

# **WORKFORCE INVESTMENT SAN FRANCISCO**

Local Workforce Investment Board for the City and County of San Francisco

MINUTES OF THE  
MARCH 12, 2009 MEETING OF THE  
YOUTH COUNCIL OF THE  
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT SAN FRANCISCO (WISF) BOARD  
AT 1 SOUTH, VAN NESS AVENUE, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR ATRIUM, SAN FRANCISCO

## **Members Present**

Michael Wald, Stanford University	Lorne Needle, United Way of the Bay Area
Alisha Taylor, YMCA	Maria Su, DCYF
Brian Cheu, Mayor's Office of Community Investment	Maya Razon, Jamba Juice
Carla Javits, REDF	Peter Gerharz, Larkin Street Youth Services
Cassandra James, Center for Young Women's Development	Phyllis McGuire, City College of San Francisco (CCSF)
Cheryl Marsh, Department of Probation	Rachel Antrobus, San Francisco Transitional Age Youth Taskforce
Ciara Wade, New Door Ventures	Ruth Barajas, CHALK
Damon Lew, UCSF	Sam Rubin, Improving Transition Outcomes Project
Glenn Eagleson, OEWD	Sara Razavi, HEY! Honoring Emancipated Youth
Jim Fithian, SFUSD	Steve Arcelona, Human Services Agency
Katie Miller, San Francisco District Attorney's Office	Yvette Robles, San Francisco Public Defenders Office
Kimberly Wicoff, Communities of Opportunities	
Kyle Pederson, San Francisco Housing Authority	

## **Members Absent**

Benjie Williams, Treasure Island Job Corps Center	John Knox, Juvenile Probation Department
Hydra Mendoza, Mayor's Office	Michael Theriault, San Francisco Building and Trades Council

## **Staff & Noteables**

Rhonda Simmons, OEWD	Monique Forster, OEWD
Amy Wallace, OEWD	Nikki Ford, OEWD
Marc Majors, OEWD	Patrick Mitchell, OEWD

**Public**

(As Evidenced by the Sign-In Sheet)

Jon Rubin, Heivkels and McCoy  
Kevin Hickey, JVS  
Roxie Hardeman, HSA  
David Taylor, HSA  
Jodi Schwartz, LYRIC  
Jim Whelly, HSA  
Ada Gao, MYEEP  
Carina Calderon, MYEEP  
Annie Kong, MYEEP/VYDC  
Brian Ngynon, MYEEP  
Karina Trien, MYEEP/VYDC  
Linda Zhao, MYEEP  
Rachel Klauber, FSA/TAPP  
Donald Andreas, Inner City Youth  
Shani Nelson, International Institute of the Bay Area  
Troy Henry, Goodwill  
Brentt Brown, OEWD/DCYF  
Joe Ramirez, Positive Resource Center  
Carlos Meja, Youth Leadership Institute  
Jill Roisen, California Lawyers for the Arts  
Damen Herrera, Mercy Housing

Iqra Anjam, Transitional Age Youth  
Ricardo Alva, MLVS  
Lanya Samuelson, JVS  
Max Rocha, DCYF  
Patricia Theel, CTE/SFUSD  
Alex Armenta, Juma Ventures  
Cathy deCristofaro, Urban Services/YMCASF  
Margret Brodtkin, SF  
Racquel Kraft, MYEEP  
Jose Avalos, MYEEP  
Eddie Whitfield, MYEEP  
Alvin Woo, JCYC/MYEEP  
Chamreur Keo, JCYC,MYEEP  
Tauvela Valentino, JCYC

**Roll Call**

Glenn Eagleson, Director of Policy and Planning, Office of Economic and Workforce Development called the meeting to order at 4:38pm.

**On motion by Kimberly Wicoff, seconded and carried, the Council adopted the agenda.**

**Welcome**

Mr. Eagleson gave a brief introduction and welcomed the members and expressed his excitement to have a board with a vast range of people who will have a larger influence on what San Francisco’s youth workforce system should look like.

**Board Member Introductions**

Mr. Eagleson asked each member to introduce themselves.

**TAY Presentation (Discussion Item)**

The youth members of the Youth Council (Alisha Taylor, Cassandra James, and Sam Rubin) presented on transitional age youth (TAY) in San Francisco. The presentation defined who are TAY, what TAY needs, and how the Youth Council can help with the needs of TAY. The TAY presentation also offered recommendations to the Youth Council on how to better serve TAY.

