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SACRAMENTOWORKS

Regular Meeting of the Sacramento Works Youth Council

Date: Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Location: SETA Board Room
925 Del Paso Blvd., Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95815

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Action Item: Approval of the May 5, 2011 Minutes
3. Information Item: SMUD/SETA partnership – Sacramento Works for Youth Summer program – 2011
4. Information Item: Introduction Sacramento Works Youth Advocates and other youth staff co-located at Sacramento Works Career Centers.
5. Information Item: Staff report - Update on discretionary grants serving high-risk youth – CalGRIP & Safe Community Partnership.
6. Other business – Healthy Youth/Healthy Regions Executive Summary attached. Full report on Sacramento Works, Inc. agenda for September 28, 2011.

Members: Ron Barroga, Brian Broadway, Patricia Espinosa, Matt Kelly, Daniel Koen, Philip Moore, Dennis Morin, Deborah Portela, Maurice Read, Nicole Sohm, David Younger.

DISTRIBUTION DATE: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2011

**Regular Meeting of
SACRAMENTO WORKS YOUTH COUNCIL
Minutes**

SETA Board Room
925 Del Paso Blvd.
Sacramento, CA 95815

Tuesday, May 17, 2011
8:15 a.m.

- I. **Call to Order/Roll Call:** Mr. Kelly called the meeting to order at 8:15 p.m.

Members Present: Brian Broadway, Matt Kelly, Philip Moore, Dennis Morin, Deborah Portela, Maurice Read, Nicole Sohm, David Younger

Others Present: Phil Cunningham, Robin Purdy, Christine Welsch, Becky Walton.

- II. **Approval of Minutes of the February 28, 2011 Meeting**

Moved/Younger, second/Morin, to approve the February 28 minutes.
Voice Vote: Unanimous approval.

- III. **Review Third Quarter Reports for the Workforce Investment Act Youth Program services**

Ms. Welsch described aspects of the report. Ms. Welsch talked about the “Third Quarter Common Measures Outcomes section.” For the period shown, most of the providers demonstrate good performance. To address program performance issues, for the past two years, SETA staff has provided technical assistance to providers on an ongoing basis. The latest performance is starting to show the fruits of that labor. Ms. Welsch also reviewed the various enrollment and demographic charts from the Youth WIA/ARRA Grants (Formula Discretionary), education, age and ethnicity information.

- IV. **Review and Approved Staff Funding Recommendations for the Workforce Investment Act, Title I, Youth Program Services, for Program Year 2011-2012**

Mr. Cunningham stated that this is a funding issue and conflict of interest rules do apply. He reminded the board of the applicable rules and made recommendations on which items the various board members should recuse themselves.

Ms. Welsch gave a background of the Youth program identifying the two categories of services - Universal Services and Individualized Services. Universal Services are provided to young people regardless of eligibility. Individualized Youth Services are divided between In-School Youth and Out-of-

School Youth and we are required to deliver these through WIA Youth Program Ten Elements.

Ms. Welsch reviewed the procurement calendar, the process and criteria by which the proposals were judged. The final youth allocation amount is not known yet because the state might be absorbing some of the cuts themselves. Once the final funding is known, staff may come back and recommend adjustments to the funding.

Ms. Welsch reviewed the charts identifying the recommendations for Out-Of-School Youth and In-School Youth providers. Some providers applied for funding in both of these categories, but with the limited dollars staff is not recommending funding in both categories. Rather to spread the resources throughout the community serving more youth. Ms. Welsch reviewed the recommendations for Universal Services indicating that all applicants that applied were recommended for funding.

Mr. Read asked if any Out-Of-School Youth proposals provide stipends. Ms. Welsch responded that work experience is one of the required elements for the WIA Youth program in Sacramento and the preference is that is paid work experience. The funded providers include the wages, support services such as transportation, books and GED fees in their budgets. Mr. Kelly asked if there was a minimum wage. Ms. Welsch responded that the standard minimum wage is the requirement.

