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Attend a Regional Youth Council Forum

Attend a YCi sponsored **Regional Forum**, being held across the state to discuss state and federal direction and legislation affecting workforce programs for youth.

For more information, see article on page two or email Chandra at clarsen@nww.org.

Youth Council Institute Impact Report 2005

Over the past four years, Youth Councils across California have enjoyed great success, due largely to efforts of the Youth Council Institute (YCi), the State's technical-assistance and capacity-building strategy for improving youth services in local areas. The report outlines the impacts that YCi has had, and describes how local Youth Councils and practitioners have applied YCi's lessons in their communities. The "Impacts in Short" box summarizes these impacts, while the Local Highlights throughout the report illustrate the great progress that has been made in California.

IMPACTS IN SHORT

- Youth Councils are using YCi to improve delivery of WIA services.
- The "All Youth-One System" approach is working throughout California.
- California WIA dollars are leveraging other youth service funding streams and beginning to have an impact on other youth systems.
- The "All Youth-One System" approach is spreading beyond Youth Councils.
- YCi has resulted in increased youth involvement on local Youth Councils.
- The California YCi approach is having impact on other states.

Local Youth Councils across California are focusing on implementing effective employer engagement strategies, creating comprehensive youth-serving systems, and leveraging WIA youth dollars to better serve WIA-eligible youth in the context of a comprehensive system that aims to serve all youth. This approach, referred to as "All Youth-One System" (AYOS), is at the core of YCi's technical assistance and support strategies.

Local Youth Councils are currently seeking guidance and assistance to continue to implement and move toward this vision as they adapt to the changing workforce system and address new state and federal priorities. They specifically are asking for assistance with:

- Implementing the youth components of California's new two year plan;
- Addressing the Governor's priorities as they relate to youth across the CWIB committees;
- Addressing USDOL's *Common Measures* impacts;
- Addressing WIA Reauthorization issues and impacts; and
- Addressing USDOL's *New Vision for Youth* priorities.

To read the full report, please [click here](#).

New CalWIB Executive Director Named

On June 13, Brian McMahon, Governor Schwarzenegger's newly named Executive Director of the CalWIB, began his appointment. Prior to joining the CalWIB, McMahon, of El Dorado Hills, was corporate vice president at Strategic Partnership, a Washington, D.C.-based workforce consulting firm. McMahon previously served on the Statewide Certification Development Corporation Board, was president of the California Manufacturers and Technology Association Service Corporation, and director of the Office of Local Development for the Trade and Commerce Agency.



YCi Regional Forums Being Held in California in July & August

The Youth Council Institute (YCi) is sponsoring a series of **Regional YCi Forums** across the state to discuss state and federal direction and legislation affecting workforce programs for youth. Participants will have an opportunity to discuss their needs and strategies for continuing to build comprehensive youth-serving systems in the current changing environment. The forums will cover the following topics:

- DOL's New Strategic Vision for Youth
- WIA reauthorization
- California's Strategic Two-year Plan

Strategies for partnering across systems with a focus on the "neediest youth" will also be discussed.

We are planning for a deep discussion of the impacts and challenges of these shifts in workforce policy and will share implementation strategies employed by colleagues across the state.

Each Youth Council is encouraged to send the following representatives to one of the local forums: 1-2 Youth Council representatives; 2-3 representatives from partner organizations such as Department of Social Services, Education, or Juvenile Justice; local service providers as appropriate; and a key staff person. Ideally each youth council would have a team of 5-6 individuals present at the Forum.

The YCi Forums are being coordinated and hosted by several Youth Councils from across the state. Please look for their announcements, or contact the following Youth Council staff directly to register for the forum:

Thursday, July 14th (1:00- 3:30) • Sacramento, CA
Julie Davis-Jaffe - (916) 263-6915 JMDJaffe@del Paso.seta.net

Monday, July 18th (1:00-4:00) • Irvine, CA
Mercedes Julian – (714) 567-7522 mercedes.julian@csa.ocgov.com

Monday, August 8th (1:30-4:30) • Ventura, CA
Diana Davis – (805) 648-9524 diana.davis@ventura.org

Three forums have already taken place: Tulare County on June 23rd, Los Angeles on June 28th and Mendocino County on June 30th.

Final Draft of California's Two-Year Strategic Plan for the Workforce Investment Act and the Wagner-Peyser Act

The California Workforce Investment Board has released the final draft of the Two-Year Strategic State Plan for the Workforce Investment Act and the Wagner-Peyser Act. The final version was sent to the Department of Labor on May 31, 2005. The plan is the framework for the State's economic development goals for attracting, retaining and growing business and industry within the State and the Governor's vision and priorities for bringing together key players across program lines and business and industry sectors to develop strategies and solutions to address these challenges. To read the plan, please [click here](#).