**Comments from Director of OEWD, Workforce Development**

Rhonda Simmons, Director of Workforce Development, expressed her enthusiasm with the reconstituted Youth Council Board. Ms. Simmons stated that the role of the Youth Council is to guide the overall vision of what OEWD is trying to do with youth in San Francisco. Ms. Simmons also noted that there is a lot of work to be done around the Economic Stimulus and to be mindful that it is a once in a lifetime funding opportunity. Ms. Simmons would like for the Youth Council to focus on sustainability of the system.

**Overview of Youth Workforce System (Discussion Item)**

Mr. Wald began the discussion on the Youth Workforce system and stated that education is the key into workforce. Mr. Eagleson referred to Item #4 in the meeting materials (Youth Workforce System At-A glance document) and summarized each department and organization and described programs that are available for youth.

**Youth Council Vision and Strategic Priorities (Action Item)**

Mr. Wald explained that OEWD wanted a Youth Council that can affect policy and program in a significant way. Mr. Wald outlined the Strategic Priorities adopted by the previous Youth Council and stated that the central vision is that all City departments, the SFUSD, CCSF, the business community, and non-profit organizations should be working together to make it possible for every youth in San Francisco to complete high school and hopefully, if they are interested, to

obtain post secondary education or move toward meaningful employment. Mr. Wald explained that there are three areas that the Youth Council needs to improve: a lack of a clear vision from all systems involved, a lack of high quality services from all service providers, and a lack of accountability from the systems. Mr. Wald also explained that San Francisco has a unique opportunity to achieve the vision of the Youth Council.

San Francisco is both a city and county, with one single school district and a single community college district, which makes it manageable to communicate and coordinate across entities. Workforce policy-making is centralized in the Office of Economic and Workforce Development. Moreover; the number of youth needing services is manageable. However; these youth face significant challenges which can only be addressed by a coordinated system.

**Mr. Wald asked for a motion to pass the adoption of the Strategic Priorities that were set forth by the previous Youth Council.**

**The motion was adopted by Steve Arcelona and seconded by Brian Cheu.**

**Motion Passed**

**Proposed Committees  
and Goals  
(Discussion Item)**

Mr. Wald proposed that Youth Council members be organized into three working groups. The charge of these working groups is to advise on policy and funding priorities for 2010 and beyond, when the Workforce Investment Act, Community Development Block Grant, and Department of Children, Youth and Families funding will all be up for bid. The structure of the working groups has been designed to influence the plans on how the money is spent. The first working group is on Alignment of Priorities and Budgets, and will be chaired by Kimberly Wicoff. Other members of the Alignment of Priorities working group include, Steve Arcelona, Brian Cheu, Cheryl Marsh, Katie Miller, Kyle Pedersen, Maria Su, Sam Rubin, and Glenn Eagleson. The second working group is on Quality Standards with Carla Javits as the Chair. Members of the quality standards working group include Ruth Barajas, Peter Gerharz, Cassandra James, Maya Razon, Ciara Wade, Benjie Williams, and Yvette Robles, and Max Rocha who will staff the group. The third working group is on Integration of Education and Workforce with Lorne Needle as the chair. Members of the Integration of Education working group include, Rachel Antrobus, Jim Fithian, John Knox, Damon Lew, Hydra Mendoza, Sara Razavi, and Alisha Taylor, and Rachel Antrobus will staff the group.

**Economic Stimulus  
Funding  
(Discussion Item)**

Mr. Eagleson presented on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the Economic Stimulus package. Mr. Eagleson stated that there is a significant amount of money going towards infrastructure development, which will help maintain or create jobs for those that already have the skills for those specific jobs. San Francisco anticipates 2.3 million dollars for additional WIA youth funding. A key provision is that all other organizations have to go through a competitive bidding process for the funds. Additionally, the ARRA raises the age limit for youth services up to 24; previously the age has been limited to 21. In response to a question, Mr. Eagleson indicated that it is not known whether the age limit for ongoing WIA youth services will continue to be raised to 24 years. Mr. Eagleson stated that there has been a real push for state and local governments to put money into summer job programs to help jumpstart the economy and get the money out into the economy quickly to spend it quickly and wisely. The outcomes required have been relaxed so that the focus is only on achieving a work readiness credential.

