

## Executive Committee Notes

September 21, 2009

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The objectives of this meeting were to 1) update the Executive Committee on progress achieved over the past month within the various workgroups and through the League of Cities grant, 2) follow up on August meeting discussions and activities, and 3) set direction for next one to three months.

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**People in attendance:** Paul Dugan, Laura Granier, Denise Hedrick, Steve Hull, Len Stevens, Juanita Ydiando, Steve Hull, Mike Steedman, and Sarah Boxx

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### Topic Summaries

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#### *Agenda Item #1 – Welcome & Agenda Review*

Laura welcomed Len Stevens. Len gave an update on Sparks Chamber activities, which sparked a discussion among those present. Key points:

- Patti Falk and Steve Hull doing organization behind scenes – trying to help with AVID program, Sparks High lost sum funding – down to half of students (300 down to 150) about \$65k down for program funding
- Working with Boys & Girls Club to develop leadership program for at risk youth, using TMCC Latino high school graduates and high school youth to provide mentoring. Boys & Girls Club good outlet due to locations and transportation to get kids to satellite sites
- In discussion with Steve re: using kids in HS that are juniors/seniors who have done well on ACT to work with elementary youth as examples and also link youth who are exiting high school to start thinking about the teaching profession
- Liaison between Hispanic media outlets and the WCSD about what’s going on in the school district and how parents can be connected to the schools

Len noted that Paul Gray (Reed High School) was impetus for Len/Sparks Chamber getting involved in working with Latino families. Paul would be a good resource for RFL to reach out to and to get him involved in some way. *Denise will follow up and call Paul G.*

Denise noted that Nevada System of Higher Education received a large grant to encourage youth staying in school and going onto higher education. They are planning on doing training for community members that want to go into schools to talk to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

The Education Alliance also is supporting a parent involvement group in which parent leaders are being trained. These parents will then be able to share information with other parents about high school requirements, and what they need to know to help their kids succeed. Parent involvement is now part of school improvement plans; and activities for engaging parents are becoming embedded in programs systemically.

Parent Involvement Facilitators (PIFs) at schools are also another good way to reach out to parents. They are frequently bilingual; but the numbers of PIFs have been reduced due to budget constraints.

Len highlighted that WC RFL can have access to Latino media outlets (e.g., newspapers, radio, and UniVision). This would include a 1-hour weekly radio show hosted by Laura Consala on 1590 AM “all talk” radio. The Sparks Chamber can also provide translation services for WC RFL materials/documents.

Laura Granier informed the group about AB 243 that passed in last session. The bill requires certain employers (e.g., 50 employees or more) to have a policy in place that allows parents up to 4-hours per month non-paid time off to participate in school related activities. Laura suggested that WC RFL could have a role in educating businesses/parents

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about the bill. Len said he would like to see RFL present the information on the bill from how it affects the community, business, i.e. focusing on how parent involvement has been shown to improve graduation outcomes. Denise suggested that parents leaders could go into the businesses at break time/lunch time so that parents could get the information with less impact on their finances (e.g., not have to take non paid time off). Alternatively, the binders/flipcharts [from the parent leaders' training] could be made available in the workplace, along with access to computer with Internet so parents can access EdLine to see how their kids are doing in school. There are many Latino business owners that Len could connect RFL to for presenting to groups using a Train the Trainer model.

Also, Juanita noted that the Dean's Future Scholars program has been extremely successful –now have first group of graduating youth graduation rate for those youth is 80%; Len's group in good position to provide referrals

### Follow up

- *Denise to get materials on AB 243 to Laura Granier and she will work on drafting a message that can be translated into Spanish and then distributed to the community/parents via Len's channels*
- *Executive Committee to suggest names of businesses to use as a pilot for developing policy (on 243) and also educating parents – send names to Sarah Boxx*
- *SEI will maintain centralized list of businesses to participate in pilot*

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### Agenda Item #2 RFL Meeting Results & Workgroup Updates

**Meeting with Dr. Heath Morrison, Superintendent WCSD** – Denise almost entire membership of Executive Committee and group of people who helped launch RFL – new position for WCSD: P12 Administrator. Len Stevens now part of WC RFL Executive Committee, offered to replicate RFL business survey.

**Meeting with Tom Fitzgerald, CEO NevadaWorks** – Laura updated the group on the September 17<sup>th</sup> meeting with Tom Fitzgerald and Jonathan Begley attended by herself, Denise Hedrick, Laura Dickey, and Sarah Boxx.

The NevadaWorks budget for youth programs is spent through 2010 (in north). The only funding available is for adult programs (18 and older). Tom encouraged WC RFL to work on getting proposal to them (no timeline) that would focus on the adults within the RFL population group. The project should involve Washoe High Adult School and possible ACT. Steve Hull noted such a proposal could be the adult component through Strickland.

The National League of Cities teleconferences also highlighted another successful model and Denise provided an overview of Richmond Builds project. this project is a 14-week skill building course implemented through partnerships with groups like the City of Richmond Workforce Investment Board, housing, corporate sponsors, unions, Contra Costa College, and others. It includes “green training” – a 10-week pre-employment training for solar installation. They [Richmond Builds] have a 91% job placement rate and 80% job retention rate, once placed. Youth/adults must pass drug tests before placement. Richmond Builds is creating a career ladder around energy efficient building. Juanita noted that ACT is doing energy efficiency training now also.

There is concern among the Executive Committee about staying focused and not going too many directions at one time. We need to determine how to keep the Strickland project moving forward and determine what RFL's role is there.

