

**Youth Council Special Meeting
May 13, 2009 - Minutes
Wamsutta Club
3:30 p.m.**

Members Present: John Fernandes, Chair; Dianne Rivet, Clerk; Carl Alves, Nancy Feeney, Reverend David A. Lima, Joan Ann Niles, Alice Oliveira, Ronald F. Rouillard, Chris Shannon, Cynthia Wallquist, Gloria Williams, Ronald F. Rheume, Nelson Hockert-Lotz,

Members Absent: Richard B. Colon, Lynn Donohue; Walter Jones, Jr., Dr. Jean F. MacCormack (called), Helena S. Marques, James H. Mathes, Pamela Pollock, Donna Sachs, Dr. John J. Sbrega (called), Elaine Wilcox

Workforce Development Staff Present: Len Coriaty, Edward Dennehy, Jean Fox, Jason Wentworth, Wendy Andrade

Welcome and Introductions – Chair John Fernandes called the meeting to order at 3:38pm.

Consent Agenda –

Upon a motion made by Joan Ann Niles and seconded by Carl Alves, the minutes of the February 25, 2009 Youth Council Meeting were unanimously approved.

Other Business

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Plan – GNBWIB CEO Len Coriaty mentioned that the Regional Implementation Team (RIT) had concluded its third meeting with final recommendations made and submitted to the Executive Committee. After a positive reception, recommendations will be sent to the Board on Monday, May 18, to prepare Members for a vote at the Special Meeting to be held on Thursday, May 21. Recommendations will then be sent to the Mayor’s Office for review the following Monday, and finally up to the State by Friday.

Chair Fernandes noted the good participation of Youth Council members on the RIT. He then stated that his one reservation with the Plan was the wage requirement cap of \$10 per hour for Youth. He noted that instructions were given at the Bidder’s Conference to cap Youth hourly wages at \$12 per hour. Wendy Andrade pointed to a potential problem that stimulus-funded youth pay would potentially be higher than post-stimulus pay, providing less incentive to stay with the job. Carl Alves suggested that any proposed Youth employer seeking to pay over \$8 per hour should receive approval from the Youth Staff. Gloria Williams noted that most youth that will be served have skills that warrant an \$8 per hour salary. Those who could earn \$10-12 shouldn’t be in because they already have skills to secure employment.

Revisions were recommended for the ARRA plan document to change the wording in the first sentence to read “up to \$12 is earmarked” rather than \$10, and the second sentence, item 1 to read “it is not”. A friendly motion was made by Ms. Feeney and seconded by Ms. Wallquist to accept the existing document as corrected for further development.

Youth Council Policy on Payment for Class Time in ARRA summer jobs -- Discussion ensued relative to compensating youth participating in summer programming that includes class time under the stimulus act. The Youth Council discussed paying stipends as well as offering regular hourly pay. Upon a motion made by Gloria Williams and seconded by Cynthia Wallquist, the Youth Council voted its policy on payment for class time under ARRA summer jobs, which is to pay an hourly rate. Chris Shannon abstained. The Chair called for volunteers to form an ad hoc committee that will help better clarify the definitions of work versus training relative to ARRA funding and advise on development of effective performance measurements. Volunteers included the Chair, Chris Shannon, Alice Oliveira, Ron Rouillard, Ed Dennehy, Wendy Andrade, and Dianne Rivet.

In-School and Out-of-School Formula Funding Proposals and Recommendations – Chair Fernandes noted the RFP was issued as a two-year effort, with a 25% match required for the second year. Six proposals were submitted. He then stated that the Planning Committee anticipated approximately \$560,000 in WIA funding, with about \$340,000 allocated for out-of-school programs, and \$220,000 for in-school programs. Using these benchmarks, the Committee was successful at determining a per-participant rate for the out-of-school bidders of \$2,200. The three current program providers submitted proposals for out-of-school youth. There were no new vendors.

The in-school bidders had wide disparity in per-participant rates. The Chair recommended having the CFO and Youth Council Director negotiate with the three bidders, two of which are veteran programs out of the New Bedford Schools, while the third is a new program through Whaling City Alternative School. This latter program included such items as a video, which is expensive and somewhat redundant in light of Commonwealth Corporation's "Think Again" DVD, which issued last year. The negotiating process will cover program components to bring down the relatively high per-participant rate. The program itself seeks to serve a population that has behavioral and academic issues and could benefit from the additional support.

Chair Fernandes would like clarification from all school system vendors regarding the use of other school resources. If these resources are, in fact, available to students, how many take advantage of them, and how much grant funding goes to supporting them?

Rev. Lima then asked about the parameters for contract negotiation. Chair Fernandes said that the negotiators would base the bottom line on \$500,000 since the allocation has not been made yet. There may be a percentage increase in some programs, as has been done in the past. In any case, the negotiations must move forward to meet time constraints for finalizing contracts and implementing summer programs.

Discussion then ensued relative to proposal content and the evaluation process. Many committee members stressed the need to update the proposal evaluation form. In addition, Ms. Williams, Mr. Alves, Ms. Feeney, Ms. Shannon and Chair Fernandes agreed that prior performance and outcomes should be reflected in submitted proposals. Ms. Williams expressed concern that the Youth Council does not have a clear picture of how many youth carry over year to year, and how long youth are retained in programs. Ms. Shannon indicated that more

inclusive tracking information would be beneficial, and that this data would be valuable for planning and evaluation purposes.

Slate of Officers – Chair Fernandes stated that nominations for Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary must be in to Annie Massicotte to develop the slate for the upcoming meeting.

Annie then asked the Council to give some thought to meeting venues, noting that the Career Center does not have the space to accommodate Youth Council meetings for the foreseeable future.

Adjourn – Upon a motion made by Ms. Feeney and seconded by Ms. Shannon, the meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting – May 27, 2009 at the Wamsutta Club, 3:30 p.m.