September 3, 2020
2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Meeting Recording:
https://asu.zoom.us/rec/play/AvH0JvuiBaPzpOclRg441W5_Og1zL1egUArXZ__W67EP0gY34TeQmM2Zzl1nClyYm6ey-JwkU-LGpnl.b.p6z-PsZNbntz1SJ

Meeting Attendees:

Bridget Blixt (Phoenix Indian Center), David Chavez (City of Phoenix), Tiara Crouse (Terros Health), Reeta Devi (Chicanos Por La Causa), Yesenia Diaz (Friendly House), David Hall (Onward Hope), Gina Harper (Jewish Family & Children’s Services), Tina Luke (ARIZONA@WORK - Maricopa County), Gina Read (one-n-ten), Betty Schoen (Arizona Department of Economic Security), Tracee Spire (Watts Family Maryvale YMCA), Ralph Thompson (Phoenix College), Tim Valencia (City of Phoenix)

OFY Backbone Staff Present:

Kendelle Brown, Felix Moran, Marian Lopez-Romo

Guests Present:

Sheryl Hart (Arizona Department of Education), Karen Mahler & Marco Villalpando (for Bob Luft, UMOM), Stacey Ramirez (for Dustin Panoff, YMCA), Christopher Medina (YMCA), Binky Jones (Ombudsman Educational Services), Dwayne Punch (The H.U.B.), Nilda Thomas (Workforce eTraining Solutions), Rebecca Flores (City of San Antonio Department of Human Services), Claire Goldberg (for Candice Liozu, Foster 360)

I. Welcome and Introductions

- Tim welcomed the team and introduced himself.
- New members and guests also introduced themselves.

II. Icebreaker Activity

- Kendelle led the team through the Icebreaker Activity.
  - Attendees were put in one of three breakout rooms to discuss their thoughts on these two questions:
    - If you had a million dollars how would you invest it to serve youth?
    - What is your favorite outreach tool you use to get students to show up?

III. Workforce eTraining Solutions

- Nilda Thomas, Founder & CEO of Workforce eTraining Solutions, gave a presentation on their training services.
  - Workforce eTraining Solutions (WETS) is a distributor of web and cloud-based learning technologies and EdTech consulting services. They help community-based organizations who have workforce development programs as well as schools to develop virtual workforce development programing.
  - If you have any questions, please contact:
    - Nilda Thomas at 800-228-7412 or 248-579-3554 or nilda@workforceetraining.com.
• Link to their website: [https://workforceetraining.com](https://workforceetraining.com), Link to the k12 Virtual Solutions website: [https://k12virtualsolutions.com](https://k12virtualsolutions.com).
• Please see slides 7-31 for more information.

IV. The H.U.B. with Grad Solutions
• Dwayne Punch, Site Manager & Mentor of The H.U.B. presented on their services.
  - The H.U.B. (Helping Undo Barriers) is a brand new physical location in Phoenix for youth to drop in and receive services and resources.
    - Students have the opportunity to get one on one instruction or small group instruction
    - Networking events are able to take place
    - A laundry center was built in order to help students get their tutoring done while also washing clothes
    - There is a food and hygiene vault for students to grab anything they need
    - Students are able to feel safe in order to be productive and be focused on schoolwork
    - Counseling services are available
    - On-site mentorship is available
  - Goal is for students to be engaged. Through engagement, retention will be increased, and with retention, achievement is the final outcome.
• Contact Information for Dwayne Punch: 480-616-8598 or dwaynep@iwantmydiploma.com
  - Enroll at: [www.iwantmydiploma.com/hub](http://www.iwantmydiploma.com/hub)
• Please see slides 32 - 47 for more information.

