

## **Our Children, Our Families Council**

### **Summary of Workforce Investment San Francisco (WISF) Youth Council**

*April 9, 2015*

#### **Goals of the Effort**

The WISF Youth Council exists to, subject to the approval of WISF:

- assist in the development of the Local Plan as it impacts youth
- convene youth workforce agencies for presentations, networking and sharing

#### **Focal Population of the Effort**

The WISF Youth Council represents 17 to 24 year olds that are unemployed or underemployed.

#### **Impact**

The WISF Youth Council provides advice and input to the Office of Economic and Workforce Development. Their input is valuable because of the diversity and authority of the government officials, service providers, and employers involved with the council.

#### **Challenges**

It is difficult for the Youth Council to effectively push policy because their meetings are held quarterly and members are generally very busy.

#### **Origins of the Effort**

The Workforce Investment Act of 1998 provided the framework for the national workforce preparation and employment system. State and local Workforce Investment Boards were established to oversee workforce investments. Youth Councils were established as a subgroup of local boards to guide the development and operation of programs for youth. The 1998 act was superseded by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014. The act no longer requires youth councils, but San Francisco's continues to operate.

#### **Leading the Effort**

Greg Assay, Principal Workforce Analyst at the SF Office of Economic and Workforce Development staffs the council and the chair, Pooja Deopura, is appointed by the mayor. Greg is funded by the Office of Economic and Workforce Development.

#### **Members of the Effort**

The Youth Council is made up of mostly organizations serving youth, like DCYF, juvenile probation, and other community based organizations. Membership of the council includes:

- Steve Arcelona, Human Services Agency
- Patricia Barahona, Youth Leadership Institute
- Torrance Bynum, City College of San Francisco
- Jennifer Cha, Treasure Island Job Corps
- Brian Cheu, Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development
- Brandan Chic, Youth Representative
- **Pooja Deopura, Salesforce.com (Chair, pdeopura@salesforce.com)**
- Kristy Delgado (for Jessica Fort), San Francisco Adult Probation Department
- Allen Lu, San Francisco Youth Commission
- Allison Magee, Zellerbach Family Foundation
- Jose-Luis Mejia, Transitional Age Youth-SF
- Katy Miller, District Attorney's Office
- Eric Sloane (for Marc Spencer), Juma Ventures

- Maria Su, Department of Children, Youth and Their Families
- Angel VanStark, Youth Representative
- Donald Woodson, University of California at San Francisco Early Academic Outreach Program
- Sharon Zimmern, San Francisco Unified School District
- David Johnson, Plasterers' and Cement Masons' Local 300
- John Knox, San Francisco Juvenile Probation Department
- Linda Martin-Mason, San Francisco Housing Authority
- Hydra Mendoza, Mayor's Office
- Ciara Wade, New Door Ventures

**Structure of the Effort**

The Youth Council meets quarterly, two weeks before the WISF general meeting each month. The Youth Council does not vote on the budget, but provides a youth focused insight for WISF's work.

**Related Documents**

Minutes from WISF Youth Council meetings can be found at <http://www.oewd.org/index.aspx?page=105>.