



QUALITY JOBS. QUALIFIED WORKERS.

PIMA COUNTY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD (WIB)

Youth Council

Tuesday, August 11, 2015

3:30 to 5:00 p.m.

Youth On Their Own (YOTO), 1660 N. Alvernon Way, Tucson, AZ 85712

Meeting Minutes

Members Present

Dr. Vaughn E. Croft, Chair
Jim Zarling
Edward Dummitt
Donna Bakerx

Deborah Dixon
Johanna Duffek
Edward Nossem
Jay Slauter

Members Absent

Deborah Embry
Liz Gulick
Paul Lyons

Eddie Valdez
Julia Strange

Guests and Pima County Staff

Dana Katbah
Anna M. Cunes
Mike Rohrbach

MaryAnn Phininzy
David Martin
John Farrell

- I. **Called to Order** – Dr. Vaughn E. Croft, Chair, 3:39 p.m.

- II. **Welcome** – David Martin, Program Director, Youth On Their Own (YOTO), explained how YOTO got started and their drop out prevention program that supports the high school graduation of homeless unaccompanied youth in the Greater Tucson region who are in grades 6 to 12 and ages 13 to 21:
 - In 1986, Ann Young, Amphitheater High School counselor, knew of at least ten young people at Amphitheater who were living from couch-to-couch and friend-to-friend. No agency in Tucson was available to help them. Teachers and Ms. Young were quite concerned about these young people and the danger of their having to drop out of school before they could graduate and they were struggling.
 - After numerous brainstorming sessions, Mrs. Young sought help from her church, local foundations and many concerned citizens in Pima County. The result was the establishment of an innovative community-based drop out prevention program for homeless high school and middle school youth. Beginning with ten students, the program developed into a countywide project

and grew to support 300 by 1994. YOTO was formed which is a long-term prevention program with broad community support to meet a critical need in Tucson and Pima County.

- Today, YOTO serves approximately 1,500 homeless unaccompanied youth each academic school year by providing financial assistance, basic needs and guidance. The Student Living Expense Program, initiated in 1988 as the Monthly Stipend Program, remains the agency's hallmark direct student core service, with Emergency Needs Funds available through request for emergency financial situations.
- YOTO student clients attend schools throughout the Metro Tucson area and are motivated and committed to receiving a high school diploma.
- YOTO is a local 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and students are enrolled in public schools—including charter and alternative schools—and are motivated to obtain their high school diplomas despite personal and financial hardship.
- YOTO youth, through no fault of their own, lack a parent or long-term legal guardian physically involved in their lives and a stable, permanent nighttime residence. The absence of caring, adult support and a consistent home environment is not conducive to successful academic performance, placing this population at great risk of dropping out of high school.
- Statistics show that, without a high school diploma, they are likely to continue the cycle of poverty and reliance on social services, and are at increased risk for substance abuse, incarceration and mental health problems throughout adulthood.
- YOTO students have access to a mini-mall that is located at the YOTO North Alvernon Way site and it has food, clothing, and school supplies available so the youth may stay focused on graduation rather than hunger and other necessities.
- Emergency services are available once per semester to help with rent.
- YOTO will be opening a second hand retail store within the next five or six weeks. YOTO is partnering with the University of Arizona (UA) who has developed a 10-week curriculum for YOTO that includes paid internships. The UA students will teach high school seniors how to interview and the YOTO youth will be employees of YOTO's retail store and will be paid interns during the course. The UA College of Retail students and YOTO staff will help these youth to find jobs whether in retail, construction or other industry.
- YOTO has started to also help the youth with career development that includes helping them apply for financial aid for college, to enter the UA or Pima Community College (PCC), or a full time job.
- YOTO youth must be enrolled in a high school, not a GED program or school, and currently they have youth enrolled at 128 Pima County schools including charter and public schools.

III. Action Item – 06/09/15 Meeting Minutes approved. Jim Zarling moved to approve, Johanna Duffek seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Jim Zarling mentioned that his absence on this day was Excused and asked Pima County staff to note this on the 06/09/15 Meeting Summary.