V. Share Resources for Youth Returning to School
• Kendelle shared Public Computer Resources for the youth:
  - For employment needs, ARIZONA@WORK’s Gilbert and West Valley locations as well as Goodwill Career Centers have computers available for employment purposes for Goodwill.
  - For educational needs, the Chandler and Tempe Public Libraries are open with limited time reservations.
  - In addition, Connect Arizona has created a map of different locations that offer free Wi-Fi (link: [https://sites.google.com/view/azlibtap/home](https://sites.google.com/view/azlibtap/home)).
• Kendelle will share an excel spreadsheet with the team noting their locations, hours, and required steps to reserving a computer.
• The team dialogued what resources their youth need surrounding childcare services and concerns on how public transportation is being cleaned in regards to COVID-19 concerns.
  - Betty shared that DES has a daycare subsidy that people can apply for: [https://des.az.gov/services/child-and-family/child-care/how-apply-for-child-care-assistance](https://des.az.gov/services/child-and-family/child-care/how-apply-for-child-care-assistance)
  - Markus Coleman, Light Rail Administrator, shared that a fogging system is being used on buses and light rails, face coverings are required, there is a limit of passengers per bus, and sanitation is taking place in order to keep individuals safe. In addition, due to longer wait times for the buses, the city is going out to bus stops and providing water to those who are waiting.

VI. Ways We Can Destigmatize GED Discussion
• Sheryl Hart, Deputy Associate Superintendent with Arizona Department of Education, joined us to discuss common misconceptions with the GED.
  - Please see slide 50 for information regarding the GED and AZ High School Equivalency Diploma.
• Team discussed stigmas they’ve heard surrounding the GED from their youth and how we can combat those stigmas and share factual information on the GED with them.
VII. OFY Partner Referral Report

  - Please see slide 52 for the referral numbers.
- Binky Jones, Regional Vice President of Ombudsman Educational Services, shared how they’ve been able to internalize using OFY’s Referral System across their schools.

VIII. Priority Group Report Session

- Readiness:
  - Group created “How To Utilize OFY’s Referral System” Training Video
  - Working on ways that partners can showcase their Best Practices at meetings
  - Link to their google document:
    https://docs.google.com/document/d/1P0QtmBpkgRRO6Ktn-1h7_dAyopcTyI9Fu-N3PxVMgc/edit?usp=sharing
- Planning:
  - Results from the RC Training Needs Survey included
    - Social media
    - Virtual case management
    - Recruitment - Felix
    - Self-care and conflict resolution – Belinda
  - Felix is available to assist with any trainings on recruitment and Belinda is going to create a video sharing self-care and conflict resolution resources.
  - If anyone on the team is able to assist with trainings regarding social media or virtual case management, please reach out to Kendelle at kendelle.brown@asu.edu or 517-416-0956.
  - Link to their google document:
    https://docs.google.com/document/d/1eiEswB45VjJ0exJLjcDP4v7NHVp67zM1FaMMSm.tb7XU/edit?usp=sharing
- Education and Career:
  - OY Virtual Conference, Collaboration for Change, will be on September 25th from 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM. Jim will be sharing the registration link with the network soon.
  - Link to their google document:
    https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Z_9vFyXKnAY7ay5S26PoGL1BOW4dk-uO0iKahruUOY/edit?usp=sharing

IX. RCAT Plus/Delta

- Earlier this year the team discussed pros and cons of the Reengagement Center Action Team so Kendelle asked the team to share updated pros and cons now that we’ve been meeting virtually as well as if the content that is being looked over is helping opportunity youth and how they can be served?
  - Team noted that meeting virtually has been nice because travel isn’t required however a con is that they miss the personal connections of meeting in person.

X. Open Floor and Partner Announcements

- The Advocacy and Policy Committee is putting together a forum on September 16th.
  - Two youth will be given the chance to win an $100 Amazon or Walmart gift card. These two individuals will speak at the forum and they will be speaking about their experience on how COVID-19 has affected them.
    - Kendelle sent out the flier after the meeting.
- If you have any items you would like to share with partners and community members via the weekly update please submit it directly here:
  - Submit an update!

