



In this Issue:

- [Seamless and Connected! Rave Reviews for the AYOS: Connected Conference 2005](#)
- [A Youth Perspective Youth Involvement in the AYOS: Connected Conference 2005 Helped Create Successful Event](#)
- [California Youth Connection: Current and Former Foster Youth Invite Dialogue about Improving foster Care System](#)
- [Coming Soon: YCidea Engaging At-risk Youth on Marin Youth Council](#)
- [Update: Memo on Re-connecting Youth](#)
- [Labor Department Posts New On-Line elaws Advisor on Changes to Youth Employment Rules](#)
- [New YCi Frameworks Available](#)
- [New York State Considering Work Readiness Certificates](#)
- [A View from Sacramento](#)
- [A View from Washington](#)
- [California Workforce Investment Board Update](#)
- [Conferences, Trainings, and Networking Events](#)
- [YCi 2005 Calendar](#)

Don't Forget!

CWA Spring
Conference
March 29-31, 2005
San Diego, CA

[Register now!](#)

Seamless and Connected! Rave Reviews for the AYOS: Connected Conference 2005



The 2005 *All Youth-One System: Connected*

Conference received rave reviews. This year's fifth annual gathering, planned by adults and youth working together, featured inspiring speakers as well as a

Youth Council Showcase and a Youth Perspective Session. And of course the Hip-Hop show and AYOS dance gave everyone a chance to get connected.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the conference.

A Youth Perspective Youth Involvement in the AYOS: Connected Conference Helped Create Successful Event

In October, CWA and New Ways staff



met with local Youth Council members to improve youth participation and attendance at the AYOS conference.

Veronica Bravo and

Rob Karr were among the youth who attended that meeting and offered their ideas about ways to make the conference more inviting to young people.

Both Veronica and Rob attended the conference, and saw the results of their input. In this issue's *Youth Perspective*, they share some of their experiences at the conference. They report that "the conference was so much fun, and it was a great chance to meet some exceptional

people that we will keep in contact with. It's always nice to see that people still have compassion for the broken, the lost and forgotten, the youth." To read more, please [click here](#).

California Youth Connection: Current and Former Foster Youth Dialogue about Improving the Foster Care System

Do you know this resource exists? California Youth Connection (CYC) is founded on the belief that no one knows the foster care system better than the people who live in it.

CYC is a non-profit advocacy and empowerment organization composed of current and former foster youth united to improve the foster care system by inserting their voice into the dialogue about social work and child welfare practice.



CYC is a great resource for involving foster youth on your Youth Council.

CYC works on the local, state, and national levels to educate decision

makers about how policies and programs affect foster youth. CYC is unique in creating an authentic way for foster youth to utilize their experiences toward system reform. CYC is a great resource for involving foster youth on your Youth Council. For more information, please [click here](#).



Coming Soon: YCidea Engaging At-Risk Youth on the Marin Youth Council

Supporting youth leadership for all youth remains a challenge for Youth Councils. Part of the problem lies with the fact that many of the partnering organizations (such as schools and Parent Teacher Organizations) that recruit youth members for Councils do not have strong connections with youth who are at risk.

Adult members of Marin County Youth Council Youth Subcommittee decided to expand their connections with at-risk youth by building relations with potential youth board members during a summer youth program. As a result, four new youth members were initially brought on board, and more than twenty young people from many underrepresented communities within Marin have served since then. Please look for this new YCidea in early March.

Update: Memo on Re-connecting Youth

The Memo on Re-connecting Youth was sent to the President on January 27, 2005. It was also presented to the Governors at their high school reform summit in late February. The memo offers seven recommendations designed to increase high school graduation and work readiness rates among challenged youth. Forty-eight national organizations, including Connect for Kids, National Youth Employment Coalition, and New Ways to Work, as well as dozens of state, regional, and local agencies signed on to the memo. Organizers are still inviting groups to sign on. Contact jan@connectforkids.org. To see the memo, please [click here](#).

Labor Department Posts New On-Line elaws Advisor on Changes to Youth Employment Rules

Changes to youth employment rules went into effect on February 14. The Department of Labor (DOL) announced that it has posted updated information on child labor law changes in its online elaws Advisor.

According to the DOL press release, "The new rules expand protections for youth working in restaurant cooking, roofing, and driving, among other changes. The online elaws Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) Child Labor Rules Advisor is a comprehensive, plain language source for information about FLSA rules that apply to young workers, including wage payment issues, the hours youth can work and the jobs they can and cannot perform." The Advisor can be accessed at <http://www.dol.gov/elaws/esa/flsa/cl>.

