

**MARICOPA WORKFORCE CONNECTIONS  
YOUTH COUNCIL**  
**Maricopa County Human Services Department**  
**234 North Central, Suite 3201, Phoenix, AZ 85004**  
**Arizona Conference Room**  
Minutes  
**March 19, 2009**

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Don Smith called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m.

**II. Roll Call: Quorum**

<b>Present</b>	<b>Excused/Absent</b>	<b>Staff</b>
Patrick Burkhart	Edward Salvador Ramoz	Kimberly Faust
Julia Estrada	Israel Pablos	Barb Rorwick
Tony Maldonado		Victoria Sanchez
Angelo Maisto		Tina Schoville
Randy Kimmens		Cheryl Rossiter
Don Smith		Todd Berndt
Ignacio Pesqueria		Trina Jenkins
Che Collins		Diana Shepherd
Dennis Ichikawa		Laurie Ontiveros
Mike Wall		Stacey Devine-Fairfield
		Bill O'Brien
		<b>Guests</b>
		Eric James, YMCA
		Luis Enriquez, Friendly House
		Susan Laskorski - GICA
		Sunzanna Lolis, GICA
		Jason Moore
		Pam Smith
		Jeremiah Smith
		Bridgitte Ochoa
		Anthony Rivera, ACYR
		Janet Garcia

**III. Approval of Meeting Minutes—Action**

**Patrick Burkhart made a motion to approve the minutes from January 15, 2009. Tony Maldonado seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

**IV. ARRA-WIA Stimulus Plan—Discussion**

Patrick Burkhart presented the plan for the ARRA stimulus dollars we will receive for your youth program. Currently there is a 7.6% rate of unemployment in the state of Arizona and this number is expected to increase to 10% this year. New unemployment claims statewide exceed 10,000 per week and over 600,000 per week nationally. The current recession is the steepest and worst since the Great Depression. The purpose of the ARRA is to invest in infrastructure, create jobs, strengthen the unemployment safety net, spur innovation and stabilize the economy along with housing and financial institutions stabilization. There is \$42,850,012 dollars that have been allotted to Arizona and the amount allocated to MWC youth is \$3,180,757. The features of the ARRA and WIA funding are to; expedite the use of the ARRA-WIA funds, that there is transparency and that reporting is enhanced, that there will be a significant increase in the amount of customers served, that the Summer Youth Employment program is urgent and large, to align with the Regional Economic Development members, and to serve low income and low skill populations. There is also \$750 million dollars in competitive grants available and we have put together a statewide collaboration to go after these grant dollars. There will be accelerated reporting every 10 days and Arizona will be under more intense scrutiny by the government regarding our spending and use of funds. There has currently been two TEGL's and one TEN issued from the State and we are expecting more to come. The D.O.L. Readiness Review is also scheduled for early April. The regional economic

development focuses from both GPEC and we are sustainable and solar technologies and health care.

The Department of Labor Guidance for the youth funds from the ARRA states that “the conferees are particularly interested in these funds being used to create summer employment opportunities for youth”. The ETA strongly encourages states and local areas to use as much of these funds as possible to operate expanded summer youth employment opportunities during the summer of 2009, and provide as many youth as possible with summer employment opportunities and work experiences throughout the year, while ensuring that these summer employment opportunities and work experiences are high quality. In addition to emphasizing summer employment as a major component of the funding, the Recovery Act includes two other significant changes to youth activities under WIA. The Act increases the age eligibility to a maximum of 24 years old. The Recovery Act also states that the work readiness indicator will be the only indicator to assess the effectiveness of summer employment. It also states that the period of ‘summer’ will be from May 1 through September 30. In order to implement the Congressional intent to offer expanded summer employment opportunities, it may be necessary to provide additional flexibility for youth served with Recover Act funds who participate in summer employment only. States and local areas have program design flexibility that may facilitate the implementation of expanded summer employment such as Local areas have the flexibility to:

- Determine which program elements they provide with Recovery Act funds.
- Determine if the 12 month follow-up will be required for youth served with Recovery Act funds, during the summer months only.
- Determine the type of assessment and Individual Service Strategy (ISS) for youth served with Recovery Act funds during the summer months only and provide the type of assessment deemed appropriate for each individual.
- Determine whether it is appropriate that academic learning be directly linked to summer employment for each youth served with RA funds during the summer months only.

The work readiness portion of the skill attainment rate will be the only indicator used for you that participate in summer employment only. For reporting purposes, local areas will be required to track the number of participants enrolled in summer employment and the completion rate of those in summer employment. Any youth served with Recovery Act funds will be included in a separate Youth Recovery Act report. Any youth served with only Recovery Act funds that participated in summer employment only, will only be included in the Youth Recovery Act report and the work readiness indicator will be the only measure that applies to such youth. If a youth served with Recovery Act funds does not participate in summer employment or is served beyond the summer months, he/she would also be included in the regular WIA reporting mechanisms and be subject to the full set of WIA Youth measures or youth common measures for those states that have a common measures waiver. Local areas with the necessary infrastructure in place to quickly implement programming for youth served with the Recovery Act funds are strongly encouraged to expend significant Recovery Act funds in the summer of 2009. However, local areas may expend Recovery Act funds over the course of two summers and the non-summer months in between. The costs incurred by the providers today are eligible for reimbursement. There are also specific instructions to give priority of service for Veterans and eligible spouses, up to the age of 24. Regarding out-of-school youth, the requirement that local areas expend a minimum of 30 percent of funds on these youth. We are also able to use our existing providers to expend the funds for summer youth work experience. Further details will be provided in the upcoming Performance and Reporting TEGL regarding. A new reporting form separate from the current data collection will be used to track youth served with these recovery funds. There are DES issues that need to be worked out such as new IGA’s, the problems with using VOS for reports for this program and the DOL Readiness Reviews are forthcoming. The WDD implementation concerns are the DES and Youth Provider contracts, the time constraints, providers must start now and the MWC policy changes and waivers from DES. We must begin next week to give clearance to providers so they can start recruitments. We have come up with two options and will need the Youth Council to approve both plans so that we will not have any delays in moving this program forward. The Option One plan is the floor plan the Option Two is the ceiling plan. We do not know the answers yet due to time restraints for the final plan determinants. There are several changes for ARRA for the Youth Council to consider. We are currently looking at recommendations for WIA Policy waivers. The action items we have for this council is to approve the Preliminary Plan we have come up with and to approve the policy changes and approval to seek waivers.

## **V. Call to the public**

There were no comments from the public.

## **VI. Adjournment**

Don Smith adjourned the meeting at 10:08 a.m.