

Executive Committee Notes

October 12, 2009

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The objectives of this meeting were to 1) determine linkage between Youth Services Development Group and WC RFL, including structure and priority projects; 2) follow up on activities in process; and 3) determine key actions for the Executive Committee to take over the next month to support the work of the RFL movement in Washoe County.

People in attendance:

Paul Dugan, Jesse Gregory, Mike Steedman, Janet Wright, Laura Granier, Chris Melloway, Len Stevens, Denise Hedrick, Steve Hull, Sarah Boxx, Kari Earle, Mike Pomi, Katy Simon, Kristin Steedman

Topic Summaries

Agenda Item #1 – Welcome

Laura welcomed Executive Committee members and guests and asked participants to introduce themselves.

Agenda Item #2 - WC RFL Executive Committee Structure

This agenda item continued the Executive Committee conversation started in September about the feasibility of connecting the RFL Executive Committee and the Youth Services Development Group (YSDG) and what that might mean to the structure of the WC RFL Executive Committee.

Katy Simon, Washoe County Manager provided a short overview of the history, structure, and accomplishments of the YSDG and expressed her hope that RFL could take on mantle of being the coordinating/ convening group for moving both YSDG and RFL efforts forward; and possibly become a forum for youth serving agencies. Mike Pomi, Executive Director of the Children’s Cabinet, emphasized the credibility afforded the YSDG via Katy’s efforts and the county’s involvement. He shared that the YSDG meetings have been a forum for sharing best practices, have representation from diverse youth serving groups, including key decision makers. Mike explained the synergy between the Sierra Tahoe Center for Arts and Technology (the Strickland Project) and RFL; noting that there is already an established link between the Children’s Cabinet, WCSD and the County to move forward in concrete way to develop state of the art services. The Strickland project can be a launching pad for other RFL efforts.

The Executive Committee discussed what a merger between the two groups might look like. Strickland group members from YSDG could potentially become a workgroup under RFL like the other four workgroups; Steve Hull (primary) and Mike Pomi could be representatives from that workgroup to the Executive Committee. It was also noted that Washoe County Juvenile Services will no longer be able to provide staff support to the YSDG. Cheri Collins (WCJS) has been doing all the coordinating/minute taking for the YSDG; which is similar to SEI’s support for the four RFL workgroups.

Janet Wright noted the difference between the grassroots nature of the YSDG and the RFL Executive Committee; also that Strickland is a piece of the YSDG, but not the whole group. There would still be a need for a forum for all the youth serving groups to come together, perhaps quarterly. Keeping the voice of youth services is important. Denise Hedrick’s policy group would also be a good place to link YSDG members in order to address youth services issues (e.g., barriers that exist across various providers). The key would be making sure that members of the YSDG are aware of how they could be involved related to their organization’s mission/vision --- e.g., through participant in a RFL orientations, getting on a work group, other. Chris Melloway noted the next RFL orientation meeting is scheduled for October 28 from 12-1 p.m. is the next orientation at Jan Evans. A November date hasn’t been set, so November could be a good time to convene a separate meeting/orientation for YSDG members. Denise volunteered to assist Chris in doing the meeting/orientation.

Executive Committee Notes

A suggested approach/sequence for merging the two groups emerged:

1. Establish the Strickland Project as a fifth workgroup under WC RFL, with Steve Hull serving as Executive Committee member liaison, and Mike Pomi supporting Steve, with contributions/support from Katy Simon as able. Rick Harris (WCSD) would also be essential as he has been instrumental in driving the Strickland process forward at the workgroup level. In order to reduce duplication of effort, it will be important to have the Strickland workgroup link to the existing RFL workgroups to resolve issues as they arise (rather than develop separate policy, employment, education subgroups within the Strickland workgroup. The link with the Employment workgroup will be especially important as the Strickland project reaches out to the business community.
2. Convene a meeting/orientation session for the YSDG in early November to update them on RFL, identify where they see themselves fitting into the existing structure – or determining if a different structure is needed. This meeting would also provide an opportunity for crossover presentation/update to RFL on what’s been achieved to date on the Strickland project.
3. Establish quarterly forums for youth serving groups/organizations to share best practices and other information which benefits youth. Paul Dugan noted that this has generally involved 30-40 entities/organizations. Outside of the quarterly meetings, the RFL Policy workgroup could then take the lead and focus on addressing more specific issues identified by those groups.

Laura noted that NPEF has developed a statewide marketing plan for RFL and the Executive Committee is working on identifying a local PR person to help launch it in Washoe County. Additionally, a meeting with the School Board is set for November 24th to request half of the money required for the Strickland feasibility study, after which the workgroup will focus on raising the remaining \$75 June 2010. By the end of November, WC RFL would be in a good position to announce merger of YSDG with WC RFL, including participation on the Executive Committee.

Jesse Gregory suggested it would be helpful to develop a “road map” of all of the things that are happening related to RFL so that people can visualize all of the things that are coming together as a result of RFL. Chris Melloway will get the Strickland PPT from Michelle Kling that explains the Strickland project.

At the conclusion of the discussion, a motion was made and passed unanimously, to invite YSDG to merge with WC RFL, identify the members of the Strickland project workgroup, with Steve Hull serving as the chair of the workgroup and the official liaison to WC RFL Executive Committee. As part of the merger, YSDG members would be invited to a separate meeting/orientation facilitated by Chris Melloway and Denise Hedrick in the first part of November. This meeting would also serve to link YSDG members to existing RFL workgroups. Based on interest, a future meeting would be set to talk about a structure for quarterly meetings.