XI. Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

- The next meeting will be on October 1st
Meeting Agenda

2:00 P.M. – 2:10 P.M. Welcome
2:10 P.M. – 2:25 P.M. Icebreaker Activity
2:25 P.M. – 2:35 P.M. Workforce eTraining Solutions
2:35 P.M. – 2:45 P.M. The H.U.B with Grad Solutions
2:45 P.M. – 3:00 P.M. Share Resources for Youth Returning to School
3:00 P.M. – 3:15 P.M. Ways We Can Destigmatize GED Discussion
3:15 P.M. – 3:30 P.M. OFY Partner Referral Report
3:30 P.M. – 3:40 P.M. Priority Group Report Session
3:40 P.M. – 3:50 P.M. RCAT Plus/Delta
3:50 P.M. – 3:55 P.M. Open Floor and Partner Announcements
3:55 P.M. Next Meeting Date and Adjournment
Welcome
Norms for Virtual Engagement

- **Video on**, if you are able. We want to see your face!
- Please **say your name** when you speak up.
- We have an awesome group in the virtual “room”. In order to hear a range of voices, questions, ideas, etc., please **step forward** and participate, but also **step back** and allow all voices to be heard.
- **No multi-tasking!** It is a scientific fact that you will get less out of this team development experience if you do. This includes **no cell phone** use.
- **Keep it here.** This is a confidential space for us to learn and grow. Please commit to “what gets said here stays here.”
- Find a **private space** (as able) so you can share your thoughts and experiences openly. Be mindful of your video background and any distractions (i.e. music, tv).
- **Be accountable.** We will be moving together as a group so make sure to stay on top of your assignments so that you can participate fully.
- **Be open and ask questions.** We are all learning together.
Icebreaker Activity
Icebreaker Questions

• If you had a million dollars how would you invest it to serve youth?
• What is your favorite outreach tool you use to get students to show up?
Nilda G. Thomas, MBA

- Founder / CEO Workforce eTraining Solutions, LLC
- CEO / CMO at NGT Marketing Group, LLC
- Senior Marketing Technology Executive
- Trusted Advisor to Corporate & Philanthropic Leaders
- 20 years of digital marketing experience with technology giants
- 10+ years Distance Learning
- Featured in Black Enterprise & Hispanic Network Magazines
- MBA in e-Business
- Certified e-Marketing Analyst & e-Commerce Consultant
- National Small Business Assoc. Leadership Council
- National Collaborative for Digital Equity
- Black Learners Matter
The Workforce eTraining Solutions Advantage

• Workforce eTraining Solutions (WETS) is a distributor of web and cloud-based learning technologies and EdTech consulting services.

• Virtual Workforce Development Programs
  • Nonprofits | Community-based organizations
    • Create career readiness and learning pathways
  • Schools
    • Equip students with the skills needed to compete in today’s job market.
    • Staff professional development and upskilling

• Virtual classes webinar training software, work-based learning programs, Virtual Instructor-Led (VILT) on-demand online education, eLearning, and Instructor-Led course content.

• WETS transforms your live class into a virtual experience quickly and affordably transitioning your organization’s live event to a secure online alternative.
The k12 Virtual Solutions Advantage

• k12 Virtual Solutions a subsidiary of Workforce eTraining Solutions offers a portfolio of some of the most innovative eLearning programs in the k12 space.

• We help schools integrate technology into classrooms and virtually for a blended learning experience. Additionally, through our EdTech consulting services we assist in identifying funding sources.

• We partner with parents and schools offering a variety of online learning styles that will keep students engaged and wanting to learn. Additionally, through Workforce eTraining Solutions schools can provide professional and leadership development to upskill their staff and districts.
Breaking Barriers to Learning & Advancement

