

**MINUTES**  
**Youth Board/WIB Youth Council**  
**September 6, 2007**  
**Department of Youth and Community Development**  
**156 William Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**  
**8:30 A.M. to 10:00 A.M.**

***Present:***

Youth Board/Youth Council members<sup>1</sup>:

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

***Guests:***

Suzanne Foran, Adjoa Gzafia, Alison Yacca, Alan Cheng, Deidre Pilgrm, Yvette Furman, Ronald Gordon, Markeya Moore, Miguel Almodovar, Daphne Montanez, Laurie Parise, Jermaine Wright, Gloria Fields, Adam Rabiner, David Nidas, Tom Pendleton, Ikra Ahmad, Yael Bat-Chava, Faisal Rahman, Darryl Rattray, May Chin, Brian Egan, Anthony Ng, Michelle Yanche, Tim Ford, 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 welcomed the members and offered brief remarks – encouraging everyone gathered to read her update memorandum to the Youth Board and Youth Council.

Youth Advisory Group to the Youth Board: Commissioner Mullgrav asked Ikra Ahmad, Markeya Moore, Ronald Gordon, Jermaine Wright, who meet as a youth advisory group to the Youth Board, to stand up. The Commissioner Mullgrav explained that the young people present participated in a focus group for the Service Learning Initiative and took an informational tour of Youthline, and regularly meets with DYCD staff to share their thoughts and perspectives on initiatives.

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

<sup>2</sup> Dodd Terry was in attendance for Commissioner John Mattingly.

<sup>3</sup> Anthony Ng attended the meeting on behalf of Nancy Wackstein.

Request for Proposals: The Commissioner informed the members that, in addition to the new immigrant programs that began on July 1, and the Fatherhood and Beacon Programs that began on September 1, DYCD released 4 RFPs:

- the Literacy Services RFP
- CEO Service Learning Initiative RFP
- CEO Young Adults Internship Program (YAIP) RFP
- Out-of-School Time Programs for Youth Elementary School Expansion RFP.

Commissioner Mullgrav also introduced Adam Rabiner, the new director of YAIP.

Association of New York State Youth Bureaus Annual Conference: The Commissioner reminded the members that DYCD will be hosting the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Association of New York State Youth Bureaus (ANYSYB), October 17-19, 2007 at the New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge.

- She noted that Dr. Andrew Sum of the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University, a nationally recognized expert on youth workforce development issues, will be the featured speaker on October 17.
- She thanked Erana Stennett, Lena Townsend, Peter Borish, Reg Foster, Nancy Wackstein for their involvement and support of the Conference. She encouraged everyone to register for this conference, to support the ANYSYB, and DYCD – but also to participate in the great events and presentations that are planned.
- The Commissioner also noted that Youth Board member Kurt Sonnenfeld will receive a lifetime achievement award at the Awards Luncheon on October 18.

Youth Workforce Development Update: Commissioner Mullgrav next highlighted youth workforce development updates, noting that Alan Cheng and a panel of guests will go in to greater detail on the topic of summer youth employment.

Summer Youth Employment Program:

- She noted that the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) employed more than 41,000 young people at over 6,000 worksites throughout the city this year.
- She added that Workforce Investment Act (WIA) In-School Youth (ISY) program participants are eligible for SYEP as part of their program activities, without entering the SYEP lottery and that this year, 99% of youth enrolled in WIA ISY chose to participate in SYEP.
- The Commissioner continued with ISY highlights by noting that, in response to US Department of Labor's new outcome measures – the WIA “Common Measures” ISY contractors are serving older high school students, and therefore emphasizing college-prep activities and trips, SAT prep, work-readiness workshops & job development.

### Girls REACH and Boys REACH:

- Commissioner Mullgrav explained that the goal of the program is to introduce students to strong role models and orient participants to the importance of career preparation and a post-secondary education.
- She informed the members that this year there were 45 girls and 32 boys from WIA ISY enrolled in the respective programs.
- She continued by explaining that many high quality employers participated in the program, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), who hired seven participants.
- The Commissioner reported that the FBI supervisors expressed great satisfaction with these interns and requested 50 more for next year.

### Out-of-School Youth Employment Program:

- Commissioner Mullgrav noted that the Out of School Youth (OSY) programs are also working to implement WIA Common measures by adding focus to the new literacy/numeracy measure. She added that OSY contracts met 98% of their registration goals.

### CAPITAL:

- The Commissioner concluded her remarks with an update on CAPITAL, informing the members that a breakfast for intern supervisors was hosted by DYCD at Young & Rubicam Brands' Executive Conference Center on Madison Avenue
- She noted that this summer, 85 Interns were employed by 25 employers - 85 placements, 25 of those were developed with your help of the Youth Board and Youth Council.

### ***How NYC Youth Spent their Summer Vacation: DYCD's Summer Youth Employment Program***

Rich McKeon introduced Director of SYEP Alan Cheng, who provided the members with a presentation highlighting the innovations and program changes that were achieved with SYEP. He discussed the overhaul of the program to build greater efficiencies, such as through the elimination of paper payment and implementation of an electronic debit card system.

### ***Model Approaches to SYEP – Panel Discussion***

Rich McKeon next introduced Assistant Commissioner Miguel Almodovar, who moderated a panel of guest speakers representing best practices in the summer youth employment provider community. Mr. Almodovar introduced Alison Yacca, Program Coordinator for United Activities Unlimited (UAU); Adjoa Esinam Gzifa, Associate Director of The Workforce Education Center, Research Foundation of CUNY/LaGuardia Community College (LaGuardia); and, Suzanne Foran, Regional Manager for Henkels & McCoy (Henkels).