*Denise will follow up with Mike Pomi about how NevadaWorks opportunity could fit with Strickland.*

Laura also informed the group that NPEF's proposal to the Governor's Youth Council is still moving forward on the Budget Committee's agenda for October 6, 2009; should know after that if it gets approval. The proposal would help fund RFL work throughout the state for two years.

**Awareness Workgroup: Chris Melloway, Chair** Paul Dugan noted the next orientation is Wednesday, September 23, 2009– no other updates this meeting.

**Policy Workgroup: Denise Hedrick, Chair** No additional meeting beyond that reported in discussion above for this meeting.

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**Education Workgroup: Juanita Ydiando, Chair** Juanita noted she had emailed Chris Melloway and Sarah Boxx the 2008 graduation rates calculated using the two formulas. 2009 data will be available after presented and discussed with the School Board.

**Policy Success:** Youth employed through the Children’s Cabinet youth employment program this summer will get school credit for participation in their work (as long as they meet age requirements for the WCSD). This has not happened previously and is a huge encouragement to youth in the program.

**Employment Workgroup: Jesse Gregory, Chair** Denise noted that Susan Fix is negotiating with Reno Aces for summer employment opportunities for RFL youth for next baseball season.

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### *Agenda Item #3 – League of Cities Technical Assistance Grant Update*

The next (and last webinar) is Wednesday, September 23 and focuses on relationships and how community colleges can be involved (with youth). Mike Rainey is hosting this webinar at TMCC’s Neil Road site. The National League of Cities will be deciding which of the 12 cities will continue on with the project; Reno may be selected.

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

#### **Marketing/PR professional for Executive Committee**

Laura noted that NPEF has completed their statewide communications plan, but lack funds to implement. Tom Fitzgerald interested in helping to get message out. Len noted that he sits on NevadaWorks Board, and that John Thurman (Tom’s assistant) would be a good person to talk with to show what RFL is doing.

*Mike Steedman will talk to Mark Curtis to see if he will help RFL*

#### **Executive Committee contact follow up – All**

The question was posed as to who should be on the Executive Committee. Should YSDG and RFL Executive Committee become one committee?

*Steve H. will talk with Mike Pomi to see how we can connect RFL Executive Committee with YSDG – what should happen next regarding the structure of the two groups.*

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

An anonymous donor has paid for WC RFL to have a booth at the Avenue of the Stars event, which will be held October 9<sup>th</sup>. We need volunteers for an RFL table from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

- *Sarah Boxx to ask Chris if he/the Awareness Group can organize the table and volunteers*
- *Sarah will send a request for volunteers to the workgroups*
- *Mike Steedman and Laura Granier said they could assist for part of the time*
- *Denise will be there with the Education Alliance and can provide some support*

#### **Status updates**

- Presentation revisions – no update
- Video for website – no update
- Acknowledgement process – no update
- SEI contract – Laura noted that NPEF approved a contract with SEI to develop an NPEF impact report (which will include WC RFL impact/success) and which provides 3 months of limited meeting support to the workgroups; Denise noted that United Way funds also provide for one month of meeting support and some sustainability support

#### **Other**

- Juanita would like to have Bob Edginton talk about the Dean’s Future Scholars with the RFL Executive Committee.
  - Juanita gave an update on Saturday “Door to Door” project to connect with “no show” students and parents
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with schools; some schools did pre-calling, others went door to door. Schools were able to connect with a lot of youth and some were able to be linked to WOLF, to pre-GED classes; some had moved out of the area, some were back in school. Parents were appreciative, glad to have information and support. Juanita noted that one of the barriers is child care for teen parents. There needs to be more child care spaces at CYESIS.

- Discussion – Juanita wonders if as soon as youth in first semester doesn't achieve required credits, the schools should mandate 7<sup>th</sup> period until credits are earned. Schools would have to provide transportation (or bus passes). Denise suggested that at 9 weeks freshman's credits are reviewed and then communicated with about progress.
- WCSD is having data summit in October – will have benchmarks established K through 12. Will be used systemically – so that if youth aren't reaching benchmarks interventions occur.
- Mike Steedman updated the Executive Committee about Kim Elam who was working with youth taking dance into to schools (she just passed away). The Boys and Girls Club is taking the lead to help keep the kids together. Juanita offered counseling and Mike said he would pass the offer along.
- Mike also noted that the Northeast listserv that has been used for getting resources will be reinstated in a couple of weeks once the person returns who had been managing the process.
- Juanita wants to make sure the Executive Committee focuses on acknowledging RFL contributors to the movement; Len will help promote through the Chamber communication channels.

### Next Steps

#### Follow up needed.

- *Denise call Paul Gray at Reed High School*
- *Denise talk with Mike Pomi about how NevadaWorks opportunity could fit with Strickland project*
- *Denise to get materials on AB 243 to Laura Granier*
- *Laura draft AB 243 message*
- *Laura and Len get message translated into Spanish and distributed to the community/parents via Len's channels*
- *Executive Committee send names of one or two businesses to use as a pilot sites for developing policy (on 243) and educating parent employees to Sarah Boxx*
- *SEI – compile list of names for next Executive Committee meeting*
- *Mike Steedman call Mark Curtis re: RFL PR/marketing support*
- *Steve Hull talk with Mike Pomi re: connecting RFL Executive Committee with YSDG – what structure should be*
- *Sarah Boxx to ask Chris if he/the Awareness Group can organize the table and volunteers*
- *Sarah B. send a request for volunteers to staff Avenue of the Starts to the workgroups*
- *SEI to manage responses and send list of volunteers to Chris/whomever is coordinating effort on October 9th*

**Next Executive Committee meeting:**

**Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 10 am**