



Governor's Youth Commission Meeting Minutes

July 23, 2008

8:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

Meadows Room

Northern Arizona University, du Bois Conference Center

306 E. Pine Knoll Drive

Flagstaff, Arizona 86011

A general meeting of the Governor's Youth Commission (GYC) was convened on July 23, 2008 at Northern Arizona University, du Bois Conference Center 306 E. Pine Knoll Drive Flagstaff, Arizona 86011. Notice having been duly given. Present and absent were the following members of the Governor's Youth Commission:

Members Present		
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Zayd Ahmed	Hannah Hunter	Vicki Peng
Diarra Anderson	Katie Jaffe	Sarah Poplin
Shantanu Bala	Pranav Kelkar	Matthew Prusak
Ariana Balderaz	Valeria Lopez	Smitha Ramakrishna
Andres Cano	Natalie Lucas	David Reynolds
Dominic Cheng	Alexis McKenzie	Casey Rice
Andrew Conlogue	Amber McKenzie	Debbi Robles
Ashlee Day	Patrick McNeel	Courtney Rothwell
Victor De La Cerda	Courtney Nash	Muhammad Seedat
Ali Gomm	Sabra Nuel	Branden Shipley
Alison Goulder	Hannah Nunez	Abby Wells

Staff/Guests Present	Members Absent
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Christopher Bodington	Basil Latif
Naimah Sumler	John Owens
Pat Beauchamp	Nilo Thomas

A. Call to Order

Chair Andres Cano called the meeting to order at 8:05 A.M. with thirty-three (33) members present, two (2) staff and one (1) guest.

B. Review of Agenda

Vice Chair Natalie Lucas reviewed the agenda with the commissioners.

C. ARMPY Project

Pat Beauchamp, Manager, Research and Evaluation from Pima Prevention Partnership, led the commission through a discussion about the Alcohol Retailer Mapping in Proximity to Youth Attractions (ARMPY) project. Commissioners were asked to participate in improving their communities by paying attention to the location of on and off-sale alcohol retailers.

Ideas included:

- Distributing the information to individuals
- Talking about the importance of the information
- Pressuring individuals to do something
- Pressuring individuals to enforce rules / take action
- Educating youth / parents = encourage compliance
- Check IDs
- Send youth into stores to perform undercover buys
- Education / Informing
- More suggestions for environmental strategies
- Have free cab services
- Police force increase

D. Break

Abby Wells moved to take a six minute break. Pranav seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion passed with thirty-three (33) ayes, zero (0) nays and zero (0) abstentions. **(08.03.04)**

E. GYC Project Planning

Abby Wells led the commission through a discussion on changes and upcoming events in the GYC. The commissioners were informed of past events and the previous focus on underage drinking prevention.

Changes suggested by the Executive Committee included:

- Having longer general weekend meetings (Saturdays from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.)
- More time for activities
 - Leadership Development
 - Offer skill development
 - Policy Recommendations
 - Make recommendations to state, and inform them on what youth think about issues that affect them
 - Service Projects
 - Expose commissioners to different issues around the state
 - Reflection
 - Small group discussions to discuss progress

Vicki Peng facilitated a question and answer period. Issues brought up included:

- Early times (logistics and times – maybe start later).
- Different service projects.

- Team leads discuss issues that affect the whole region. This is used to choose the most effective service project.
- Policy recommendations to be open for discussion within committees.
- Policy recommendations researched throughout the year and finalized by April.
- Possible projects within committees in order to gain real world experience (working with non-profit group associated with topic area).
- Christopher Bodington will help the commission with its logistics, transportation and funding.
- Specific committees can set up service projects in rural areas.
- Each commissioner could work in an individual community.
- Reflection time to share feelings and give feedback.
- Conference calls between committees in order to gather information. Report out at general meetings.
- Leadership skill development – learn how to speak in public, conduct effective research projects, etc.
- Email Christopher about additional information concerning speakers / ideas / skill building.
- New format acts as incentive to attend meetings.

Smitha Ramakrishna moved to accept the above listed recommendations as the new format for the GYC. Andrew Conlogue seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion passed with thirty-three (33) ayes, zero (0) nays and zero (0) abstentions. **(08.03.04)**

F. GYC Committees

The Executive Committee members explained that they had met several times during the summer and researched potential areas of focus. Seven areas were chosen from the Governor's State of the State Address as well as the Arizona's Results report from the Governor's Children's Cabinet. Of the seven issues, four needed to be chosen by the commission.

These issues included:

- Education
- Substance Abuse (Methamphetamines and Alcohol)
- Domestic Violence
- Teen Homelessness
- Youth Obesity
- Mentoring
- Youth Crime

The presentation was followed by a discussion on which four areas to choose. Commissioners voted on their top areas.