The Governor's priorities are as follows:

- Understanding and meeting the workforce needs of business and industry in order to prepare workers for 21st century jobs
- Targeting limited resources to areas where they can have the greatest economic impact
- Collaborating to improve California's educational system at all levels
- Ensuring the accountability of public and private workforce investments

Survey of Local Area Executive Directors

The second evaluation report of California's workforce development system entitled "Survey of Local Workforce Investment Board Executive Directors" is now available. Major findings in the report focus on the relationship of decreasing federal funds to the expanding mission of local WIA implementation; the relationship of local autonomy and state leadership; local boundaries and performance measures. To read the report, please [click here](#).

A Survey of Local Youth Councils

"An Advanced Policy Analysis for Implementing the Youth-Related Components of the Workforce Investment Act in California: A Survey of Local Youth Councils" is now available. The report provides a snapshot of California's workforce investment system as it pertains to youth, including the ways in which selected local Youth Councils have implemented the youth-related components of the Workforce Investment Act, their successes and the challenges they face. To read the analysis, please [click here](#).



Mental Health Services Act Creates New Opportunities for Workforce – Mental Health Support Services Collaborations

The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) was approved by voters in November 2004 through Proposition 63. This proposition provides for the expansion of services and development of innovative programs and integrated service plans for mentally ill children, transition age youth, adults, and seniors.

Two of the guiding principles for the Community Services and Supports component of MHSA call for collaboration with workforce development partners in ways that are especially relevant to Youth Councils and their missions. Principle Nine articulates the need for “specific strategies for collaboration between youth and adults systems of care, education, employment and training agencies, alternative living situations and housing and redevelopment departments.” Principle thirteen promotes community partnerships “that recognize and participate in the creation of opportunities for education, jobs, housing, social relationships and meaningful contributions to community life for all, including persons with mental illness. Care must be collaborative and integrated, not fragmented.”

To read more about the Mental Health Services Act, please [click here](#).

Addressing Transportation Challenges

Transportation needs are often a difficult barrier for youth to overcome when participating in career preparation programs or starting a first job. Many programs include transportation assistance for youth in their programs, to help them succeed.

Recently, the National Youth Employment Council published an article called Overcoming Transportation Challenges to highlight some practices that are helping youth get to training and job sites. The article, by April Kaplan on behalf of the Community Transportation Association of America, notes a dozen different strategies ranging from helping youth save for a vehicle to partnering with employers to obtain bus passes. The article also gives brief overviews of seven programs that include transportation aid from around the country. To read the article, please [click here](#).

Tips for Coordinating Youth Services: Content Call Notes

YCi hosted a conference call to discuss successes and challenges related to coordinating youth services. The topics included successful strategies for collaboration, accomplishments of agencies and organizations who partner, ways to pool resources effectively, lessons learned from those who are working well together, and common challenges of collaboration and ways to address them.

The guest panelists were Helen Palomino, Program Analyst for the Workforce Investment Board of Imperial County; Terry Swing, Program Compliance Coordinator of the Imperial County Office of Employment Training; Frances Cadenas, Youth Council Coordinator for the Santa Ana Youth Council and Workforce Investment Board; and Sandy Barba, Youth Program Manager for the Santa Ana W/O/R/K Center. The call was facilitated by Charlene Mouille, Vice President of New Ways to Work, and staffed by Chandra Larsen, New Ways Project Associate. To read the notes, please [click here](#).

Carson/Lomita/Torrance Job Fest a Success

The City of Torrance Parks and Recreation Department, in partnership with the Carson/Lomita/Torrance WiN and the Torrance Unified School District, hosted the Fourth Annual ATTiC Job Fest for youth on May 18th. The Job Fest is a combination Career Fair and Education Fair for high school aged youth. The event was held at the ATTiC, a teen center developed by the City of Torrance. The ATTiC is both a recreation center and as a resource center, and is Torrance’s version of a One Stop Center for youth.

The Job Fest has grown larger with each succeeding year. This year around 30 vendors participated, both from the public and private sector, and between 450 to 500 youth attended. As in the past, all the vendors were willing to hire (and have hired) youth applicants if they are qualified. For more information on the Job Fest, please contact Nakawa Shepherd at nshepherd@tornet.com.

Join the YCi Listserve!

The YCi Listserve connects you with resource, network, and training opportunities relevant to education, workforce and youth development.

To join, email Chandra Larsen at clarsen@nww.org



YCidea Youth Philanthropy

Mendocino County presents many challenges to its youth seeking training and employment. It is a large rural area in the north coast region of California. Most jobs are found in the incorporated areas (Point Arena, Willits, Fort Bragg, and Ukiah) although 68% of the people live outside of these areas. In addition, Mendocino County is going through a shift in employment opportunities from high wage industries such as timber, fishing, and manufacturing, to low wage service sector jobs that displaced adults are also seeking. In 2002, the Mendocino Youth Council conducted focus groups for youth to discuss the training and job situation they face. The young people confirmed the shortage. Furthermore, they indicated that they wanted more opportunities to be involved in leadership activities in their communities.