Mr. Read spoke about the current low employment rate for construction jobs and asked whether it is worthwhile training in this industry. He wanted to make sure the proposal does not fund the trainers more than the participants. Mr. Read was concerned that we are creating a cheap labor source with those who have a minimum amount of training in the construction field. Ms. Welsch responded that the percentage of funding for direct participant services is one of the review factors. She reminded the board that the youth program works toward preparing young people for the workforce, regardless of the occupation. The Sacramento Youth program is not a vocational training program like the adult WIA program.

Mr. Kelly opened the meeting to the providers wishing to address the board beginning with In-School services.

Dr. Mary Bell, SCOE said that she concurs with SETA's decision regarding their funding. She then spoke about the programs they offer in the community and that they will continue to do them with their current resources. She asked to be re-considered in the future if more funding becomes available.

Mr. Kelly encouraged Dr. Bell to look to the other providers, who have been funded, to possibly form a partnership. Ms. Welsch said for those areas that are

not recommended for funding, SETA staff is exploring options to serve those neighborhoods and youth.

Ms. Kathy Hamilton of Elk Grove Community Education requested consideration for funding the EGUSD In-School proposal if funding becomes available. She described the programs they offer indicating that the In-School program would be the final leg to catch the more at-risk youth before they fall out of the system. She stated there were no In-School services in the Elk Grove or Galt communities.

Mr. David DeLuz, Greater Sacramento Urban League, spoke indicating that they recognize that Youth Council could not fund everybody. GSUL is working to ramp up their In-School proposal should there be an opportunity for additional funding.

Mr. Kelly said he appreciates the understanding of those who have spoken today. It would be nice to fund all of the programs. Ms. Welsch reviewed the funding stipulations.

Moved/Read, second/Younger, to approve the In-School WIA Youth funding recommendations, subject to the stipulation.

Roll Call Vote: Unanimous approval with one abstention- Mr. Moore.

Out-of-School Services - Mr. DeLuz said that he just wanted to echo what he said for the In-School Youth for the Out-Of-School Youth to have an opportunity to be funded. He also clarified the cost per participant was so much higher than in other proposals. GSUL proposed providing advanced IT training and set their wages at \$10 per hour for the OJT experience.

Ms. Welsch said that this board made a determination that the local WIA Youth funds are not to be used for occupational skills training, rather that leveraged funding is used for occupational skills training. If necessary, youth could be co-enrolled in the adult programs utilizing the adult WIA scholarships for occupational skills.

Ms. Renee John of Folsom Cordova Community Partnership said they understand the limitations on funding, but reminded the board of the lack of services for Out-Of-School Youth in the Rancho Cordova area. Ms. John described the needs that exist in that community. Should funding become available, they would like to be considered.

Moved/Morin, second/Portela, to approve the Out-Of-School WIA Youth funding recommendations, with stipulations.

Roll Call Vote: Unanimous approval.

Mr. Kelly requested a motion to approve the funding recommendations for Universal Services.

Moved/Read, second/Sohm, to approve the funding recommendations for Universal Services.

Roll Call Voice Vote: Unanimous approval.

Ms. Welsch spoke about the Youth Council initiatives and described how the money will be used.

Moved/Portela, second/Younger, to approve the Youth Council Initiatives.

Roll Call Voice Vote: Unanimous approval with one abstention – Mr. Kelly.

Ms. Welsch thanked all the providers and said that if the opportunity arises, staff will look into serving more neighborhoods. Ms. Welsch also thanked the RFP Review Team.

Mr. Younger said he noticed that a lot of the providers showed high interest in the programs, so asked if staff can provide feedback to help applicants achieve higher rankings in the future. Ms. Welsch responded that in addition to the evaluation process the recommendations also factored in the limited resources.