- Many adults struggle to acquire the earning or credentials needed for higher wage jobs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traditional Barriers</th>
<th>Effective Strategies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of time</td>
<td>Mobile learning and training</td>
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<tr>
<td>Access to transportation</td>
<td>Anytime, anywhere learning and training</td>
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<tr>
<td>Competing demands of work, family, and education</td>
<td>Mobile nudging to encourage desired behavior</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lack of a career pathway for advancement</td>
<td>Screening-in for opportunities through competencies, personal attributes, or prior life experiences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Limited information about potential career options</td>
<td>Virtual coaching/mentoring</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lack of a support system, network, or role models</td>
<td>Matching based on skills, experiences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Difficulty in finding valuable educational opportunities</td>
<td>Virtual learning coaches</td>
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<tr>
<td>Difficulty in proving job readiness</td>
<td>Mobile nudging to encourage desired behavior</td>
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<tr>
<td>Job-limiting skills (literacy, numeracy, digital literacy, English fluency, essential skills)</td>
<td>Virtual referrals to further training, jobs or resources in the local area</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Assessment certificates, credentials, and hiring for skills/mindsets</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Online curriculum to address assessed gaps</td>
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WETS offers virtual courses in 9 clusters
TOP CAREER PATHS
BY THE YEAR 2026...

Solar & Wind Energy Techs will double!
Cybersecurity ↑ 26-28%!
Infrastructure needs 3 million workers!

>80% reporting talent shortages
Healthcare ↑ 18%
½ of STEM jobs require less than a Bachelor’s degree
Why do soft skills matter?

44% of employers chose soft skills as the biggest gap in the US workforce.

It’s more important to hire for:
- 92% say soft skills matter just as much or more than hard skills.
- 80% say soft skills are increasingly important to company success.

30% Soft skills
60% Soft and hard skills
8% Hard skills
Virtual Workforce Development – Professionals | Advanced Learners

Over 1500 Online Courses

- Administration
- Business & Soft Skills
- Communication
- Customer Service
- Finance & Accounting
- Health & Wellbeing
- Human Resources
- Management & Leadership
- Microsoft Office
- Personal Development
- Policy & Compliance
- Project Management
- Sales & Marketing
- Entrepreneurship
- Information Technology
- App/Software Development
- Cloud Computing
- CompTIA
- Cyber Security
- Network & Server Adm.
- Programming
The Complete Virtual Skills Training Solution

**Access & Engagement**
- Deliver Across Any Device
- Gamify The Learning Experience
- Build And Issue Branded Certifications
- Meet via Web Conference

**Training & Development Tools**
- Assess Your Training
- Blend Your Training
- Build & Organize Everything
- Branding & Customization

**Reporting & Integration**
- Report About Everything
- Segment Your Learning
- Integrate With Everything

**SSL Security**

**Training & Support**
Program Offerings

Adult Basic Education
Connects abstract academic content with real-life scenarios

High School Equivalency
GED®, HiSET® & TASC resources to advance the adult learner

Workforce Readiness
Designed to support Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) initiatives – Computer Essentials, Work Essentials, and Money Essentials
Program Offerings

College Readiness
Aligned with the Accuplacer College Placement test and is designed to eliminate the need for these developmental education courses.

Professional Development
Identifying and Remediating Reading Skill Difficulties, Motivating the Adult Learner, and Blended Learning in Adult Education – identify common obstacles teacher face in the adult education classroom.
Start Career Exploration Early

Basic STEM concepts are best learned at an early age – in elementary and secondary school. Help students prepare for college and careers. STEM education holds the key to bridging the skills gap and digital divide eliminating barriers to learning and advancement.

STARTING CTE EARLIER...

• Emphasis on career exploration, not training
• Helps students prepare for college AND careers
• Flexibility to switch to another path in high school
• Perkins V makes funding available for CTE programs in grades 5-8 for the first time!
13% Between 2017 and 2027, the number of STEM jobs will grow 13-percent, compared to 9-percent for non-STEM occupations.

Median Hourly Wage $38.35
The averaged median hourly wage for STEM jobs is $38.35, compared to $19.30 for all other types of jobs in the U.S.

National Science Foundation

STEM is CTE
50% of all Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) jobs are open to workers with less than a bachelor's degree.

30% of today's STEM-intensive jobs are in blue collar fields.

CTE is ...
SCIENCE
61% of CTE students interested in a science career report that their CTE courses provide them with skills for the workplace.