In an effort to address some of these issues, the Mendocino Youth Council hosted two Youth Summits to stimulate youth engagement in local projects. During the second Summit, the idea for a Youth Philanthropy Board (YPB) to oversee youth-led projects was brought forth. The aim of this project was to provide youth with leadership and vocational skills and to encourage involvement in their communities (which may be otherwise thwarted by transportation, economic or other barriers.). According to Kathleen Swain, staff to the Mendocino County Workforce Investment Board Youth Council, the Youth Council envisioned that the projects funded by the YPB and Youth Council be “developed by youth, led by youth, and awarded by youth.” In addition, they hoped that the projects would focus on gaps within their communities as well as produce possible entrepreneurship opportunities for youth as they grow into adulthood.

Since 2002, the Mendocino County Workforce Investment Board Youth Council, along with the YPB (beginning in 2004) has funded ten youth-led, community-based projects using funds donated by the Mendocino County Department of Social Services (MCDSS). At this point, the Youth Council has handed the grant making reins over to the group of young philanthropists. By conclusion of the pilot project in June of 2005 the YPB members successfully provided oversight to six local youth projects.

To read more about the Youth Philanthropy Board, please [click here](#).

A View from Washington & Sacramento

Federal Update

Senate

Senate Labor-HHS Subcommittee Mark up Scheduled for July 12, But Action Likely After August Recess

The Senate Appropriations Committee is scheduled to consider the Labor-Health & Human Services Appropriations bill on July 14. However, the committee’s schedule is full, which may mean that the review will take place in August after the summer recess. To read more, please [click here](#).

WIA Reauthorization: Competition for Senate Floor Time
WIA reauthorization (S 1021) is facing competition for Senate floor time before the summer recess, especially if amendments are added. Department of Labor Secretary Chao has indicated that the administration is pursuing sponsors for amendments. To read more, please [click here](#).

House

Labor-HHS spending bill passes June 24th

The Labor-HHS spending bill passed on June 24th after consideration of about a dozen amendments. House Appropriations Labor-HHS Subcommittee Chairman Ralph Regula (OH) funded WIA programs at \$66 million above the President’s request level, with small cuts to WIA formula programs from the FY 2005 levels. To read more, please [click here](#).

State Updates

California Career Technical Education Standards Approved

The State Board of Education approved standards for career technical education in fifteen industry clusters. The standards were prepared by the Career Technical Education Advisory Group, which was created in 2002 following a legislative mandate. To read more about the Board’s actions and the clusters, please [click here](#).

California State Budget Not Passed

For the nineteenth straight year, the state budget was not passed on time. The Governor’s budget was modified only slightly during the May Revision. The California Workforce Association notes, “If the budget is not signed by June 30th, most of the state funding can not legally be paid out. This includes federal funding such as WIA. WIBs will not be able to draw down funding until the budget is signed. This usually does not include youth funding, which is on a different funding cycle and has already been allocated to the local areas.”



A View from Washington & Sacramento cont.

State Legislature

WIA bill authored by Denise Ducheny

SB 293 is based on a package of bills developed by a broad group of stakeholders when WIA was implemented at the Federal level 5 years ago. This bill has passed out of the Senate and is referred to the Assembly Committee on Labor and Employment.

Vocational-Education-Related Bills

In the Spring issue of the YCi Reporter, six bills related to vocational education were described. This current issue of the Reporter covers updates on those bills that have either moved forward or been cancelled by their authors. To read more about these bills, please [click here](#).

AB 1609 (Liu; D-La Cañada Flintridge) requires school district accountability report cards to include data on the programs the district offers on vocational education and career technical education. This bill passed out of the Assembly and is currently in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

SB 665 (Migden; D-San Francisco) improves job development counseling to high school students. This bill has passed out of the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee and is currently in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

SB 794 (Scott; D-Pasadena) assigns community colleges to work with other education segments to improve the transition of career technical education students. To implement this bill, the Governor's Budget proposes to provide the CCC with a \$20 million one-time augmentation to increase coordination between community colleges and high schools to fully articulate "industry-driven" career technical curricula. This bill passed out of the Senate and is referred to the Assembly Committee on Education.

SB 845 (Scott; D-Pasadena) expands the pool of eligible teachers for career technical education programs. This bill passed out of the Senate and is referred to the Assembly Committee on Education. The hearing was cancelled at the author's request.

SCA 10 (Runner; R-Lancaster) amends the California Constitution to emphasize the importance of career technical education in the public schools. This bill was scheduled for hearing in the Elections Reapportionment and Constitutional Amendment Committee but cancelled at the request of the author.

Conferences, Trainings, & Networking Events

Workforce Innovations 2005

July 11-13, 2005 (Philadelphia, PA)

The themes of this year's conference are integration, transformation, and innovation. The conference features opportunities to interact with workforce investment leaders, business executives, workforce board members, education policy makers, and other change agents. For more information, please go to www.workforceinnovations.org.

National Conference on At-Risk Youth

August 2-4, 2005 (Arlington, VA)

This conference focuses on designing and implementing community-based programs, increasing public/private partnerships, improving program evaluation through performance measurement, and achieving outcomes for positive youth development. For more information, please visit

www.performanceweb.org/CENTERS/Social_Health/Events/S183/S183.htm.

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Monday, August 8th (1:30-4:30) • Ventura, CA

Diana Davis – (805) 648-9524 diana.davis@ventura.org

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.