V. Recommendations for Strategies and Indicators for Sacramento Works Youth Council

Ms. Welsch reviewed the Youth Council Strategies and Indicators for Sacramento Works Youth Council report. The Youth Council currently has three strategies and staff is recommending reducing it to two by combining similar strategies. Ms. Purdy pointed out that Employer Outreach is focusing on #2 because that is their target to engage employers. It might behoove one of the council members to participate in employer outreach. Mr. Kelly asked if anyone wanted to participate in the Employer Outreach Committee. Ms. Sohm volunteered to participate on the Employer Outreach Committee. Ms. Welsch read the combined strategies and indicators: Strategy #1 Enhance youth employability through soft skills and work readiness training. Strategy #2 Engage employers in academia to target youth services towards viable career pathways.

Moved/Moore, second/Broadway, to approve the recommendations for Strategies and Indicators for Sacramento Works Youth Council.

Voice Vote: Unanimous Approval

VI. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

HEALTHY YOUTH / HEALTHY REGIONS

INFORMING ACTION FOR THE 9 COUNTY
CAPITAL REGION AND ITS YOUTH



JULY 2011

COMMISSIONED BY SIERRA HEALTH FOUNDATION
WITH ADDITIONAL FUNDING FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENDOWMENT

STUDY DESIGNED AND CONDUCTED BY
THE UC DAVIS CENTER FOR REGIONAL CHANGE

**FOR HEALTHY YOUTH/HEALTHY REGIONS
SPOKESPERSON TRAINING ONLY
NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION
REPORT TO BE RELEASED JULY 14, 2011**

Executive Summary

Will the Sacramento Capital Region prosper, thrive and ultimately grow into its full potential in coming years?

To answer this question, we have to look carefully at the well-being of young people who now inhabit the Capital Region's nine counties. As go today's young people – tomorrow's workers, parents, neighbors and leaders – so goes the region. The interconnected prospects for our youth and our region have been examined by Healthy Youth/Healthy Regions (HY/HR), a two-year, multimethod study commissioned by Sierra Health Foundation with additional funding from The California Endowment and conducted by the UC Davis Center for Regional Change.

The study reflects evidence that many different factors determine our youth's and region's health and well-being, while focusing on five major, interrelated contributors: (1) education, (2) physical and mental health, (3) employment, (4) civic engagement, and (5) the built environment – the structures and surroundings created and modified by people. We explored the relationship between positive outcomes and regional dynamics, drawing on data derived from secondary sources and youth surveys, interviews with institutional leaders, young adults who left or considered leaving high school without graduating and their adult allies, and youth-generated media documenting local conditions. This report synthesizes the research findings. Detailed HY/HR Working Papers, as well as maps and data on specific subjects addressed in this report, can be found at <http://regionalchange.ucdavis.edu/publications>.

The findings of HY/HR can be briefly summarized by four key points:

1. The Capital Region cannot succeed unless its youth are successful in terms of health, education, job readiness and their preparation for the demands of family and civic life.
2. Today significant structural challenges undermine youth's progress in all these areas. Underscoring these challenges are disparities in resources and opportunities associated with geography, socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, immigration status and other factors.
3. The challenges we now face must be met through a unified approach that crosses sectors and systems on both a local and regional scale.
4. Fostering healthy youth and a healthy region requires leadership from many people, including youth themselves, and unrealized community assets across all nine Capital Region counties.

This report urges leaders and community members to think regionally about youth, stressing that the conventional demarcations frequently used to plan and allocate public resources fail to account for young people's highly mobile lives. Many young people live their lives regionally as they seek jobs, education, services and recreation, and change their residence frequently as dictated by family crisis or opportunity.

In addition, this report highlights undertapped regional wealth that could be mobilized to foster youth and regional health, including the energy and insight of young people themselves throughout the area. "If I don't attempt to change the community," asked one teenager, "who will? Doesn't it start with the ones living in it? *'Me'* participating in a group effort to improve my community – that's an obvious answer to an unasked question."

