



Governor's Youth Commission Meeting Minutes

October 11, 2008

9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Second Floor Conference Room

Arizona State Capitol

1700 West Washington Street

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

A general meeting of the Governor's Youth Commission (GYC) was convened on October 11, 2008 at the Arizona State Capitol, 1700 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007. Notice having been duly given. Present and absent were the following members of the Governor's Youth Commission:

Members Present

Zayd Ahmed	Pranav Kelkar	Smitha Ramakrishna
Diarra Anderson	Valeria Lopez	David Reynolds
Shantanu Bala	Natalie Lucas	Casey Rice
Ariana Balderaz	Amber McKenzie	Debbi Robles
Andres Cano	Patrick McNeel	Courtney Rothwell
Dominic Chen	Courtney Nash	Muhammad Seedat
Ashlee Day	Sabra Nuel	Branden Shipley
Victor De La Cerda	Hannah Nunez	Nilo Thomas
Ali Gomm	John Owens	Abby Wells
Hannah Hunter	Vicki Peng	
Katie Jaffe	Sarah Poplin	

Staff/Guests Present

Christopher Bodington
Tammy Paz-Combs
Carisa Dwyer
Amanda Scott-Thomas
Nancy Welch
Dr. Richard Toon
Gail Loose
Leah Porter
Katia Brown
Dr. Benah Parker

Members Absent

Andrew Conlogue
Alison Goulder
Alexis McKenzie
Basil Latif
Matt Prusak

A. Call to Order

Chair Andres Cano called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. with thirty-two (31) members present, four (4) staff and six (6) guests.

B. Welcome and Introductions

Vice Chair Natalie Lucas asked each member to introduce himself / herself.

C. Review of Agenda

Vice Chair Natalie Lucas reviewed the agenda with the commissioners.

D. Committee Breakout Session

Commissioners broke out into their respective committees and learned about their focus areas from several guest speakers. The guest speakers included Ms. Gail Loose (Tumbleweed), Ms. Leah Porter (Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence), Mrs. Carisa Dwyer (Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families), and Dr. Benah Parker (Center for the Future of Arizona).

E. Research Training Session

Ms. Nancy Welch and Mr. Richard Toon, policy analysts from the Morrison Institute of Public Policy, led the commission through a research training session. Commissioners were split up into committees, and were directed to play a cube game which tested teamwork and deductive reasoning skills. The commissioners used logical reasoning to determine the information written on the hidden side of their cube.

This game was followed by a PowerPoint presentation on the importance of effectively communicating a story in a policy research project. Both Ms. Welch and Mr. Toon spoke about different types of research, the quality of research, and what researchers need to know before beginning their projects.

Commissioners then broke up into their respective committees, and brainstormed the following ideas:

1. Committee on Domestic Violence
 - a. Define romantic relationship.
 - b. Need awareness.
 - c. Cost, number of people involved, long term effects.
2. Committee on Youth Experiencing Homelessness
 - a. Homeless youth need identification.
 - b. Catch 22 – no services without an identification, but most youth can't get identification.
 - c. Decrease restrictions, or provide alternatives.
 - d. There are 28 animal shelters in Phoenix, but only one homeless youth shelter.
 - e. Policy institute – warned not to unintentionally insult legislators who are in support of animal rights. Additionally, the question regarding proper identification should first answer whether or not identification should be required by service providers at all.
3. Committee on Substance Abuse Prevention
 - a. Incarcerated youth.
 - b. Change is important for economy.
 - c. Rehabilitation programs.
 - d. Focus on juvenile delinquency act of 2002.
 - e. Need a paradigm shift → use detention centers less, and focus more on rehabilitation programs.
 - f. Abby Wells added some explanation of the Act.
4. Committee on Education
 - a. 20% of Arizonans dropout of high school.
 - b. Need more research on how to increase the graduation rate.

F. Approval of July Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Natalie Lucas requested a review of the July 22 – 23, 2008 meeting minutes. The following change was proposed:

- Change the Flagstaff zip code to 86011.

Hannah Hunter moved to approve the meeting minutes with the proposed change. Sabra Nuel seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion passed with thirty-one (31) ayes, zero (0) nays and one (1) abstention. **(08.04.07)**

G. January GYC meeting date

Commissioners discussed possible meeting dates.

Pranav Kelkar moved to set January 17th as the next GYC meeting. Courtney Rothwell seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion passed with twenty-nine (29) ayes, three (3) nays and zero abstentions. **(08.04.08)**

H. Volunteer Activities

Chair Andres Cano and Christopher Bodington explained that the commissioners would not have individualized volunteer plans, but instead would focus on doing group activities. These would include service projects, conferences, hikes, among many other activities.

I. Service Project

Governor's Office staff drove the commissioners to the Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS) to tour the case management center, the free dental clinic, and the level one shelter. Following the tour, commissioners were split into two groups. One group cleaned and organized the CASS clothing closet, while the other washed several shelter vehicles.

J. Reflection

Governor's Office staff drove the commissioners back to the Arizona State Capitol.

Commissioners broke out into their committees, and reflected on the meeting.

K. Report Out

Commissioners reported out on their feelings about the meeting. Comments included:

1. Service project was enjoyable, although some felt that it could have been more productive.
2. The committee breakout speakers were great.
3. Workshop speakers were too long, and needed microphones.
4. More time needs to be allotted for committee reflection time.

L. Q&A

Christopher Bodington answered questions from the commissioners. Nilo asked about attending committee meetings in person. Christopher replied that meetings at the capitol were available, but not mandatory.

M. Announcements

Chair Andres Cano commended the GYC for submitting their logistics forms in a timely manner. Victor de la Cerda encouraged commissioners to buy his products for the Relay for Life fundraiser. Amber McKenzie mentioned there was a haunted house event in Nogales that was in need of volunteers.

N. Call to Public

Vice Chair Natalie Lucas made a call to public with no response

O. Adjourn

Branden Shipley moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:01 p.m. John Owens seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion passed with thirty-three (33) ayes, zero (0) nays and zero (0) abstentions. **(08.04.09)**

Dated the 5th Day of November, 2008
Governor's Youth Commission
Respectfully submitted by:
Christopher Bodington
Youth Development Program Administrator