Steve Arcelona asked if WIA relaxed outcomes will be relaxed for existing dollars?

Mr. Eagleson indicated that the stimulus funds have separate requirements. The relaxed outcomes are only for the summer component. Stimulus year round funding will be held to the WIA Common Performance Measures. Mr. Eagleson continued saying that the stimulus funding is a one time resource and needs to be used strategically to leverage and align resources. There is also a focus on skills and getting people attached to the labor market. An RFP will be out in late April or May for competitive funding for a summer youth employment program. Additional funding will be released in an RFP expected in June.

Mr. Eagleson replied that he did not know. The specific regulations have not yet come out and are expected to come out March 13, 2009, which would be regarding regulation that the states get

around policy and procurement.

Steve Arcelona asked if there were other opportunities to compete for competitive funds?

Mr. Eagleson replied that there are ample opportunities for the City to compete for additional dollars. The Mayor has asked departments to think about jobs and workforce development as they apply for funds.

Phyllis McGuire stated that CCSF is watching DOL funds and those funds that are sector driven. CCSF would like to partner with Workforce Development on the DOL funds. Ms. McGuire inquired about the second chance act?

Glenn Eagleson responded that the City is tracking a wide range of workforce related stimulus funding. For example, there is planning going on around the Second Chance Act, the Sherriff's office is working on the Second Chance Act.

## **Logistics**

Ms. Monique Forster, Secretary of the Youth Council Board, presented on the requirements of the Youth Council Board to fill out and turn in the Form 700 Statement of Economic Interests, to take the Ethics Training and turn in a signed copy of the Certificate of Ethics Training, take the Sunshine Ordinance Training and turn in a signed copy of the Sunshine Ordinance.

## **Public Comment**

Mr. Wald called for public comment yielded the following responses:

### **Ms. Jodi Schwartz, LYRIC:**

Ms. Schwartz stated that she appreciated the working groups and asked if the working groups were open to the public?

Mr. Wald responded to Ms. Schwartz stating that the working groups will periodically be open to the public and the chairs of the working groups might invite people to broaden the expertise as well as draw upon knowledge from those outside of the working groups.

Mr. Eagleson stated that there is a WiCAC (Workforce Community Advisory Committee) attached to the Workforce Investment Board, charged with getting input from the community and from community-based organizations.

Ms. Schwartz stated that the format of the public comment makes it a little difficult to talk through and engage in conversations with the Council. Ms. Schwartz advised the council to be cautious in creating uniformity both in the conversation around quality standards and the conversations around funding.

Mr. Wald responded that three representatives of community-based organizations were selected by the Youth Employment Coalition to be on the Youth Council.

### **Alvin Woo, Japanese Youth Council, JCYC:**

Alvin said that JCYC raises awareness about the programs at JCYC and JCYC will be losing employment funding and some of the youth will not have summer jobs.

### **Tauvela Valentino, JCYC:**

Ms. Valentino stated that she is a junior in high school and MYEEP has had a big impact on her life. MYEEP has also made a big impact in the community and in the City. MYEEP gives the youth the skills to find a job and be prepared while at a job.

### **Karina Trien MYEEP:**

Ms. Trien stated that she is proud to be a part of MYEEP and it has had a great influence on her life. Because of MYEEP she has learned great communication skills, social skills, and gained working experience. Ms. Trien hopes that the Youth Council will make good decisions around funding and good decisions that will impact the lives of the youth.

**Anne Kong MYEEP:**

Ms. Kong has been in MYEEP for three years and she is now helping give back to the youth to prepare for jobs and apply for summer jobs. Ms. Kong hopes that there is funding for MYEEP for summer programs so that participants can get more experience versus working during the school year.

**Brian MYEEP:**

Brian is a counselor in training at MYEEP and stated that MYEEP's participants are low income and have other barriers to getting skills regarding employment. Through pre-employment program at MYEEP, participants learn soft skills and other various skills.

**Mr. Chamreur Keo MYEEP:**

Mr. Keo is a Counselor in training and project coordinator at MYEEP. As a counselor Mr. Keo teaches leadership skills three times a week, communication skills, and effective listening. After taking a job with MYEEP Mr. Keo has learned networking skills and wants the Youth Council to make good decision around funding to help MYEEP.

**Conclusion**

Following the business described above, the meeting was adjourned by Mr. Wald. Motion to adjourn by Sarah Razavi and seconded by Brian Cheu.