Agenda Item #3 – Publicity and Technical Assistance Opportunities Related to AB 243

Laura Granier and Len Stevens are continuing their work on this effort. Sarah Boxx noted that to date SEI has not received names from Executive Committee members of local businesses that might be interested in participating as pilot sites for TA from RFL to develop policies related to AB 243. Further discussion of this agenda item was tabled for the next meeting.

Agenda Item #4 - Task Follow-up and Other Items

- **New Washoe County RFL website** – Chris Melloway went live with the new WC RFL website, accessible at <http://washoecountyreadyforlife.weebly.com/>. Chris is updating the new site on a weekly basis in order to keep it relevant. SEI will send Chris all past minutes/agendas for workgroups so they can be posted as PDFs to the site.

Executive Committee Notes

- Marketing/PR professional for Executive Committee – Mike Steedman is waiting to hear back from Mark Curtis regarding PR/Marketing support for WC RFL. Laura G. will work with Mike S. to get someone on board for this role by end of this week or early next so they are in place to help launch PR for merger of RFL/YSDG at the end of November.
- TMT Avenue of the Stars/Accentuate the Positive Event – Jesse G. and Chris M. staffed the RFL booth, which was paid for by an anonymous donor. They indicated that many people had heard about RFL but didn't know what it was about, so they stopped by the booth to learn more. The most often asked question was "where to you get your money?" One of the people that stopped by was the Marketing Director for KNPB, who now wants to join RFL. She will attend the October RFL orientation session. Chris noted that KNPB is now broadcasting in Spanish and will be a good venue for promoting RFL efforts.
- League of Cities Technical Assistance Grant Update – Denise H. noted that she and Laura Dickey participated in the final TA conference call for the League of Cities grant. She noted that the University of Wisconsin is completing a study that will tell our community where all of the 18-24 year olds in Washoe County are working, where they are being successful, and what their pay ranges are. This study is usually done for a single city, but since WC RFL is a county-wide effort, they have agreed to expand the study. The League of Cities will be getting back to the 12 jurisdictions participating in the TA grant project to let them know which of them will be invited to move forward into the next phase of the project. Only six cities will be invited and at this point cities have not been informed if/how they can provide information that might move them forward in the process.

As a follow up the Richmond Builds model discussed in September, Denise indicated this is opportunity is being tabled for now. It would need to have WACA and TMCC involved as lead partners, and could potentially take away focus on the Strickland project. Mike S. raised question about how to keep these types of jobs in town so they hire local workers (rather than going out to bid for out of town/state businesses that bring in their own crews). Len S. described process for regional vendors. Mike S. will talk with Associated General Contractors (AGC) and the Builders Associate of Northern Nevada (BANN) to see if they have ideas/thoughts about Richmond Builds model for future job development in the Truckee Meadows.

- Update on Governor's Youth Council Funding – Laura G. reported that Kari Earle, the new northern Nevada director for NPEF, Chanda Cook, the new Southern Nevada Director for NPEF, and Hilarie Robison, former Executive Director for NPEF statewide, have been involved with moving the funding process forward. Kari noted that the total amount of funding requested hasn't been changed, but some of the line items have been shifted to allow for support to the rural areas. Kari and Laura will be joining the Council meeting via teleconference as soon as they leave the RFL Executive Committee meeting, and will update everyone on the meeting outcome. The Governor's Youth Council is very focused on measuring impacts, so RFL can expect increased focus on evaluation.
- Other/Misc. – Len S. asked how RFL can help focus on prevention? He noted that 150 youth at Sparks High that have been in the Acceleration Via Individual Determination (AVID) program will not be able to participate in it this year due to funding cuts; representing 50% of the AVID student population from last year. If additional funding is not secured the program may be cut altogether. This program is a national model that has been at Sparks High for 10 years. It targets at risk students, requires they maintain at least a 2.0 GPA or better, and provides them more 1-on-1 attention during the school day. The success rate is impressive with a large percentage of the youth going onto college. The Executive Committee discussed how they might be able to help support this program, and whether it could this be considered a workforce development program (it is). The possibility of linking existing programs (e.g., AmeriCorps or the Boys and Girls Club) was discussed. Steve H. indicated the next steps would be to talk with Lynn Giomi and Patty Falk at Sparks High about options. Steve will coordinate meeting with Lynn and Patty from Sparks High, and representatives from RFL, including Kari E., Janet W., Kristin S., and him.

Executive Committee Notes

Wrap Up & Next Steps

- Next Executive Committee meeting is Monday, November 16th 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at Laura's office. Agenda items for that meeting:
 - Preparation for the November 24th WCSD Board meeting
 - YSDG & RFL Merger PR
 - Deans Scholars presentation & discussion with Bob Edgington
 - Other: Set meeting date for Washoe HS students to present to the RFL Executive Committee and discuss a plan they have regarding a license plate for education

- Next steps:
 - SEI send Chris all past minutes/agendas for workgroups to post as PDFs to the new website
 - Steve coordinate meeting with Lynn and Patty from Sparks High
 - Laura and Mike S. confirm PR/Marketing person for WC RFL support
 - Chris and Denise conduct orientation/cross training with YSDG
 - Juanita invite Bob Edgington to November Executive Committee meeting
 - Laura and Len continue work on AB 243 pilot
 - Executive Committee members suggest names of one or two business to participate in a TA pilot for 243 policy development

Next Executive Committee meeting:

Monday, November 16, 10 am