

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

I. Call to Order

Tony Maldonado called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

II. Roll Call: Quorum

Present	Excused/Absent	Staff
Patrick Burkhart	Che Collins	Kimberly Faust
Julie Estrada (T)	Dennis Ichikawa	Cheryl Rossiter
Randy Kimmens (T)	Angelo Maisto	Bill O'Brien
Tony Maldonado	Bob Neckes	Trina Jenkins
Sheryl McCutchen		Bill O'Brien
Kaci McCutchen		Tina Schoville
Ignacio Pesqueira		Guests
		Mike Graser – Las Artes
		Eric James – Las Artes
		Yolanda Carrothers – GICA
		Karen Poole – MCCC
		Julie Sater – VSUW
		Adam Soto – Call A Teen
		Larry Stevenson – GICA
		John Gaio
		Adam Hunter
		Elizabeth Vegh
		Ken Mattern

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes—Action

Patrick Burkhart made a motion to approve the minutes from October 15, 2009. Sheryl McCutchen seconded the motion. The motion carried.

IV. Welcome to New Youth Council Members—For Information Only

Tony took a few moments to welcome our two new members to this Youth Council which were voted in at the last Council meeting.

V. Strategic Planning and Youth Council Role—For Information Only

Tony shared with the members that we will be starting our strategic planning process soon and wanted to ask the question to everyone ‘what is the Youth Council’s role’.

Patrick shared that we are in an economic cycle that is going to last at least another two years before we emerge from it. The Youth Council can be very valuable in contributing to our foresight. There are changing demographics in our community that we need to consider; the resources that we have do not meet the magnitude of our need; and we need to look at what our counterparts from PWC and Pima County are doing relative to what we are doing. We also need to understand a little better what is happening in other local youth serving organizations to see if we can explore possible partnerships with these groups. There are some obvious restrictions as to what we can and cannot do relative to what the Workforce Investment Act and the program lay upon us. We do have some flexibility with the PLOT program. We are looking forward to finding a way to fund and grow and leverage the PLOT program to do things that we cannot do in WIA. There are some fundamental questions that we should be asking ourselves. The biggest thing that the Youth Council can do is to help frame these questions that we should be asking.

Ignacio shared that we need to assist as many youth as we can with helping them to realize that they need to be planning on their career choices, not just a job but for them to concentrate on a career path. We need to find a plan that will make us function better with the funds that we have available to us to help youth with their futures and their career choices.

Patrick reported that we received almost three million dollars of stimulus funds for the Summer Youth Work program and spent about a third of these funds. We are now transitioning from the Summer Youth program to the year round program and had a visit from a technical assistant with DOL that helped us come up with a transitional plan which we designated about \$785,000 for this program which leaves us with almost one million dollars for next summer's Youth Work Experience program. The allocation for our WIA funding for next year is flat which means that we will not have any additional dollars to work with because there has been an approximately 13% drop in funding from 2001 through 2009. There is a lot of talk in Congress now of a possible second stimulus which will be called a "Jobs Bill" which will hopefully roll out after the first of the year. WIA will hopefully be a part of this bill and the other option is for Congress to step up next year in its regular appropriation cycle to increase the level of funding. We now need to get ready to write for some grants. We had a Technical Assistant come and visit us and put us on a path that could hopefully make the PLOT program more robust. We also need to look at federal resources for competitive dollars because formula dollars are flat and with the economy like ours is we need to do more. There are basically two paths that this recovery can take, we can come out of this in two years and be somewhat what we were before, which was an unsustainable economic base or the State, Region and Economic Development community can come up with something new. We will need to educate people for new career choices so that there is a better base for employment which will help create a sustainable economy. Metro Phoenix has lost 8% of its workforce, which is the highest in the County of a major metro area. One third of the job losses for our area is construction so we need to try and transform into green construction and help prepare people to be able to work in that area.

Bill O'Brien shared with the group that regarding the Summer Youth Work Program, they had a technical advisor come visit and they now have a list of actions to take for next year's program. One point is that the verbiage needs to be more specific in contracts to the providers. One outcome from this meeting with the technical advisor was that the providers need the direction, especially when it comes to employers so that we can help to match up the youth with the employers. We need to change our relationship between us, youth providers and employers so that they understand why we want to engage with them by providing the youth to work with them. Boeing is a good example of this, they wanted to provide jobs for our youth but we had to work through the problems to help them understand what kind of return on investment we were able to offer them through this program.

