

Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development Council

Minutes of Electronic Meeting

September 23, 2020

Present:

Steve Michael, Chair, Department of Human Rights, for San Wong
Will Keck, Chair, State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council
Julie Hibben, Iowa Department of Public Health
Jay Pennington, Iowa Department of Education
Mary Sheka, Iowa Economic Development
Steffani Simbric, Child Advocacy Board
Shanell Wagler, Early Childhood Iowa
Doug Wolfe, Iowa Department of Human Services
Dale Woolery, Office of Drug Control Policy

Others Present:

Volta Adovor, Iowa Youth Congress
Abby King, Iowa Youth Congress
Brianne Messer, CJJP/AmeriCorps, Coordinator, Iowa Youth Congress
Tiara Mosely, CJJP/AmeriCorps, Coordinator, State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council
Kayla Powell, CJJP, NYTD/Youth Development Coordinator
Julie Rinker, CJJP, Administrative Secretary
Kylie Spies, CJJP/AmeriCorps, Youth Leadership Coordinator

I. Introductions and Announcements

a. Brianne Messer, Tiara Mosley, and Kylie Spies – New AmeriCorps Staff

Steve Michael welcomed those in attendance at 2:05 p.m. A quorum was present. Introductions were made. Due to COVID-19 and social distancing concerns, the meeting was held virtually.

Michael introduced new AmeriCorps members—Brianne Messer, Tiara Mosely, and Kylie Spies.

II. Approval of the Minutes from June 24, 2020 ICYD meeting

Mary Sheka moved to approve the minutes from the June 24 meeting, seconded by Will Keck. The motion was unanimously approved.

III. Social Justice and Equity in Education Webinars

Michael noted a document shared by Susan Walkup regarding the above webinar. Walkup has requested youth involvement in the project. Michael suggested ICYD, IYC, or SIYAC participate in the corresponding objectives based on interest. The process would involve participating in statewide webinars. More information can be found here: <https://idph.iowa.gov/Save-Your-Brain>



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Michael asked members if there was interest. After a brief discussion, Keck offered to review the information, discuss with SIYAC Executive Committee and IYC members, and then move forward.

IV. Big Hairy Audacious Goal (BHAG)

a. History 2010 – 95% Graduation Rate by 2020

b. What Now?

Michael noted the history of the graduation rate goal. He reviewed charts and data for recent years and noted that data for 2020 is not yet available.

He asked for comments on keeping this goal or focusing on other areas.

Pennington asked about the time frame, whether there should be short- and long-term goals, outcome or process measures, a “youth voice” or other activities that are more tangible based on collaborative efforts.

Michael responded past grants focused on school climate and culture. He liked the idea of short-term objectives and an overarching goal. He noted the goals shared during the last meeting that were published by the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Mathematics.

There was consensus to further discuss this issue at the December meeting.

V. State of Iowa Youth Advisory Committee (SIYAC) Update

Keck reported that orientation for all members was held last week. The 1st quarterly meeting is next week. Members will discuss and develop priorities. He noted the need for quality mental health resources during the pandemic.

He encouraged ICYD members to join SIYAC calls to provide updates on their respective agencies. Once legislative priorities are set, ICYD members may be contacted based on their area of expertise. He would also like to establish a better understanding of SIYAC within the Executive Branch by sharing monthly reports and possibly inviting the Governor or Lt. Governor to participate in meetings.

He encouraged members to reach out to him and shared his email address. He would like to focus on developing SIYAC members by inviting ICYD members to talk about their positions, opportunities, career opportunities, etc. SIYAC meetings are held bi-weekly on Sunday evenings at 8:00 p.m.

Members expressed their interest in participating and obtaining youth viewpoints on a variety of issues related to their respective areas/agencies.

Doug Wolfe encouraged Keck to work with AMP members who are developing their legislative agenda.



VI. Iowa Youth Congress Update

Abby King, Volta Adovor, and Brianne Messer provided an update on Iowa Youth Congress (IYC) activities.

Members are working on positions relating to a variety of topics—the environment, health, education, diversity, LGBTQ, and school programs. Rough drafts are due October 1. During the last meeting, members discussed equity and overrepresentation and the importance of policy and legislation. They want to meet with state agency representatives to address issues and experiences.

Mock Congress will be held virtually on October 26.

VII. Children's Cabinet Network

a. Youth Work Groups – Racial Justice and COVID-19

b. Technical assistance and Support from Forum for Youth Investment

Kayla Powell provided a brief overview of the Promise of Adolescence report shared during the last meeting. The purpose is to promote Positive Youth Development (PYD). The report includes recommendations for systems, policies, and principles with regard to youth-focused programs and underscores the importance of youth voice, equity, and the adolescent brain.

A grant proposal was submitted and funding was awarded to be used towards equity and youth-adult partnerships. Kylie Spies is developing a curriculum for use at the state level. The curriculum uses a PYD approach to support youth to work within their communities to address COVID-19, racism, and other issues. Outcome measures will evaluate the process.

Michael added that he planned to seat ad hoc workgroups to focus on racial justice and COVID—the impact on youth, law and policy changes, highlight positive outcomes from the pandemic, etc. The grant provides a stipend for youth participation to research issues and develop recommendations.

Current and former AmeriCorps staff will facilitate discussions. Additional staff time will be required to manage the project in addition to normal IYC and SIYAC activities. The curriculum and evaluation process will be used to engage youth to provide recommendations for policy changes. Youth may contact state agencies to collect data on issues such as COVID.

VIII. Other Business – Agency Updates

Commission on Volunteer Service—Sheka reported that AmeriCorps staff in her agency are working on youth volunteerism through a grant on youth workforce mentorship and long-term successful employment.



Governor's Office on Drug Control Policy—Dale Woolery reported that their agency is working with ICYD members and others regarding the effects of the pandemic on behavioral health and substance use—what changes have been positive/negative, what have we learned to make lives better. The 2021 drug control strategy deadline is approaching. He asked for input, especially from youth, on needs, concerns, and ideas. He will contact Keck to attend a future SIYAC meeting to learn more from youth on this topic.

Department of Public Health—Julie Hibben provided an overview of grant funding that provides stipends to youth who participate in underage drinking prevention. More information, including resources and a toolkit, can be found here:
<https://meet.google.com/linkredirect?authuser=0&dest=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FgV3eDrG9DbhfFiky9>

Department of Human Services—Doug Wolfe reported that recent focus has been on the effect of COVID on older foster care youth, their development, and healthy activities. He noted that youth in foster care are among those who experience the worst effects—lack of safety nets/family support, employment, and housing. DHS is working with Aftercare providers to reach youth who have recently exited foster care to provide case management and advocacy on housing, employment, financial support for rent, and more. Aftercare serves youth aged 18-23. Some emergency funds are available. Other efforts relate to providing more support for youth who have not aged out yet by conducting youth-centered planning meetings (YTDMs) and increasing the number of facilitators to support more youth.

Early Childhood Iowa—Shanell Wagler reported on challenges facing parents with pre-school youth. Current policies and procedures require face-to-face meetings. These policies are being reviewed to identify what can be done virtually with regard to parent education programming and online learning.

IX. Adjourn – Next meeting – Wednesday, December 9, 2020, 2:00 – 4:00pm.

Michael thanked members for attending.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Rinker
Administrative Secretary
Div. of Criminal & Juvenile Justice Planning
Iowa Department of Human Rights

