.

Ms. Cole described the "perfect storm" that took place in the economy and the impact it had on community-based organizations (CBOs) – decreased revenues and limited access to credit; increased demand for services and shifts in funding priorities. Ms. Williams added that preliminary independent studies have shown rapid growth at many CBOs through public dollars, strained infrastructures, a simplification of data collection and organization is needed and multi-level, integrated leadership practice is a goal. She explained that, as a result of current economic conditions, new technical assistance RFPs emphasize organizational development. She continued by explaining that the intent is to enhance infrastructure, improve leadership practices and ensure consistent high-quality programs. As part of this process, she explained how DYCD partners with capacity building vendors (CRE, Nonprofit Finance Fund, and the National Technical Assistance Center for Community Schools). Further she described the key activities that take place, including: fiscal review; program observations; interviews with executive teams and board members; assessment findings with recommendations; priority setting; intensive on-site support; action-learning; communities of practice and coaching. Ms. Cole then described tools and resources available through CRE. She added that the goal is a common approach for youth development that highlights quality practices. She continued that this work is being carried out with Policy Studies Associates. Ms. Williams added that DYCD is reviewing with the Agency Chief Contracting Officer and that initial findings reveal that 90% of contracts are registered on time. Ms. Linefsky commented that a particular concern is stemming staff turnover and the need to train and retain staff in the field. Peter Kleinbard commented that assessing infrastructure will be beneficial in informing policy choices. He added that the economy will recover but it's important to begin the thought process of how CBOs can work together in anticipation of future downturns. Howard Knoll and Lena Townsend both observed that many organizations lose staff because of the cost of employee benefits. Anthony Ng shared that many

of the organizations he works with feel there is a redundancy in paperwork and that there could be an opportunity to streamline some contracting processes. Ms. Williams commented that there is an effort to streamline document management. Mr. McKeon thanked the presenters and commented that going forward the members should continue this discussion, as well as how we can think differently about funding.

Youth Connect – Using Social Networking: Myspace, Facebook

Commissioner Mullgrav thanked Ms. Williams and Ms. Cole for their presentation and then introduced Youth Board member Jermaine Williams and Anthony Ramirez, Director of Youth Connect. Mr. Williams shared a powerpoint presentation showcasing DYCD's launch of social networking to expand outreach regarding our programs. He described how the content made available on all the pages, including DYCD e-blast newsletters, which offer program information and resources for young people and their families. He also described how Youth Connect is able to refer callers to this online resource as a portal for regularly updated information. Mr. Ramirez noted that Mr. Williams is not only a Youth Board member but also a Youth Connect senior representative. He also noted that Mr. Williams has recently turned 22 years old and would no longer be able to serve on the Youth Board. [the members warmly congratulated Mr. Williams on both his presentation, continuing Youth Connect work and birthday].

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