

**California Collaborative for Youth Development
Planning Retreat 11-13-06 Sacramento, CA**

Attendance:

Jim Kooler, FNL
Mike Kelly, Attorney General
Lisa Foster, CRB
Dave Neilsen, DMH
Robin Ulesich-Foemmel, DMH
Greg Wolfe, CDE
Dan Sackheim, CDE
Kim Bradley, TCCF
Kindra Montgomery, UC Davis, SOE
Amy Dean, YLI
Jennifer Lyle, YLI
Bernie Davitto, AES

Facilitated by Mike Allison, Michael Allison Consulting (notes by facilitator)

Purpose of the meeting: To set the direction for the CCYD for the next three years. In particular we'll seek to develop consensus on a priority project/campaign/issue to achieve in the next three years and to spell out the specific objectives to be accomplished in the first year to move the agenda forward in a meaningful way.

Agenda

- 12:00 Welcome
Evolution of CCYD
Affirm Mission Statement
- 12:15 Review field of Youth Development
- 12:30 CCYD: strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats
- 1:30 Break
- 1:45 Identify possible priority projects
Assess pros and cons
- 2:45 Work toward consensus
- 3:30 Action plan
- 4:30 Wrap up/summarize next steps
- 5:00 Adjourn

Evolution of CCYD

- Founded in 1997 in the form of a committee convened by Senator Alpert to look at youth mentoring programs state wide.
- Worked on legislation, SB 515 and 215 in 1997
- First summit, 2001: shifted focus to a broader definition on Youth Development
- Engaged broader groups of interested partners including the Foundation Consortia, State Youth Council, workforce development folks, etc.
- Senate Select Committee convened by Senator Alpert was a major step forward for the work
- We have been at our best in organizing our two summits
- After 2004, with Senator Alpert terming out, failure of legislation, departure of representatives from several state offices, there has been erosion in participation and membership in the CCYD

What would be lost if CCYD folded?

- Opportunity for like minds to come together:
 - Networking plus
 - Our connection goes beyond our discussions
- Opportunity and potential to do something meaningful: for example our Committee on Engaging Youth
- Helps us take action individually
 - Getting support from others
 - Forum to seek support
- Support group for people involved in youth development
- Vehicle for driving larger change

Youth Development in California: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats

Strengths

- CCYD is at the forefront of a field that is gaining credibility
- Heart – commitment of members
- Individually – we have the ability to contribute to advancing our mission
- Mix of members: state agencies and nonprofits
 - Each group can do things the other can't
 - Broad reach
 - Unusual – creates important links
- Each of us has some resources to take action/commit resources: our time, our own programs, support resources
- Strong base of youth development expertise in California

Weaknesses

- Lost Senator Alpert
- Dwindling attendance and membership – losing political currency (we currently don't have reps from Health Services, ADP, Foundation community, OPR, Governor's Office on Volunteerism)
- Limited ability to lead change from within state agencies
- Don't have any infrastructure to CCYD: no money, no staff, we are really more of an "alliance" than an organization
- Limitations on state agency members to direct resources, influence policy— depends a great deal on "higher ups" in particular agency
- State departments and Foundations are calling in "experts" from east coast: our expertise in CA is not recognized

Opportunities

- There is likely to be a re-evaluation federal policies given election results and dissatisfaction with “No Child Left Behind”
- Youth Resiliency Data Collection
 - Every school district
 - Every school site
 - Reports are available at aggregate and school level
- “Reach Project” is a coalition of 7 organizations—provides an example of developing deeper secondary analysis of effects of youth development practices
- There are many other existing working models of youth participation at the state and local levels in California and in other states: we have growing evidence that these programs are working
- New federal legislation “Osborne Act” recognizes youth development and calls for state-level action
- We have some existing mechanisms to share/work with secondary data to influence policy making: for example the annual meeting of CASC with the State Board of Education
- UC Davis is very interested in getting involved with teacher preparation
- Commitment exists to engage youth in decision making in many spheres
- Field of youth development is very dynamic and growing
- Current Assembly Select Committee on Foster Care

Barriers/Threats

- Silos in federal, state and local government make it difficult to create comprehensive policy change
- Funding streams are program specific—reinforce the silo structure
- Current policy is mostly about “buying reductions in bad things” rather than working for positive development and change
- Preparation of teachers and other professionals does not include attention to youth development principles
- Inherent difficulty of engaging youth in our work
- Lexicon is incredibly fluid: causes confusion, though it does allow us to translate concepts into local situations
- National Groups provide support for the field, *but* they are a growing source of competition in CA

Proposals for CCYD Action

Votes	Proposal
2	1. Focus on Assembly Foster Care Committee: “redo” the foster youth Independent Living Program in cooperation with young people ⇒ CCYD would serve as a group of adult supporters to group of youth
8	2. Resurrect the Senate Select Committee on Youth Development ⇒ Develop a white paper to advocate for re-establishing the committee ⇒ Individual members will take action to generate support ⇒ Recruit new sponsor/champion(s); possibilities include Steinberg, Feuer, Dave Jones, Loni Hancock ⇒ Engage youth in lobbying effort
3	3. Use Osborne Act to develop momentum for a state level act to coordinate youth policy (like SB 215)
4	4. Find new Legislative Champion from new class: write letter, include our policy maker check list
0	5. Develop a presentation that would be CCYD standard, train ourselves and look for opportunities to invite other members to present at our own individual convenings/conferences
0	6. Develop analytical framework tool to share to help people make sense of the data that is already available/support the road show
2	7. Develop a “core elements” matrix - necessary - exemplary - all - each ⇒ track all activities by members ⇒ when making presentations we could highlight each others’ work
	Regardless of the priority chosen, we agreed that improving communication using our list serve and web site would be a high priority.

Action Plan

The group agreed to pursue proposal #2: to **work to re-establish a state legislative committee on youth development**; recognizing that the first step is to recruit a champion/sponsor (proposal #4)

- Our next meeting is December 4: we will have a short meeting and then head to the Capitol to contact members
- **Lisa** will contact Leslie to figure out what goes into the Legislative Packet
- **Lisa** will develop a list of new members and interest areas, and will have list of all legislators available for December 4th visits.
- **Bernie, Greg** and **Dan** will work on the white paper in order to have something to include in the legislative packets: initial bullets ready by December, more comprehensive piece to be ready by year-end [will the “white paper” identify what we want the the legislative committee to do?]
- **Bernie, Jim** and someone from YLI will develop an action plan for engaging youth in recruiting the legislative champions
- Once several members have been identified as interested parties, **Greg** will help provide links to local school activities; **Dan** can find youth in local districts to contact members

Communication

- We will hold 2 hour monthly meetings going forward; meetings will be in person for those who can attend, and others can join the meeting by conference call
- The **Jim** and **Mike** as Co-Chairs will gather monthly updates from members and consolidate the updates into an information report; this will not have to be discussed, but it will help provide support for making the case of youth development activity taking place across the state
- **Lisa** will draft an initial “recruiting plan” for attracting new members
- We will consider developing a workshop with Leslie’s March 7 conference; however, need to have more details.