The Challenge Before Us

"You can't describe the region as a whole," observed a legal advocate. "The region includes pockets of poverty and pockets of intense wealth. We have a patchwork of political subdivisions that result in inequitable allocations for infrastructure, schools and the like. So for white kids from wealthy families, it's a great place to live. For others, especially young people of color, it can be miserable." Overall, youth opportunity and well-being, as well as disparities associated with who you are and where you live, are undermining our regional well-being.

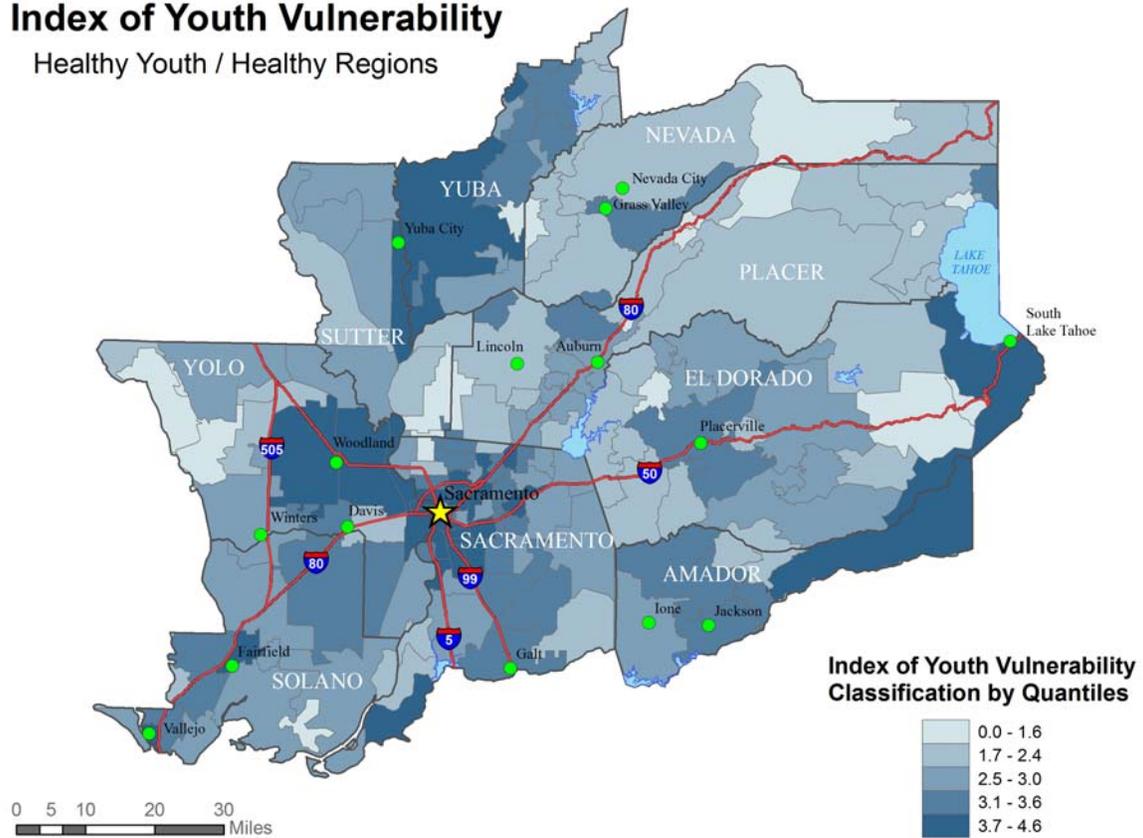
Healthy Youth/Healthy Regions outlines a host of interrelated challenges facing young people and the Capital Region. For example:

- Of the 41,000 students who entered 9th grade in 2004, only 66% graduated in four years;
- Only 28% of African-American students and 31% of Latino students attend schools with high or very high graduation rates;
- Among the students entering high school in 2004, only 23% graduated having completed their college entrance requirements for the University of California or California State University systems, compared with 37% statewide;
- Only 39% of the region's students entered a public college or university within one year of graduation, far fewer than the statewide average of 55%;
- Fewer than one in 10 students received high levels of adult encouragement to pursue formal education and explore future careers.