New YCi Frameworks Available



The updated YCi frameworks, which have been adopted by several other youth transition initiatives, were showcased at the AYOS: Connected Conference 2005. The frameworks are now available online on the New Ways website at www.nww.org/toolchest.html.

New York State Considering Work Readiness Certificates

The New York State Education Department and the Regents of the State University of New York continue to consider work-readiness certificates for the youth of their state. According to a report issued by the Regents, "On January 4, the Chancellor, Regent Cofield and the Commissioner met with representatives of the State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB) to discuss their concern that a work readiness credential could create an incentive to drop out of high school. SWIB leaders responded by reaffirming support for the high school diploma as the minimum credential, with the work readiness designation as an endorsement to the diploma."

The SWIB and the Department continued their discussion of credential validity in February. At the end of February, the SWIB made a presentation to the Regents about a "multi-state effort to define and measure work readiness and to recognize individuals who have those skills," first initiated by [Equipped for the Future](#) (EFF). To review the Regents update, please [click here](#).

A View from Sacramento

Governor Sends Government Reorganization Plans to Little Hoover Commission

On January 6th, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger sent two proposals for reorganizing state government to the Little Hoover Commission. The reform proposals came out of the California Performance Review (CPR) process. The first proposal is a plan for the elimination or reform of 88 boards and commissions (the consolidation of local Workforce Boards, initially proposed in the CPR report, is not included). The second plan deals with Youth and Adult Corrections.

The Little Hoover Commission has 60 days to review the plans and submit its report to the Legislature. The Governor can submit the plans to the Legislature himself 30 days following its submission to the Little Hoover Commission. If neither house of the Legislature votes down the plan within 60 days of its submission to the Legislature, the reorganization becomes operational by law. To see the plans, please [click here](#).



A View from Washington

The California Workforce Association (CWA) and the National Youth Employment Coalition (NYEC) provide in depth federal policy and legislative analysis for the workforce system. YCi encourages practitioners to familiarize themselves with important issues related to WIA Reauthorization Allocations and other policies relevant to youth. CWA's policy analysis can be accessed by clicking the links in the summaries below. NYEC's policy updates are available for review on their website at www.nyec.org.

Federal Update

President's FY 2006 Proposed Budget Released

The Bush Administration's FY 2006 Budget, released on February 7, outlines the President's requests for program spending, but also introduces new, and not so new, policies the Administration will work to advance over the next year. Further broadening its proposal to consolidate the WIA Adult, WIA Dislocated Worker, and Wagner-Peyser programs into a single block grant distributed to states, the Administration will advance legislation to add WIA Youth programs.

Additionally, the Administration will pursue providing governors with "superwaiver" authority to seek consolidation of additional grants for five programs, including the Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS), Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program, Vocational Rehabilitation program, Adult Education program and Food Stamps Employment and Training. Please [click here](#) for more information on the President's Proposed Budget. To read NYEC's discussion of youth provisions, please [click here](#). Also attached is a [FY 2006 Funding Chart](#).

Several youth advocacy and workforce organizations have prepared briefs on various aspects of the proposed budget:

- *The National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium* has analyzed the planned changes to the Department of Education funding (this information was sent out in an update to the previous YCi Reporter). To read more, please [click here](#).
- *Coalition for Human Needs* has information on the budget, including updates, strategies and tools for responding to the proposed budget, and links to other sources. To access their material, please click here: www.chn.org/issues.budget. To receive email updates, please contact jbeeson@chn.org.
- *Connect for Kids* also prepares updates and action alerts. To visit their website, please click here: www.connectforkids.org.

House and Senate WIA Reauthorization Bills on the Move

Early last month, Congressman Buck McKeon (R-Santa Clarita, CA) and the House Workforce and Education Committee introduced "The Job Training Improvement Act," legislation to reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act (HR 27). HR 27 essentially reintroduces last year's House bill with a few technical adjustments. The Senate quickly followed suit, reintroducing its previous WIA bill on January 24 as the Lifelong Education Opportunities Act of 2005 (S. 9). Please [click here](#) to read more about the Senate and House Measures.

House Bill Marked-Up in Subcommittee

On Wednesday, February 9, Chairman Buck McKeon's 21st Century Competitiveness Subcommittee marked up HR 27. After much debate and several attempted amendments, the subcommittee approved on a party line vote the Manager's Amendment offered by Mr. McKeon. The Manager's Amendment, a substitute to the introduced HR 27, makes a few additions and changes to the bill. The full Committee on Workforce and Education is expected to mark up HR 27 on Wednesday, February 16. [Click here](#) to read more.