VI. Program Report - PLOT—*For Information Only*

Cheryl Rossiter shared that in October they conducted six PLOT workshops servicing 115 youth. They were able to get the youth through a three part series of completing a resume and were provided a thumb drive to store them on, they are bringing in staff members to provide mock interviews next week so the youth can bring in their resumes and go through the mock interviews to help them with looking for a job. They also did two presentations on the youth programs, one was at Desert Point Academy and the other was a career fair at the Adobe Mountain Juvenile facility which served 170 youth. She next introduced youth that participate in the career and technical educational project at the West Valley Career Center who shared their story about this program. They are from Kellis High School, both John Gaio and Adam Hunter along with their instructor, Ken Mattern shared their experience with the program, their future plans and the different organizations that they are involved in.

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

Trina Jenkins reported that there were 357 visits to the Youth Center for October, which was down about 100 youth from last month. She also reported that there were 67 first time customers and that the youth were divided by the different CGS's for services. The numbers for GES job services has dropped because of the loss of Victoria in the program. The community outreach visits go to both Todd and Cheryl who respond to the high schools to provide services such as resume writing, mock interviews and any other services that they request.

- **GICA** – Larry Stevenson reported that they attended the Greenbuild conference and had ten youth that are involved in the year round program become certified as Green Specialists. This was groundbreaking and cutting edge for them and the conference because of the green effort that they are heading towards within the Goodwill program. The youth offender program has created a reputation with a local attorney in Phoenix and with successful

completion of their program these youth can get their records sealed or expunged which will remove a barrier for them. They are contracted to enroll and work with 50 youth and they are currently half way towards completion of this goal. They are working towards training 100% of the youth in their program what the Green initiative is all about and will continue to focus on this area.

- **YMCA** – Mike Graser shared with the group that they have two more GED’s currently at their center but they are focusing on building up the enrollment for the new facility. They are in the process of TABEing youth to get them ready for enrollment into the program. Eric James reported that at the new expansion sight they currently have 19 youth enrolled, seven for the month of November and five that are on probation so they are looking at having 12 youth for November. They have six interviews scheduled for next week with three taking their test for their GED’s and their first youth has received their GED at this new center.
- **VSUW** - Julie Sater reported that they registered four more youth for October and they currently have 29 out of the 39 they are required to enroll. Their case managers are currently working on putting the 40 youth in work experience and education. They have several youth in school taking the Pharmacy Tech classes offered at Chandler/Gilbert Community College, some are taking classes in refrigeration and some of the youth are taking classes at the East Valley Institute of Technology. Before the youth start in the work experience program they are participating in the class at the Gilbert One Stop for Career Assessment. They currently have had 10 youth participate in this class and then try to match them up with employment opportunities that fit the results from this class. They have several youth that will be taking the child care training offered by the Association for Support of Child Care, and once they complete these classes they will be working at Head Start programs throughout the East Valley.
- **ACYR** – Adam Soto shared with the group that they are currently in a heavy outreach period and for the month of November they enrolled five youth so far with three more to enroll next week. They did a large presentation at the West Valley Career Center yesterday and interviewed about 15 youth that they hope to continue with the enrollment phase and have them in the program during the first week of December. They also contacted approximately 40 youth that participated in the Summer Youth Work Experience program and invited them to continue with the year round program. Last week they held an Employer Appreciation at the West Valley Career Center to thank the employers for their cooperation with the Summer work programs. Several employers expressed their gratitude for having the youth work with their companies and have committed themselves for jobs during the next program. They are also speaking to the Community Colleges to see if they can bring some of the classes such as Pharmacy Tech to their centers to help expend some of the ARRA funding.

VIII. Assistant Director’s Report—*For Information Only*

Patrick shared that since Don Smith has stepped down as Chair of this Board do to a job promotion, we need to fill the positions for both the Chair and Vice Chair positions for the Youth Council. Tony Maldonado, who is currently our Vice Chair, is now holding the position of Chair but at our next meeting we need to make a formal nomination and vote Tony into this position. We do need to consider who we can vote in as Vice Chair so that in case the Chair is unavailable, this person can step up and run the meetings. We also discussed at previous meetings the possibility of changing the meeting schedule to every other month and hold the meeting opposite from our Full Board meetings. Due to the fact that we need to start focusing on our new planning phase this will give us time to put together more materials and engage the providers in their input as to where we are going with this program. Patrick provided everyone with a PowerPoint presentation which shows snapshot pieces of data relative to current trends we are seeing in the market. He pointed out the two pages that show data regarding enrollments which shows we are behind with both of our counterparts. He is questioning if this is because of a resource or contractual issue on our parts. This is something we need to look further into to see if this is a barrier that we can fix.

IX. Call to the public

There were no comments from the public.

X. Adjournment

Tony Maldonado adjourned the meeting at 9:50 a.m.