- IV. Action Item** – 07/14/15 Meeting Summary reviewed. Jim Zarling mentioned that his absence on this day was Excused and asked Pima County staff to note this on the 07/14/15 Meeting Summary.
- V. Pima County Staff Report** – Dana Katbah reminded the Council that under the new Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), out-of-school youth will be the focus and there are some additional services that will be offered to include financial literacy, mentoring and work-based learning. The Youth CareerConnect (YCC) Grant is lead by the Pima County One-Stop Business Services Team and a collaboration with the Pima County Joint Technical Education District (JTED) and PCC. Yuma, Cochise and Santa Cruz Counties also share the funding with Pima County. The “Courts Are Us” employment program is part of the Summer Youth Employment Program. There are approximately 30 positions each year but 2015 may have only had 25 due to budget cuts.
- VI. Youth Career Expo** – Vaughn E. Croft reminded Council members that the Fall 2015 Youth Career Expo will be part of the Arizona Transportation Builders Association’s (ATBA) 2nd Annual ”Construction Career Days.” The event is on Thursday and Friday, 11/05 and 11/06/15 at the Tucson Rodeo Grounds. They had 700 students who attended last year’s event and they are planning for 500 students on each day this year for a total of 1,000 students. Last year’s event was open to only high school youth but this year they are inviting middle and high school youth. Vaughn E. Croft said that he will send an invitation to all his school contacts to help promote the event. The Spring 2016 Youth Career Expo will be scheduled at Tucson Medical Center (TMC) and Linda Reyes, Tucson Youth Development, Inc. will handle registration. MaryAnn Phininzy will have at least eight PCC, AmeriCorps members to assist as needed. Dana Katbah suggested that the 09/08/15 Youth Council meeting should be held at TMC so the Youth Council can see the Auditorium.

VII. Announcements/Call to the Public

- A. MaryAnn Phininzy distributed flyers and announced that she is recruiting full time Pima Community College AmeriCorps Members to start in 09/15. Applications due 08/20/15. AmeriCorps Members are student success coaches for Adult Education students. They volunteer 1,700 hours per year (35 to 40 hours per week) in the adult education learning centers and receive a living stipend of approximately \$900 per month.
- B. Deborah Dixon announced that she has 130 youth in her case load and youth who are released from an institution must have a guardian in order to be released.
- C. Charles Casey suggested that if the Youth Council determines which industries need to be represented on the Council, then Council members can

start to recruit new business representatives. Charles Casey also reminded the Youth Council that they need to be working towards preparing the youth to be future employees.

- D. Mike Rohrbach asked if there are supposed to be or could there be industry representatives on the WIB's Youth Council. Vaughn E. Croft replied yes, there should be some different industry representatives on the Council and the Council needs to focus on recruiting new business members.
- E. Jim Zarling said he has had several young employees who have recently showed him how to use some of the new technology that he previously had no experience with. He also said the two summer youth who worked at his business this past summer had good soft skills.
- F. Edward Dummitt announced that they are partnering with the Internal Revenue Service and Catholic Community Services who will train 50 Job Corps students to be volunteer Income Tax Preparers for students and low-income families. Edward also invited Youth Council members to attend a lunch meeting on 08/20/15 at 11:30 a.m. at Fred G. Acosta Job Corps, 901 S. Campbell. It is a meeting for their Center Industry Council and an opportunity to share how Job Corps can help prepare students to enter the workforce.
- G. Donna Bakerx said that Tucson Urban League is currently working on their Home Builders Institute. There will be three cohorts and the housing crew will specialize in weatherization and will learn some carpentry and drywall skills.
- H. Ed Nossem announced that the Metropolitan Education Commission will be involved with a Teen Town Hall and with the United Way's Cradle to Career Initiative. The Initiative is bringing 24 school counselor helpers in to the high schools to help the students who want to go to college.

VIII. Youth Council Membership

- A. Jim Zarling mentioned that Mr. Assenmacher, CAID Industries, Inc., would be interested in joining the Youth Council.
- B. Johanna Duffek suggested that the Youth Council should speak to the business representatives who will be exhibitors at the November 2015 ATBA "Construction Career Days" to ask if they are interested in serving on the Youth Council.

IX. Next Meeting – September 8, 2015

X. Adjourned – 4:51 p.m.