

**MARICOPA WORKFORCE CONNECTIONS
YOUTH COUNCIL
Maricopa County Human Services Department
234 North Central, Suite 3201, Phoenix, AZ 85004
Arizona Conference Room
Minutes
March 18, 2010**

I. Call to Order

Tony Maldonado called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m.

II. Roll Call: Quorum

| Present | Excused/Absent | Staff |
|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Patrick Burkhart | Bob Neckes | Kimberly Faust |
| Che Collins | | Laurie Ontiveros |
| Julie Estrada | | Todd Berndt |
| Dennis Ichikawa (P) | | Trina Jenkins |
| Randy Kimmens (T) | | Barb Rorwick |
| Angelo Maisto | | Dawn Zimmer |
| Tony Maldonado (P) | | |
| Kaci McCutchen | | Guests |
| Sheryl McCutchen | | Mike Graser – Las Artes |
| Ignacio Pesqueira | | Sharlet Barnett – Barnett - ACYR |
| | | Julie Sater – VSUW |
| | | Adam Soto – Call A Teen |
| | | Larry Stevenson – GICA |
| | | Pam Smith – ACYR |
| | | Karen Poole– MCCCDC (P) |

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes — Action Item

Patrick Burkhart made a motion to approve the minutes from January 19, 2010. Angelo Maisto seconded the motion. The motion carried.

IV. SYEP RFP — Action Item

Kimberly Faust explained the process of the RFP being sent out last week, offered to e-mail to Council members. Tony asked if SYEP was funded mostly by ARRA and if the funds are compatible with WIA formula funds. Kimberly explained that the funds are compatible but that ARRA funds have to be spent by the end of the contract period with the State which is December 31, 2010. Kimberly then highlighted the process and dates for collection of RFP responses noting that contracts are to be awarded June 1 and SYEP to start July 1 and run through September 20. Laurie, Bill, Barb and Karen were recognized for their efforts in preparing the RFP on a tight deadline. Patrick stated that it was an awkward position to be in bringing the RFP to the Council after the fact but that the rules had changed between the time of the last Council meeting, he also noted that the wisdom and hindsight of last year’s program was useful in preparing the new RFP. Tony asked if anything has been done to mitigate the eligibility problems from last year. Patrick responded noting 3,000 applications were received last year for 600 available slots. He also noted that last year a concern was to have employers participate in the program. Laurie was asked about the percentage of applicants that were eligible. Laurie did not recall a number or percentage but noted a large number of applicants were eligible. Laurie noted MWC staff is working closely with PWC staff on the development of a standard application and case management forms to help with the eligibility process this year. Tony asked if it would make sense for MWC staff to conduct eligibility and reserve funds that would be paid to providers for that part of the process. Kimberly responded noting WIA services paid to Youth providers includes their conducting the eligibility portion of the process. Patrick noted that MWC staff did and will again do it’s best to prescreen applicants prior to passing paperwork to providers.

Julia Estrada made a motion to accept the RFP. Che Collins seconded the motion. The motion carried.

V. TEGL 13-09: Contracting Strategies That Facilitate Serving the Youth Most In Need — For Information Only

Patrick said, in a nutshell, the TEGL notes WIA programs should be focused on serving the hardest to serve – take

time to find those most in need of services and put in place progress measures, not enrollment and exit criteria. TEGL recognizes many local areas, to meet performance measures, may be screening out participants based on fear of damaging local area performance measures. Patrick noted that strategies to promote services to high risk youth possibly facing incarceration and foster care youth is an area that we should be concentrating on. Many other local areas require providers to serve and exit youth within a year. Dennis noted that the TEGL invites an innovative response. Tony asked about federal measures needing to be met. Patrick noted that the new direction is to define need, determine groups to be zeroed in on and then develop milestone measures. The issue of enrollment and exits numbers should be a secondary concern, noting qualitative measures would need to be developed. Che noted that Job Corps uses TABE testing gains as a literacy tracking level – achievement not based on obtaining trade training but improved literacy during the two year maximum participation time with the program. DOL is pleased with the measures and the reporting.

