



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

LESLIE WILKINS  
CHAIRPERSON

ALLICYN C.H. TASAKA  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

830 Punchbowl Street, Suite 417, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Phone: (808) 586-8630 Web: <http://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/>

**YOUTH SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING  
Wednesday, February 6, 2019  
10:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.  
Princess Ruth Keelikolani Building  
830 Punchbowl Street, Director's Conference Room 321  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813**

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDEES:**

Ian Kitajima, Oceanit; Committee Chair,  
Winona Whitman, Alu Like, Inc.; Committee Vice Chair  
Stacy Ferreira, Strategy and Innovation, Kamehameha Schools  
Carla Houser, Residential Youth Services Empowerment (RYSE)  
Deizhanna Kaya-Abad, Hale Kipa  
Kelly Miyamura, Hawaii P-20  
Brig. Gen. (ret.) Bruce Oliviera, Hawaii Department of Defense, Office of Community Services  
Steve Sue, Chair, Bizgenics Foundation  
Danny Wyatt, Leeward Community College Waianae-Moku

**STAFF:**

Maria-Elena Diaz, Workforce Development Council  
Michelle Miyashiro, Workforce Development Council

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:12 a.m. by Chair Ian Kitajima.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

A. December 14, 2018 Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on December 14, 2018, was made by Steve Sue. The motion was seconded by Stacy Ferreira. The motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

**III. “Hawaii Youth Services Network and Hawaii Interagency State Youth Network of Care” presented by Regina Torres Jacobs, Program Coordinator, HYSN/HI-SYNC**

Regina Torres Jacobs' presentation was postponed to a later time due to work emergency.

#### IV. New Business

##### A. Selection of committee roles and priorities

Maria-Elena Diaz asked the committee members to review the second draft of the Youth Services Committee's "Roles and Responsibilities" handout included in their packets. This draft includes members' feedback and information pertaining to the WIOA law and the State plan. The "Roles and Responsibilities" document will guide the committee's priorities and actions.

Members asked for clarification on some points. Kelly Miyamura asked about the assessments mentioned under "Roles," and Chair Kitajima asked if social-emotional assessments are included. Diaz explained that assessments are made at the American Job Centers and social-emotional assessments should be included. Steve Sue suggested adding "ensure that youth receive assessments and support in social and emotional learning, and 21<sup>st</sup> century life skills" as a bullet point under "Responsibilities."

Stacy Ferreira asked if youth in poverty are included in the first bullet point that lists youth target populations under "Responsibilities." Ferreira pointed out that there is a growing working class and youth in rural populations may also fall in this category. Diaz responded that "youth in poverty" was not originally stated in the list because participants must be low income to qualify for the program. The committee agreed it would be best to be explicit and added "low-income youth" and "youth in rural populations."

A motion to adopt the "Roles and Responsibilities" was made by Winona Whitman. The motion was seconded by Sue. Chair Kitajima asked for any discussion. Miyamura asked for clarification on the last two bullet points regarding local area system-building and bringing together resources; she suggested that the last point may be part of the previous one. Chair Kitajima suggested including the final point to support the committee in making new connections and finding new paths. The committee proposed to edit it to read, "suggest ways to bring together and leverage resources and services among schools, programs, organizations serving youth." The amended motion to approve the Youth Services Committee Roles and Responsibilities passed unanimously.

The final version of the Youth Services Committee Roles and Responsibilities can be found here: <https://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/files/2019/02/Final-Youth-Committee-Role-and-responsibilities-2.6.19.pdf>.

##### B. 2019 Goals

The committee started reviewing the suggestions for priorities submitted by committee members. Whitman added ideas that were shared by her Hawaii island staff, including a practicum in financial literacy related to a work experience, a youth entrepreneurship conference that helps youth develop a business plan, and entrepreneurship mentoring possibly through an internship or other work experience.

Chair Kitajima indicated that ultimately the committee hopes to ensure that disadvantaged youth have the same opportunities as any other youth, and to do so proper assessments need to be conducted. Ferreira suggested assessment as a major priority for 2019. Referring to Dani Ruiz's Aspiration Penta Chart, Ferreira pointed out that complex trauma in at-risk youth is not addressed before they become adults. Kamehameha Schools, working with Alu Like and Mililani Psychology Group, is studying the root causes for traumatized youth in the Kina Eha project. Homelessness, drug addiction, criminal activity, are all symptomatic of traumatized youth. Through the ACE (adverse childhood experiences) assessment, we know that many youth have a social-emotional disorder, according to Ferreira; but specifics are not known unless comprehensive assessments of youth are conducted. Academic underachievement/ underperformance, dropping out of school, or continuous suspension from school may also be due to undiagnosed cognitive challenges. DOE only provides assessments in intelligence

and academic performance. In Kina Eha, 6 of the 12 participants tested as intellectually gifted, and they are all drop-outs. Half of six are gifted cognitively and academically. All 12 have a social-emotional disorder. While anxiety or depression is common among them, they all have additional issues as well. The issues these youth have will continue with them into adulthood. Ferreira would like the committee to consider how to address root causes and include the array of assessments in the youth services toolbox. Assessments help to clarify what youth need; with a diagnosis, youth become eligible for services through DVR, Social Security, and other agencies.

Sue suggested that the committee needs to address and go beyond root causes. He suggested that program's like Bruce Oliviera's Youth Challenge Academy (YCA) may be a good fit for traumatized youth. Oliviera said that he has 100 students per cohort in Oahu and 100 students per cohort in Hawaii island. He indicated that YCA has potential to grow with additional federal resources and state matching funds.

Chair Kitajima asked the committee to consider how assessment of traumatized youth might be institutionalized at the state level, whereby youth service providers would have access to this information. He suggested that in pursuing this type of system change, there might be federal dollars to support youth and providers.

Ferreira agreed to write-up her concept of comprehensive assessment for traumatized youth as a possible goal for the committee to adopt. She also suggested a guest speaker, Danny Goya, a Kamehameha Schools expert on trauma and brain sciences.

**V. Next Meetings**

Diaz will send out a poll after February 18, 2019, President's Day, for the next meeting date.

**VI. Adjournment**

Chair Kitajima adjourned the meeting at 11:07 a.m.