The research team constructed a Youth Vulnerability Index that measures conditions that often disconnect youth from support for a healthy transition to adulthood: high school completion, teen pregnancy, foster care placement, poverty and juvenile felony arrests. At the regional scale, these data demonstrate high and concentrated vulnerability in the urban core and some inner-ring suburbs and rural areas.

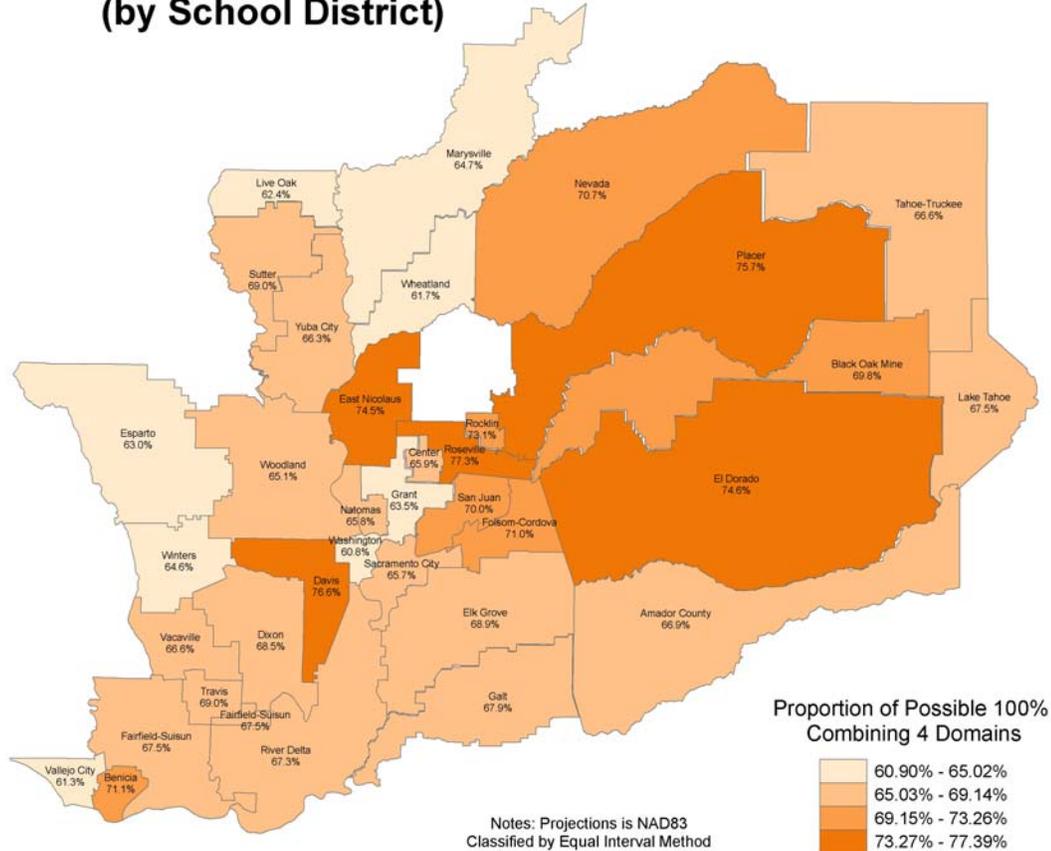
Index of Youth Vulnerability

Healthy Youth / Healthy Regions



Researchers also constructed an Index of Youth Well-Being to assess overall youth well-being in four major domains: physical health, education, psychological/emotional health and social supports. Although parts of the Capital Region ranked relatively high, far more areas scored very low, with more than two-thirds of school districts lodged in the lowest two categories of well-being scores. This is likely a conservative estimate of the situation, as students who left high school without graduating or who attend alternative schools (e.g., continuation schools) and incarcerated youth are likely underrepresented in these data.