VI. Strategic Planning — *For Information Only*

Patrick noted that there will probably be a Youth Innovation Fund which should be kept in mind as the new Youth Program is developed. Che stated she would be in Washington next week for a meeting and noted that long-term programs should be thought out during this slow growth period. Patrick noted that starting at the next Council meeting he would like to start the process of defining need and specific populations to target with the Youth Program. There was a consensus that this should be done.

VII. Program Report – PLOT — *For Information Only*

Todd Berndt noted that there is limited funding for this program and it is currently on hold. Trina reported that Youth Center numbers are about the same but that Job Corps numbers have decreased because of lack of presence at the WVCC for three months. This will change as it is confirmed that a Job Corps representative will be onsite again starting next week. Trina Jenkins noted the list of locations for recent outreach noting that in February presentations were provided to more than 1,000 youth.

There was a lot of discussion about the aged out foster care program that may be locating within the WVCC. Todd Berndt has reworked the PLOT curriculum to include goals and decision making; study skills and test taking; and peer pressure and consequences. The new curriculum will be used to present to the foster care youth at the Center. MWC staff and the Program staff will be meeting again in June. It is hoped that the new program would start in September 2010.

Discussion continued with a discussion about serving incarcerated youth in Maricopa County. A majority of comments centered around state budget and its impact on County activities including WIA.

VIII. Program Report Summer Youth Employment Program and Annual Program—*For Information Only*

Barb Rorwick reported on enrollment and carry-over numbers for regular WIA enrollment and ARRA; noting there are some co-enrolled youth. Chair asked if the meeting of enrollment goals is due to the economy. This was confirmed highlighting jobs are hard to come by so youth are looking for additional resources.

- **GICA** – Larry Stevenson reported on Goodwill's Green Certification programs. Twenty-seven local businesses have asked for Green evaluations from these youth. Several youth have conducted business evaluations finding business practices need to change to meet the 80% score to be Green Certified. Two youth have received full-time employment resulting from Certification. Larry continued highlighting GICA's process to get youth offender records expunged; 7 youth have benefitted from this effort. Several local judicial offices are in line to be evaluated by GICA's Green Certified youth.

- **YMCA** – Mike Graser shared with the group enrollment numbers for both YMCA Las Artes locations (Glendale and Maryvale). Mike highlighted the success of Las Artes' recent car wash and yard sale as part of the Strong Kids campaign. In the near future, in partnership with Habitat for Humanity, youth will be assisting in the building of a house on 27th St.; Tempe Town lake's My Fest will provide information from local youth providers; and youth are preparing a mural for Global Youth Day for a local police academy. Mike mentioned that the gearing up for the 2010 Summer Youth Program has gotten the community more interested in learning more about provided services.

- **VSUW** - Julie Sater reported that service level goals are being met noting 25 kids enrolled secondary

education: 6 receiving pharmacy tech training, of which 2 are receiving work experience with CVS others pending, several other youth at Community Colleges. ARRA funds have been very helpful in funding secondary education.

- **ACYR** – Sharlet Barnett shared enrollment goals are being met. The recent enrollment events at WVCC were very effective. Eleven additional enrollments in the works. Many youth are in the process of enrolling in Community College; difficulty is matching career paths where youth would be likely to find employment in the field. Trainings will begin in May and the last of the group will complete in December; a longer training period but are hopeful of the success factors. ACYR clothing closet was promoted and offered as a resource to other providers; supply is ample. Che Collins offered the Job Corps campus as a place to hold this event.

IX. Call to the public

Kimberly Faust shared information with the group about the Maricopa County Teen Leadership Experience program. She noted that 50 students may participate in this program; sharing locations and times of informational sessions.

Patrick shared what he learned during a recent visit to Southwest Autism Research and Resource Center run by Denise Resnick. The organization has developed its own job readiness training for participants. During the visit it was learned that the organization has developed partnerships with local businesses to provide work experiences and career opportunities. In the not near future MWC may look for ways to leverage and partner with this organization. Currently MWC is providing educational/workshop materials to the group at no charge.

X. Adjournment

Tony Maldonado adjourned the meeting at 9:52 a.m.