- Obesity → 15 in favor
- Mentoring → 0 in favor
- Youth Crime → 5 in favor
- Education → 32 in favor
- Domestic violence → 17 in favor
- Youth Homelessness → 32 in favor

Alison Goulder moved to adopt Education, Domestic Violence, Youth Homelessness and Substance Abuse as committees. David Reynolds seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion passed with thirty-three (30) ayes, zero (0) nays and three (3) abstentions. **(08.03.05)**

G. Break

The commission took a 5 minute break.

H. Committee Meetings

Chairs were appointed for each committee. These were:

- Substance Abuse: Abby Wells
- Education: Smitha Ramakrishna
- Domestic Violence: Andrew Conlogue
- Youth Homelessness: Vicki Peng

The committees met and discussed their goals. The committee chairs then reported out:

Substance Abuse

Commitment

- Identify local and state resources
- Support from school systems
- Partner with nonprofit
- Form “subcommittees” and identify existing efforts
- Provide a resource (pamphlet / PowerPoint) – allow others to teach

Current Reality

- Strengths
 - Many nonprofits
 - Support of statewide community
 - Past experience
 - Passion
 - Interested public officials
 - Old issue / fresh perspective
- Benefits
 - Stronger, healthier communities
 - Healthier
 - Decrease deaths
 - Success rate increase
 - Improved economy
 - Awareness
- Weakness
 - Culturally accepted
 - Community Resistance
 - Can’t prevent it entirely
 - Denial (abusers and family)
- Dangers
 - Complaints / privacy issues

- Excitement ending / fading
- Relapses
- Blame if it doesn't work

Victory

- Impact individual communities and reach out to others
- Less youth abusing illegal substances
- Spread awareness
- Educate parents
- Communities identifying sources
- Provide resources and users and those affected
- Prevention: educate younger youth

Domestic Violence

Commitments

- Media Campaign
- Domestic Partnership
- Role models

Current Reality

- Strengths
 - Diversity
 - Passion
 - Resources within Governor's Office
 - Experience and connections
 - Versatility
- Benefits
 - Safe homes for youth
 - Youth respect for adults
- Weaknesses
 - Read tape!
 - Small hands and big space
 - Going over budget
- Dangers
 - More government intervention in daily lives
- Victory
 - Happy people
 - No more government intervention
 - Affect all sorts of people
 - Media campaign
 - Everyone has access to resources
 - Love and peace

Education

Commitment

- Research!

- Get reputable sources of information from variety of places
- Get involved with at least one NGO/nonprofit for assisting youth
- Have regular meetings and also have service projects around the State of Arizona
- Be involved in organizing high school drop out prevention event with Governor's Office
- Inspire others and have fun!

Current Reality

- Strengths
 - Knowledge
 - Good ideas
 - Governor's Office contacts
 - We are smart! Role models
 - Determined
 - Passionate
- Weaknesses
 - No money
 - No research base
 - No resources
 - Lack of contacts with NGOs
 - Lack of basic information
 - Logistics (hard to meet)
- Benefits
 - We have high school experience
 - Affected drop out youth
 - We have a vision
 - Good ideas
 - Made big impact
 - Get connections
 - Go around the state to help them
 - Experience
- Dangers
 - Get in over your head
 - Don't accomplish goals
 - Wrong vision?
 - Not reputable research
 - Some people don't want to help
- Victory
 - Decrease dropout rate by 1%
 - Participate in organizing dropout prevention summit
 - Offer dropouts mentoring resources
 - Get in touch with inspirational speakers for dropouts
 - Develop financial aid opportunities
 - Collaborate / find NGO / Non-profit
 - GED options for youth
 - Do Service project
 - Get them prepared for jobs
 - Local community college partnership
 - Increase involvement in school

- Research dropout causes
- Show positives to youth

Youth Homelessness

Victory

- Awareness (states / visual aids, analogies, campaign for awareness)
- Possible funding (corporate responsibility)
- Improve shelters
- Find key factors / contributors to homelessness
- School / community / family / peer influence (inform and education → prevention)
- Volunteer
 - Possible plan for state to target and prevent the issue
- Provide resources
 - Job fair at shelters
 - Skill fair (to get jobs)
- Goals: Prevention through awareness, treatment through service projects

I. Call to Public

Vice Chair Lucas made a call to public with no response

J. Adjourn

Alexis McKenzie moved to end the meeting at 12:01 p.m. Alison Goulder seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion passed with thirty-three (33) ayes, zero (0) nays and zero (0) abstentions. **(08.03.06)**

Dated the 5th Day of August, 2008

Governor's Youth Commission

Respectfully submitted by:

Christopher Bodington

Youth Development Program Administrator