

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

I. Call to Order

Chair Tony Maldonado called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call: Quorum

<u>Present</u>		<u>Staff</u>	<u>Guests</u>
Patrick Burkhart	Sheryl McCutchen (T)	Barb Rorwick	Julie Sater
Kathryn "Che" Collins	Bob Neckes (T)	Bill O'Brien	Michael Graser
Angelo Maisto	Ignacio Pesqueira	Dawn Zimmer	Sharlet Barnett
Tony Maldonado	<u>Absent</u>	Kimberly Faust	Megan MacGilva
Kaci McCutchen (T)	Randy Kimmens	Laurie Ontiveros	

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes – Action Item

Patrick Burkhart made a motion to approve the minutes from September 16, 2010. Ignacio seconded the motion. The motion carried.

V. MWC Youth Center Report – For Information Only

Trina Jenkins, Special Programs Supervisor

Patrick explained that Trina and Todd were unable to make it to the meeting and said that he would announce some news items instead.

News items

Kimberly Faust has accepted a position as a Senior Workforce Development Specialist with the City of Phoenix and is leaving Maricopa County. She has overseen all the contracting functions for Youth. After Patrick started, they worked together to completely revamp the contractual relationship and set up a new partnership with City of Phoenix. Patrick thanked Kimberly for her service and told her that she will be terribly missed.

Patrick asked for Council members to join the Two Year Plan Task Force. The task force will meet 3 or 4 times between January and April to complete a set of 25 questions required by the State of Arizona, and Patrick would like to add a vision and measurable goals. The MWC Board is currently operating under an extended plan. The new two year plan will be due in the Spring of 2011. Patrick said that he expects to be in this economic situation for the next two years, and would like the plan to accommodate that. Tony Maldonado volunteered and Randy Kimmens offered via email prior to the meeting.

Patrick announced that the MWC/PWC partnership was featured in a national report of four major cities that serve as models of successful Summer Youth Employment Programs under difficult circumstances. Patrick credited provider collaborations in place before PWC and MWC had written agreements. He also noted that Pam Smith brokered the partnership and helped it happen. The resulting feature was a testament to MWC as a national model. Patrick gave his compliments to the Youth Council members, staff, and providers. [The 121-page article is linked here.](#)

Department of Labor (DOL) is conducting a national competition called the Youth Build program. The City of Phoenix and other partners have been involved before and are re-competing. The Town of Guadalupe has engaged MWC to compete in a proposal to serve 50 kids over two years.

There are vacancies with the composition requirements of the Youth Council. A housing representative is still needed. Sheryl and Kaci McCutchen are leaving the council after this meeting, so a WIA Youth and WIA Parent is also needed. Julie with Junior Achievement left in July leaving another vacancy. Che Collins has another meeting that conflicts with the Youth Council meetings, but she said she would be able to reschedule the other meetings in the future. She suggested that a Job Corps youth may be able to fill one of the council vacancies. Patrick and Tony thanked Kaci and Sheryl for their service.

VI. SYEP Final Report – For Information Only

William O'Brien, QA Supervisor

Bill reviewed the SYEP presentation. Work readiness has averaged 83% for two years. There was 87% employment attainment in 2009, but there was a lower goal in 2010 because MWC was using up remaining ARRA dollars. Bill reviewed the challenges that occurred between the first and second program years. He suggested that some youth apply for the Job Corps program. Tony asked if the supervisor evaluations consider factors beyond the current job readiness program. Bill said he'd have to refer the question to some of the providers. Bill said that the spirit of the program is not to fill a void in the employer's workforce, but to have a mentor type program for the youth. He noted the importance of soft skills, getting to work on time, working in a team environment, etc. The program tries to match youth's interests with an appropriate job, but sometimes there are more youth than positions available. The youth motivation is both money and interest in having a job. Tony would like to work towards a long term solution for youth rather than a short term focus on just completing the program. There is a gap between motivations of younger and older youth. Bill spoke about program successes including collaboration with PWC, partnerships with employers, college credits earned for completion of the work readiness class, and the special outreach efforts with the Coffelt Neighborhood. Some parents are concerned that they may lose public assistance if their children participate in the program. There are 68% of families on public assistance. Patrick said that he contacted the state and confirmed that families wouldn't lose assistance. 97% of youth were within the 5% income window. 77% of youth were age 14-18; 20% were 19-21. Youth surveys were provided to employers, case managers and participants. 100% of case managers returned the surveys. Bill will send out the numbers of surveys returned. Ignacio said that youth need to have a way to give feedback about their experience. He also wondered how many youth got permanent jobs with their placement employers. Bill will have numbers available for the January council meeting. Ignacio would like youth to come to the next meeting to talk about their experiences. Bill said that he'll provide the survey results and outcome numbers at the next meeting. Tony applauded staff and youth providers for their effort with the program and the way it is designed. Tony is concerned that parents are opting out because it might hurt their social security benefits, calling it an identified barrier that needs to be addressed.

VII. Provider Reports – For Information Only

ACYR

ACYR has about 172 enrollments now. However, young people do not want to work in a warehouse in the heat so that program has been unsuccessful. Many positions remain unfilled. Southwest Skills Center is considering cancelling their January class because there are not enough people signed up for it. Youth may not see positions as a step toward careers they want. No youth were interested after the first information session. *Conair* tour showed that people who started as warehouse workers can branch out into different departments. The training is only 10 weeks plus 2 weeks for computer skills.

YMCA

YMCA is getting ready to start the new program and are starting to see some paybacks for their programs. They are working with youth on sexual violence and hope to have more to report in January. Experience is similar to ACYR where there's an influx for GED classes, and not expecting to participate in higher education or fulltime employment. Youth that realize what benefits more income can bring are interested. TABE'ing 85 students a month that meet qualifications of 7th grade education level.

VSUW

There is a lot of interest in medical assistance and pharmacy tech, but not a lot of interest in others. CVS had a hiring freeze. They are heavily recruiting and have 90 out of 150 needed. Case managers are conducting follow-up from the summer. They will have more to report in January.

Goodwill

Devin Herring introduced himself (not signed in). Goodwill has agreements with Tempe Union High School to recruit their drop-out students. Devin said he expects to get more participants that he can manage. He believes his population is more motivated because they need to have jobs as an agreement to stay out of the corrections system. They are at 245 and will be at full capacity by the end of December. Devin described the program as a boutique approach where programs are tailored to youth interests.

VIII. Call to the public

No public present

IX. Adjournment

Chair Maldonado adjourned the meeting at 9:39 a.m.