

## Executive Committee Notes

August 17, 2009

**Lionel Sawyer & Collins Law Firm**  
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### Purpose/Desired Results

Introduce Paul Dugan to Ready for Life: Define roles and next steps

**People in attendance:** Paul Dugan, Laura Granier, Jesse Gregory, Denise Hedrick, Mike Steedman, Juanita Ydiando, Chris Melloway, Sarah Chvilicek, Sarah Marschall

## *Topic Summaries*

### *Meeting Overview*

The objectives of this meeting were to formally welcome and orient Paul Dugan to the Washoe County RFL movement and discuss his role; update the Executive Committee on progress with the League of Cities grant and implications; and follow up on July meeting discussions and activities including sustainability.

### *RFL Workgroup Updates*

#### **Awareness Workgroup: Chris Melloway, Chair**

The purpose of this work group is to serve as the marketing arm of the initiative. There are 6-8 active members. Examples of recent activities and successes include:

- Monthly orientations. By providing information to interested people, they are able to join workgroups and are prepared to participate. On average about 3-4 people attend each month. People learn about the initiative through word of mouth. If interested in participating, they are assigned to workgroups.
- Working on website and business cards.
- New information is needed to update the Washoe County RFL Needs Assessment. This need was posed by participants at a monthly orientation. New information is likely available related to the graduation rate and other indicators; this information would be helpful in assessing the status in the county and the progress of RFL.
- Developing a “success worksheet” that can be shared at monthly meetings. Information is needed from each of the workgroups.

#### **Policy Workgroup: Denise Hedrick, Chair**

The purpose of this group is to identify institutional barriers that reduce opportunities for youth. Examples of recent activities and successes include:

- Identifying barriers and working with the education group to knock them down,
- Working with Southern Nevada to define a legislative agenda so that the state is united on key issues,
- Helping to determine which issues should be handled by the School District and helping to improve district policy,
- Working with Eric Bye on an electronic case management system for youth that are likely to fall through the gaps.

#### **Education Workgroup: Jaunita, Chair**

The purpose of the education workgroup is to improve the educational system for the target groups towards increased graduation. The education workgroup meets alongside the policy workgroup because of overlap on many issues.

Examples of recent activities and successes include:

- Improving absence policies for parenting youth,
- Adding WOLF to academic caseload,
- Through a new partnership with Washoe High, Job Corp now able to grant adult diplomas.

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### **Employment Workgroup: Jesse Gregory**

The purpose of this group is to work with business community and service providers to support employment opportunities for youth. Examples of recent activities and successes include:

- Partnering with the Chamber of Commerce to survey businesses regarding the needs and interest around employment of youth. The survey asked about what would be needed and useful and how to get the business community involved.
- Bridging the gap between the service provider and the entity providing the employment. For example, Washoe County Foster Care and Job Corp,
- Creating employment opportunities. The goal this year is to maintain 15 youth employments; already have 4 youth employed (and 14 working at Sand Harbor through Washoe County Juvenile Services).

### **General Information on other activities and successes of RFL**

The goal of RFL is to create a community that values education, working to improve graduation rate. RFL is a convener and movement, but not a program competing for grants. RFL works to be an asset to the other partners and entities. The members of the Executive Workgroup share responsibilities; there is no chair. Examples of recent activities and successes include:

- Presented to Joint Chambers; all appointed liaisons and formally pledged support,
- Presented at Grassroots Lobby Days in Carson City; many other counties were interested in how initiating RF ,
- Meeting planned on August 24th with new Superintendent to provide information about RFL and coordinate efforts within the County,
- Presented to Children's Cabinet,
- Presented to Rotary and also received feedback that can be used for future presentation with Rotary and other groups

### **Potential Roles Discussed for Paul Dugan**

- Statewide RFL is working to launch a communication plan; Paul to introduce RFL, be the spokesperson for Washoe County
- Write articles for the NPEF newsletter
- Help to formally recognize persons in the community who are working on behalf of youth in the four target groups

### **SEI Support Status**

Funding for SEI support is essentially expended; there may be some support into September depending on what's left in the budget. Additional funding has been applied for but is not yet available. SEI will continue to be an information repository regardless of whether the funding is expended. The Executive Workgroup agreed that process has worked well--no one "owns" RFL, and SEI is a neutral party. Actions needed include:

- SEI to provide information how much of the contract, if any is available into September
- SEI to provide proposal for maintaining essential functions
- Until support funding is available, determine how to preserve essential functions, such as note taking at meetings
  - Lionel and Sawyer Staff person to take notes for Executive Committee; Denise Hedrick offered take notes at the Policy Meeting