6/12 of STEM jobs are in manufacturing, health care and construction, while another 1/12 percent of STEM jobs are in installation, maintenance and repair.

ENGINEERING
18% job growth is projected for environmental engineering technicians by 2022. These jobs typically require an associate's degree and pay more than $45,000 per year.

45% of CTE students interested in a math career report that their CTE courses help them attain higher math and/or science skills.

CTE is ...
TECHNOLOGY

CTE is ...
MATHEMATICS

References for this research can be found at www.acteonline.org or by contacting cimprestate@acteonline.org.
Interactive STEM Content
Aligned to National and State Standards

• Over 550 interactive modules for intermediate elementary, middle and high school students
• STEM (mathematics, science, engineering courses)
• SAT & ACT Preparation
• Clearly defined learning objectives
• Investigation and assessments that measure progress toward mastery
Target Use Cases/Programs

- Middle & High School STEM
- Elementary STEM *(Grades 4 & 5 only)*
- English Language Centers
- After School Tutorial
- SAT/ACT Prep Courses
- Distance learning
- Career Technical Education
- Universities
Everything You Need to Get Your Learners Job and Life Ready

- Hands-on
- Evidence Based Practices
- Data Collection Tools
- Meets Students Where They Are
- Dual Correlation: CTE and Academics
- Academic Integration
- Implementation Made Easy
- Professional development

Career Awareness:
- Introduction to career pathways

Career Exploration:
- Over 100 career choices to help students find their future

Adapted:
- Opening career doors for students with autism & other significant challenges

Job Skills Training:
- Building marketable skills for high-demand jobs

Job Prep & Employability Skills:
- How to get & keep a job

Independent Living Skills:
- Daily life skills to promote self-reliance

Self-Confidence & Social Skills:
- Improve social communication, self-confidence & behavior

Health & Nutrition:
- Learn to care for your mind & body
What’s in a Kit?

- Instructor’s Notes: Including Scope & Sequence
- Student Instructions: Engaging Activities
- ‘First Look’ Lessons: Designed for Special Education
- Comprehensive Assessments: Knowledge & Performance-Based
- Tools and Equipment: Prepare Students for the Job
- Certificates of Accomplishment: Rewarding Students
- Thumb Drives: Easy Customization
- Real-Voice Audio: For Low and Non-Readers
- Parental Involvement: Informative Brochure
Credibility Counts

Approved and Validated

Model Program

Choice Partner

Approved Program

Approved and Validated

Digital Badge Credentials

CASE Endorsement 2020
Workforce Solutions

Working Together
Perkins V Update

**Increased funds** for the first time in ~30 years

- $75 million in FY2018 + another $70 million in FY2019

- Plans will fully kick in during **2020-21 school year**

- **Middle school grades** can now receive Perkins funds

- Nine required uses of funds pertaining to **Professional Development**

- Programs of study *must* culminate in an **industry certification or postsecondary credential** for higher education

- **States** are now responsible for **determining performance objectives**

- First-time focus on **employability skills**, aligns with **local** employment needs
Federal aid accounts for only about 8-12% of educational funding. Perkins V is only a portion of that.

- **Align Perkins V with ESSA** plans and funding
  - SQSS (School Quality & Student Success)
  - **Equity requirements** to improve performance of student subgroups
  - Prioritize high-quality CTE pathways & programs
    - Up to 10% of Perkins V for State Leadership Funds for expansion & implementation
    - Up to 15% of Perkins V for local CTE implementation to award as grants

- **Braided Funding** Strategies
  - Utilize Federal, State and Local sources
  - Funding control for CTE lies mostly at the local level
We’d like to be your virtual training partner

Thank You!

- Visit the WETS website
- Visit the k12 Virtual Solutions website
- Workforce eTraining Course Catalog
- Contact us for our STEM Catalog
Interested in a product demo?

Please contact:

Nilda Thomas, MBA | Founder & CEO
Workforce eTraining Solutions LLC | k12 Virtual Solutions
with any questions.

