

MINUTES
Youth Board/WIB Youth Council
June 7, 2007
Department of Youth and Community Development
156 William Street, 2nd Floor
8:30 A.M. to 10:00 A.M.

Present:

Youth Board/Youth Council members¹:

Ana Garcia Reyes *	Kurt Sonnenfeld, EdD *	Reg Foster *
Omoniyi Amoran *	Lena Townsend *	Rev. Michel J. Faulkner *
Charles Hamilton	Lynette Velasco	Richard McKeon *
Craig Eaton, Esq.	Maureen O'Connor *	Rick Amato
Dr. Mildred Garcia	Dr. Milga Morales Nadal,	Robert Purga
Ellen Chen*	Phd *	Sibyl Silberstein *
Erana Stennett *	Mohamed Ghanem *	Susan Royer
Ivelisse Fairchild	Nancy Wackstein *	Tino Hernandez * ⁴
Jeanne B. Mullgrav *	Neil Hernandez * ³	William Franc Perry,
John Mattingly * ²	Peter Borish	Esq. *
Karen Fulbright-Anderson,	Peter Kleinbard *	William Janowitz *
Phd *	Rae Linefsky *	

Guests:

Thomas Krever, R. Christian, Dianne Morales, dodd Terry, Theresa Greenberg, Rebecca Brown, Jona Hall, Rachel Lloyd, Tim Ford, Robin McClary, Tina Marie Vella, Faisal Rahman, Tom Pendleton, Gloria Fields, Delloise Wanamaker, Valerie Alcena, Yvette Furman, Michael Ognibene, Miguel Almodovar, Susan Haskell and Chris Cesarani.

Youth Board Chair Rich McKeon called the meeting to order and asked Commissioner Mullgrav if she would like to report updates from the Department of Youth and Community Development.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Mullgrav remarked on the following:

Charles Langere: Commissioner Mullgrav asked the members to take a brief moment to honor Charles A. Langere, who served as a vibrant member on the Youth Board up until his passing on May 4 at age 64. She informed the members that Mr. Langere was a resident of Staten Island dedicated to community service and was particularly supportive of DYCD and services for all young people.

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

² Dodd Terry was in attendance for Commissioner John Mattingly.

³ Taman Paisley was in attendance for Commissioner Neil Hernandez.

⁴ Jona Hall was in attendance for Commissioner Tino Hernandez.

CEO Update: Commissioner Mullgrav reminded the members that at the last meeting, Deputy Mayor Linda Gibbs provided an overview of the Mayor's newly created Center for Economic Opportunity (CEO). She informed everyone that since that time, DYCD released the Service Learning Initiative Concept Paper on March 19, and Young Adult Internship Program Concept Paper on March 26.

OST UPDATE: Commissioner Mullgrav informed the members that DYCD has been working with OST providers for the first phase of the anticipated OST expansion. She explained that effective July 1, DYCD providers will offer 4,500 additional opportunities for elementary school-aged youth to participate in comprehensive, high-quality summer OST programs. She added that going forward, 2,100 new school-year OST slots will be added to the system effective September 1, 2007, which will bring the total number of elementary school participants to 24,200 with more than half of them having access to summer (year-round) services.

SYEP 2007: Commissioner Mullgrav told the members that May 18 was the deadline to submit applications for the 2007 Summer Youth Employment Program. She explained that DYCD received nearly 90,000 applications for the program, about 20,000 more than last year. She further informed the members that over 46,000 of those applications were submitted through the new online application system. She informed that members that the program plans to offer jobs to over 40,000 young people this year, which will seven weeks, 25 hours per week at \$7.15 per hour.

Introduction of Panel Presentation – Vulnerable Youth: Presentation of Three Models

Commissioner Mullgrav explained that DYCD offers a wide range of initiatives to meet the diverse needs of our City's youth. She added that these programs are developed with the feedback and expertise of service providers who understand the different and often special needs of young people. She then introduced Dianne Morales, Executive Director of the Door; Rachel Lloyd, Executive Director of Girls Educational & Mentoring Services (GEMS); and, Thomas Krever, Deputy Executive Director of the Hetrick-Martin Institute.