Action Alert: an amendment could be added to HR 27 to consolidate youth and adult funding. To read NYEC's update, please [click here](#).

Administration's new "WIA Plus" Superwaiver proposal

The President's FY 2006 proposed budget revives the "superwaiver" by including a *WIA Plus Consolidated Grant Program*. This provision builds on the proposed consolidated state block grant that combines WIA Adult, Dislocated Worker, Youth, and Employment Service, but also provides states with the further option of consolidating up to five other federal employment and training programs that are currently administered by the Department of Labor (DOL), the Department of Education, and the Department of Agriculture. Those programs include: Veterans Employment (DOL); Trade Adjustment Assistance Training (DOL); Vocational Rehabilitation Program (Department of Education); Adult Education Program (Department of Education); and Food Stamps Employment and Training Program (Department of Agriculture).

Senator, Representative Introduce Federal Youth Coordination Act

Senator Coleman (R-Minn./ S. 409) and Representative Osborne (R-NE /H.R. 856) introduced companion bills titled "Federal Youth Coordination Act," to establish a Federal Youth Development Council to improve the administration and coordination of Federal programs serving youth (Education and the Workforce). To view text of Senate bill, please click here: [S1554 – 1555](#).



California Workforce Investment Board (CWIB) Developing New 2-Year WIA Plan

Last week the California Workforce Investment Board received the Department of Labor's planning guide and instructions for submission of the Five-Year Strategic Plan for Title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and the Wagner-Peyser Act. Due to the pending status of WIA reauthorization, however, States are being asked to submit a 2-year rather than a 5-year plan. The completed Plan is due to the Department of Labor May 31, 2005.

At the CWIB, planning is currently underway with various state level departments for plan input and special committees of the State Workforce Investment Board are in the process of being formed. The committees are: High Growth/High Wage Occupations, Statewide Shortages, and Advancing Workers. David Rattray will represent the State Youth Council on the Advancing Workers Special Committee, which will be addressing many of the youth-related issues to be reflected in the plan. State Youth Council members have also been asked to provide input to the CWIB staff on elements of the plan. To read the full article, please [click here](#).

About YCI

The Youth Council Institute (YCi) was established in July 2001 with a goal to assist California's 50 Youth Councils by creating a unified and transparent network of local organizations whose diverse services are available to all youth. The "All Youth-One System" tools and frameworks serve as the foundation for YCi. YCi provides technical assistance and support, disseminates tools and practices, and conducts trainings and planning activities. It is supported by the CalWIB and managed and delivered through a partnership between New Ways to Work and the California Workforce Association.

Conferences, Trainings, & Networking Events

Youth Leadership Academy – March 10-11, 2005 (Sacramento, CA)

This conference, sponsored by the California Parks and Recreation Society, is for young people. The theme is "Experience the Power of Telling Your Story," with many workshops on how to work with the media. Please call Nancy Hafer at (916) 228-2256.

Youth Development Institute (YDI): Special Weeklong YDI – March 28-31, 2005 (Yuba City, CA)

This YDI consists of 35 hours of training and up to 10 hours of agency coaching. This YDI is open to Yuba County agencies first, and then to an equal mix of non-Yuba County agencies as well as agencies funded from the State's after school funding stream. For more information and application, please contact Jim Gaston at (916) 861-0611 or jgaston@fcusd.k12.ca.us.

California Workforce Association (CWA) Annual Spring Conference: Preparing a Ready, Willing & Able Workforce-- March 29-31, 2005 (San Diego, CA)

CWA describes this conference as an out of the ordinary international event for One-Stop Center and Dislocated Worker Practitioners. For more information, please [click here](#).

Crossroads 2005 – April 28-29, 2005 (Los Angeles, CA)

The City of Los Angeles Community Development Department and WIB are hosting this year's Crossroads Conference, featuring a day filled with best practices on how to engage and serve out-of-school youth, for practitioners. For more information, please call (213) 485-4676.

Conference on Transitional Age Youth: From Recovery to Discovery – May 2, 2005 (Long Beach, CA)

Sponsored by The National Mental Health Association of Greater Los Angeles (MHA) and the MHA Village. Information and registration will be available soon at www.village-isa.org.

YCi 2005 Calendar

Confirmed dates and locations will be posted online at: www.nww.org/yci/calendar.htm

March

March 8 Content Conference Call (9:15 a.m.)
(Topic: *Involving Youth on Youth Councils*)

March 29-31 CWA Spring Conference

May

May 10 Content Conference Call (9:30 a.m.)
(Topic: *Coordinated Services, Part 3*)

TBD State Youth Council Meeting