Capital Region Index of Youth Well-Being (by School District)



In sum, the Healthy Youth/Healthy Regions study points to recurring cycles of social neglect and missed opportunity whose impact compounds over time, while also identifying significant assets and opportunities.

For the Capital Region, these limited supports and accumulated losses presage a social and fiscal calamity. The estimated lifetime bill for one year's cohort of Capital Region students who do not complete high school totals \$480 million for state and local governments and more than \$1 billion for the federal government. The human cost remains incalculable.

Yet these real and mounting challenges do not describe the entire picture. The region's past achievements and present assets also figure significantly in our ability to address this crisis. Our collective research suggests that the Capital Region contains many of the elements necessary to uproot even the most entrenched problems facing young people today. Not least among these are our youth themselves. We were frequently impressed by the tone of hope and optimism that characterized the worldview of many young people, including those facing enormous obstacles. While these young men and women spoke candidly about their doubts, confusion and fears for the future, they also

described their deep desire and efforts – which in some cases are truly heroic – to be part of the solution.

Passion, urgency and a willingness to work hard exist in substantial measure among the Capital Region’s youth. Many long to engage the issues that will determine their future. The real question is whether the adults currently in charge will support their aspirations and afford them the opportunity to grow into their rightful role as today’s and tomorrow’s leaders.

Informed Action for Healthy Youth and a Healthy Region

This study indicates that successful initiatives on behalf of youth’s healthy development can only be secured by changes in our regional approach to education, youth development, employment, health services and infrastructure improvements. One youth employment specialist illustrated the urgency for collective action, saying, “[Youth need] people behind them, a broad spectrum of people ... None of us is successful unless this [young] person is successful, so we need to do something to make sure that they are successful.”

To this end, the Healthy Youth/Healthy Regions report makes three broad recommendations as a framework for action for leaders from the policy, advocacy, philanthropy, social service and business sectors.

1. Place youth at the center (not margins) of regional improvement strategies

A coherent policy framework for youth that individuals, organizations and networks can rally around remains an essential unmet need in the Capital Region. While specific action strategies could assume a myriad of shapes, any framework should address social and geographic disparities in youth opportunities and outcomes, and four areas of emphasis should be afforded serious consideration: (1) reframing public perceptions of youth, (2) amplifying the voices of young people (including our most vulnerable populations), (3) designing youth and family-friendly regional infrastructure, and (4) promoting policy tools that make the health and well-being of young people a primary metric of success.

2. Ensure sufficient resources for long-range planning, action and evaluation

The report urges improvements in the effectiveness of allocating and coordinating existing funds through the use of Children’s Budgets, tax-sharing measures across local governments, and evidence-based and performance-based budgeting. In addition, increasing the available funds for youth development through parcel taxes and through public-private partnerships are important steps.

3. Convene a Capital Region coordinating body dedicated to improving the prospects for youth

A vital regional coordinating body can enable local leaders to think, plan and act at a cooperative level of unprecedented breadth and depth. It also holds the potential to

make room for new voices, including those of young people themselves. Support for associated community organizing efforts – particularly with the most underserved populations – will facilitate effective policy strategies and representation of all regional constituencies. An urgent priority for this body should be bridging the gaps between systems and jurisdictions to ensure that the most vulnerable youth do not fall through the cracks, and are provided on-ramps to healthy, prosperous and meaningful lives.

The Opportunity Before Us

We face a clear, unambiguous choice. We can take the actions outlined in this report and invest the funds and energy now required to support the development of healthy youth who will contribute immensely toward building a healthy region. Or we can push our civic responsibilities further down the road, allowing the social problems to compound and the accumulated fiscal costs to skyrocket. Like the fate of our youth and our region, the moral and economic cases for action remain inextricably linked. We need to back the creative renovation of systems, services and social networks, ensuring the well-being of our youth because we *should* and because we *must*. In pursuing this path, we have everything to win.