Ellen Chen moderated the Panel welcomed the panelist and delivered questions. During the question and answer session the following were highlighted by each of the panelists, when asked about strategies, program design that capitalizes on the inherent strengths of young people, the necessity for specialized programming and making the overall youth development system more responsive to all young people:

Dianne Morales: Ms. Morales highlighted the diversity and complexity of the vulnerable youth population. She explained that the key to success for the Door is its comprehensive programming and supportive community approach. As such, young people, once they have accessed the program, are able to be constructively engaged.

Rachel Lloyd: Ms. Lloyd provided insights on segment of the vulnerable youth population traumatized by sexual exploitation. She explained that positive reclamation involves recognition of the unique challenges these young people must overcome. As part of that process, raising awareness that victimization and abuse are being overcome – removing a sense of stigma - are important for both the community and among those youth being served. Ms. Lloyd also informed the audience of new legislation, the “Safe Harbor Act” which is proposed to decriminalize children who are commercially sexually-exploited and provide them with counseling and services.

Thomas Krever: Mr. Krever further highlighted the diversity and special needs of the vulnerable youth population through his work with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning youth. Because there is still much more work to do in relation to raising awareness of the particular needs of this segment of the youth population, he emphasized the continuing need for specialized programming. Mr. Krever explained that often times the support and safe environment the vulnerable youth the Hetrick-Martin Institute serves are unavailable in local communities.

After a question and answer session with the audience, Mr. McKeon thanked the panelists for their dedicated work in this field and for meeting with the members today.

Youth Board Chair Report

CAPITAL

Mr. McKeon provided a brief CAPITAL – Corporate Allies Program of Internships, Training and Leadership - update, highlighting the breakfast that DYCD held at Columbia University’s Low Memorial Hall with the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce. He explained that the purpose of the event was to raise corporate awareness of the CAPITAL internship program and to seek additional job commitments for CAPITAL. He informed the members that sponsors included Columbia University, Coca-Cola, and American Legacy Magazine. Mr. McKeon, who moderated the event, told the members speakers included Commissioner Mullgrav, John Hope Bryant, Founder, Chairman, CEO of Operation HOPE; and, Lloyd A. Williams, President of the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce. He added that Deputy Mayor Dennis M. Walcott urged the over 50 corporate leaders in attendance to make job commitments to the program and CAPITAL 2006 alumna Akieva Longmire, a senior attending the Frederick Douglass Academy, was a featured speaker.

Youth Board Minutes and Bylaws

Mr. McKeon next asked the members for their approval of the March regular meeting and Standards, Rules and Nominations Committee minutes under tabs 1 and 2 of the materials book. The minutes were approved. He next called on Franc Parry, Chair of the Standards, Rules and Nominations Committee to offer the amended Youth Board Bylaws for approval. Mr. Parry explained, as described in the meeting minutes of the committee that the bylaws were reviewed and recommended equal opportunity language proposed by the NYS Office of Children and Family Services was included under Article III, Members. The amended Youth Board Bylaws were approved.

Youth Council Chair's Report

Reg Foster noted for the members DYCD's Out of School Time Career Fair in partnership with City Year, Inc. took place at the Workforce1 Career Centers. Mr. Foster also informed the members that the New York State Department of Labor provided a grant of \$50,000 for BoysREACH, a joint initiative of DYCD and the Mayor's Commission on Women's Issues.

Other Notes

Before concluding the meeting, Commissioner Mullgrav recognized and welcomed Tim Ford, the new Executive Director of the New York City Employment and Training Coalition to the meeting.

Commissioner Mullgrav called upon Susan Haskell to remind the members about the 37th annual conference of the Association of New York State Youth Bureaus, entitled "Our Youth: Fulfilling New York's Promise," which will be held in New York City, for the first time this year. She thanked Erana Stennett for offering Bloomberg, LP to host a cocktail reception on the evening of Wednesday, October 17 and reminded everyone that the conference will take place on October 17-19, at the New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge. Commissioner Mullgrav also thanked Kurt Sonnenfeld for noting that the conference also marks the 60th Anniversary of New York City's Youth Bureau.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.