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### Funding and Sustainability Ideas

- Develop a seminar or lecture series to generate revenue. Would need funds to begin but revenue could be used for RFL; fundraisers instead of grants and could provide funding for SEI, for awards, and other activities. Businesses might be able to cover the seed money needed for a series. Examples include Famous Amos, Ruby Paine with Bridges out of Poverty, Baby College, others who have overcome odds. Juanita to investigate further.
- Opportunities through the national funder. Laura to talk to Debbie Carroll about this. May be opportunities through the [Youth Transition Funders Group](#) or other foundations not yet identified.
- Denise Hedrick is aware of a State Farm Grant related to improving the graduation rate; the entity best positioned to get the grant could apply for it.
- NPEF Foundation building a relationship with DETR.
- America's Promise came to the statewide convening and there may be future opportunities with this group.
- In New York, sustained funding for youth employment through is made possible through a small tax on utility / power; work to build relationship with NV Power as another partner and to identify whether this is a potential option in the future.

### Additional Activities and Partnerships Discussed

- Formally recognize the positive achievements of individuals who are working for our four target groups; highlight their successes. Present a tree or something symbolic; celebrate people that do things for our target groups. Also help to get the word out about RFL.
- As a way to help the state as a whole, present to the outlying communities and show a model of the working groups so that they can open lines of communications.
- Juanita has talked with members of the Black Chamber of Commerce; they need to be included in the work and are willing to serve and be involved.
- United Way Asset Building is a good match for RFL.
- Present to EDAWN,
- Present to WIN,
- Depending on Youth Services Development Group status, invite other groups such as faith-based, planned parenthood, and other entities to participate in RFL.
- [World Café](#) as potential way to share information,
- Larger event (such as the one at University of Phoenix) to orient people and also let them know that they are a part of something important .

### 2nd RFL Newsletter

- Foundation to put together a newsletter,
- Paul Dugan may write an article for future newsletters.

### Marketing/PR professional for Executive Committee

- Tabled discussion on status for getting a PR person.

### Interim legislative session activities TMT

- Legislative: SB330 direction for system reform; committee formed to research/pose new legislation for next session. Horseford and Washoe County FRL to be involved. There is the potential separate committee forming, but (Denise) hopes it will remain a priority within the full committee rather than fragmenting.

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- Invite leader from Governor's Youth Work Force Board, and Job Corp Invite Brin to next meeting

### *Avenue of the Stars/Accentuate the Positive Event*

- Accentuate the Positive Booth—RFL will come up with \$150 for booth and determine who will attend to staff it. Event is October 9th from 11-12 pm.

### *League of Cities Grant Update*

- RFL was leveraged and helped get the grant, Reno is one of 12 cities to be awarded.
- The format is webinars where people can ask questions and also connect after.
- July 29th technical assistance was on information sharing. Our area is farther ahead because we there is good information sharing among partners. The session also provided information about the grant in general.
- Technical assistance is available from leaders at the national level; they provide information about stimulus grants, work investment funds and other federal funding, improve the chance of success for receiving funding.
- After webinar discussed the need for a process to educate our employers who want to work with youth—perhaps imbed in a grant structure to provide the forum for assisting employers on being successful with these youth. Use Chamber list and invite to a seminar or session. Meeting with Denise, Jesse, others to discuss this possibility.
- Webinar for Wednesday the 19th: Engaging youth in Green Job Opportunities.

### *Next Steps*

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#### **Follow up needed.**

1. *Workgroups to send 1 page summary to Chris sharing information about successes including highlighting successes of RFL partners. For example, 14 youth from juvenile services working at Sand Harbor \$2,500 to the community. Chris Melloway to compile a worksheet highlighting RFL successes*
2. *Chris and Juanita to connect to update (or make plans to update) graduation data and other statistics*
3. *Fine tune presentation to 20 minutes that includes the successes and incorporates feedback in preparation for meeting with new groups*
4. *Develop (or make plans to develop) a short video for website*
5. *Plan to acknowledge Susan Fix and others for the work for RFL*
6. *Meeting with Denise, Jesse, Sarah and others to discuss a forum / class for employers who want to employ youth*
7. *SEI to provide information on current contract and propose new contract*
8. *Until funding for SEI support is found, workgroups to assign someone to take notes at each meeting*
9. *Members of Executive Committee to follow-up with contacts as discussed at meeting*

**Next Executive Committee meeting:  
Monday, September 21, 10 am**