Educational Approaches: Suzanne Foran of Henkels explained that her program has a year round educational component that helps participants make connections between their training and real work experience. She also noted that unlike the other programs represented today, her program is ISY, where students are automatically eligible for SYEP and there is a requirement for year-round

education. In contrast, Adjoa Gzifa described how LaGuardia's SYEP program is able to leverage the resources and personnel they have available to them as a city college. Alison Yacca described how they make the connection between education and real life and work experiences through a financial literacy component taught by representatives from a local bank.

Employer Outreach and Job Development: Alison Yacca explained that she takes advantage of opportunities to represent UAU to organizations with large labor and employer constituencies. Ms. Gzifa explained how personal contacts and not being shy about highlighting LaGuardia's high quality program to friends and colleagues is an effective grass roots approach. All the speakers emphasized how outreach is continuous year-round work and that its part of informing the public about the quality and impact of the programming in preparing young people for adulthood.

What can the Youth Board and Youth Council do to support SYEP: Rich McKeon introduced members from the audience representing the advocacy community, Michelle Yanche, Anthony Ng and Tim Ford. He asked for their thoughts on how the Youth Board and Youth Council could further support the progress and success of SYEP. Michelle Yanche and Anthony Ng explained that the City has made a tremendous commitment to SYEP, shouldering most of its funding, as well as base lining the program in the City budget, and recently, the Governor prioritized SYEP in the Executive Budget. However, both Ms. Yanche and Mr. Ng emphasized that all of this – the result of community effort where all the stakeholders were working together – is not enough. Ms. Yanche and Mr. Ng encouraged the members to seek federal support these programs. Tim Ford added that he felt it important for more light to be shed on the success of New York's SYEP nationally and that much more could be done to convene a larger audience for this purpose.

### ***Youth Board Chair Report***

Rich McKeon began his report by thanking Franc Perry, Karen Fulbright Anderson and Rae Linefsky for their support of CAPITAL this year by means of developing internships and helping DYCD staff with workshop space.

Funding and Resource Allocations: Mr. McKeon called on Lena Townsend for a brief Funding and Resource Allocation Committee report. Ms. Townsend informed the members that at the last meeting, detailed in the minutes under meeting book tab 2, the committee was provided an overview of youth funding by Director of Grants Management, Dorothy Prager. She added that Ms. Prager's presentation revealed how the City's commitment to youth funding has increased over time, particularly with OST, which far exceeds the state matching requirements for Youth Development and Delinquency Prevention programming. She asked that a motion be made to approve the minutes. [A motion was made and, there being a second motion and no objections, the minutes approved]

Standards, Rules and Nominations: Mr. McKeon next called on Franc Perry for a Standards, Rules and Nominations Committee update. Mr. Perry reminded the group that the committee had been focusing on recommendations from the Office of Children and Family Services and was also seeking recommendations for a slate of candidates for Offices of the Board. He explained, this being the Youth Board and Youth Council's annual meeting, it was required by the Board's by-laws that the slate of offices be reviewed by the committee and offered for approval by the membership. Mr. Perry offered the following slate for approval: Erana Stennett, Vice Chair; Sybil Silberstein,

Secretary; and, Lena Townsend, Corresponding Secretary. [A motion was made to confirm the slate as officers and, there being a second motion and no objections, the motion was approved]

Youth Represent: Mr. McKeon next introduced Laurie Parise, founder of Youth Represent. He noted that, as reconnecting those young people not in school or currently employed is a priority for the Youth Board and Youth Council, he invited Ms. Parise to the meeting today to highlight some of the challenges formerly incarcerated older youth and young adults face. Ms. Parise explained that Youth Represent is a new model for juvenile justice in NYC in that it is focusing on work that public defenders are without the resources to address. Specifically, the permanent challenges that youth offenders, 16 and 17 years of age, face when committing misdemeanor and greater crimes.

### ***Youth Council Chair Report***

Mr. Foster began his report by first introducing Youth Council member Charles Hamilton. Mr. Hamilton explained how explained how the New York City Funders Group had been instrumental in creating a new workforce intermediary – JobsFirstNYC – to help highlight and support best practices in serving youth and young adults disconnected from school, work and resources. Mr. Hamilton introduced the new Executive Director, David Nidus.

Mr. Foster continued his remarks by drawing the members attention to Commissioner Mullgrav’s update memorandum and the information on a possible WIA Rescission. Mr. Foster explained that he learned through the local WIB that NYS Department of Labor Commissioner Pat Smith went to speak with Congressional leaders about Labor HHS appropriations. He added that the WIB and Youth Council were preparing to send letters urging elected officials to maintain WIA funding levels. Mr. Foster asked May Chin if there were any further update.

Ms. Chin recapped that the House passed the Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations bill on July 19, 2007, recommending \$940.5 million for WIA Youth training or level funding with FY 2007. She added that the bill opposes the President’s budget recommendation of \$840.5 million for WIA Youth training, which was to be consolidated into a Career Advancement Account block grant. Further, she noted that included in the House spending bill is a recommendation to rescind \$335 million in unused WIA funds – the rescission – or what would be cut of \$15 million to New York City in WIA funds. Mr. Foster thanked Ms. Chin for the update and asked what she thought were next steps and how and when should the Youth Board and Youth Council approach elected officials. Ms. Chin informed the members that she would continue to keep the Chairs of the Youth Board and Youth Council informed of further developments learned from the City’s Washington, D.C. Legislative Office.

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