• Phone: 800-228-7412
• Direct: 248-579-3554
• Email: nilda@workforceetraining.com
The H.U.B.
Helping Undo Barriers

Phone: 480-689-5999 Extension 33
5336 N 19th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85015
Open Monday-Friday 8am-4pm
PURPOSE

❖ Help our community partners understand the purpose of the GS HUB
❖ How the HUB helps undo barriers & meets students basic needs
❖ How community partners can benefit from the GS HUB
❖ With a focus on one simple concept of ushering in a new E.R.A. in education.
ENGAGEMENT
RETENTION
ACHIEVEMENT
QUESTIONS???

Dwayne Punch
Site Manager & Mentor

P: 480 616 8598
E: dwaynep@iwantmydiploma.com
F: facebook.com/gradsolutionsllc

ENROLL at www.iwantmydiploma.com/hub
Share Resources for Youth Returning to School
Ways We Can Destigmatize GED Discussion
The GED® is a group of four sub-tests that when passed provides certification that the test-taker has high school level academic skills. There is no such thing as a “GED Diploma.” The GED® is the TEST, not the DIPLOMA. GED® Testing Service is currently the only vendor contracted to conduct testing in Arizona for the purpose of awarding the AZ HSE Diploma, and they do this through Pearson VUE testing centers. Following state procurement processes, ADE conducts an RFP process at least every 5 years to award the contract to one or more testing vendors (there are currently 3 vendors, HiSet, TASC and GED, that provide testing to certify high school level academic skills). Some states have multiple testing vendors; in Arizona we currently only have GED® testing. Also, GED® is a for-profit vendor and that is why we use the registered trademark symbol with it.

The AZ HSE (Arizona High School Equivalency) is the actual diploma that can be earned in Arizona. The AZ HSE diploma can be earned through three pathways, one of which is through GED® testing. The other two pathways are the College Credit Pathway and the HSE PLUS Career Readiness Pathway. More information about the three pathways are on our website here: https://www.azed.gov/adultedservices/hse/
OFY Partner Referral Report
### August Referrals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aug-20</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Referred:</strong> 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OFY Partners:</strong> 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OFY Website:</strong> 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OFY Outreach:</strong> 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transition Outreach:</strong> 14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Partners Referring: Ombudsman and Student Choice High School

**Area of Need:**
- Education
- Financial Resources
- Legal Aid

**Successfully Referred to Partner:** 18

- **Rio Salado** - n/a
- **AZ@Work Maricopa County** - two youth were contacted. No answer at one number and wrong number at the other.

- **Fresh Start Women's Foundation and Peckham Inc.** (two youth were referred out of network /not OFY partners)
Priority Group Report Session
3 Priority Groups

• Readiness
  • Resource-sharing for centers to better serve youth; develop, pilot, and implement solutions/best practices for youth

• Planning
  • Professional development training; supporting partners with grant writing; survey team for needs, resources, gaps, etc.

• Education & Career
  • OY Virtual Conference
  • Develop an understanding of post-secondary options and identify engaging career exploration platforms, and education/training options
RCAT Plus/Delta
Open Floor and Partner Announcements
Weekly Update

Stay In the Know
Each Week Opportunities for Youth (OFY) will be sending out this Weekly Update providing recipients with a weekly digest of opportunities for young adults and providers, as well as general updates from the OFY community.

If you have an upcoming opportunity or update, you can submit it at [Submit An Update!](#)

If you are not yet receiving our weekly email, you can subscribe here! [Subscribe Here!](#)
Update Content Submission Form

Submit an Update

The information you provide in this form will be used to draft your post for the OFY Weekly Update.

All submissions MUST INCLUDE a post title, post verbiage, and a URL link to a page with more information. If your update is an event, please also include the date, time and location of the event.

Submissions made after midnight on Tuesday will be added to the following weeks update.

Note: We may not be able to accommodate every submission we receive, but will do our best to include all content that aligns with OFY's mission and values.
Next Meeting Date

October 1\textsuperscript{st}