City of Samta Ife



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Mayor's Youth Advisory Board Thursday November 30th, 2017 4:30-5:30 P.M. **Monica Roybal Center** 737 Agua Fria Street Santa Fe NM 87501

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of Agenda
- IV. Introductions of Board Members and Guests
- V. Approval of Minutes October 26th, 2017
- Discussion/Approval: VI.
  - A Election of Chairperson
  - B. Teen Nights
  - C. Library Program Proposal
  - D Discussion on Job Center
  - E. Review of Youth Summit Report Action Plans
  - F. Discussion and Recommendation for Approval of Teen Nights Proposals
- VII. Comments from the Chair and Committee Members
- VIII Comments from Councilor Renee Villarreal
- IX Report from Staff
- X Matters from the Floor
- XI: Next meeting January 25th 2018
- XII Adjournment

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# **CITY OF SANTA FE**

# MAYOR'S YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD

# MEETING November 30, 2017

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Mayor's Youth Advisory Board Meeting: November 30, 2017

#### MINUTES OF THE

#### **CITY OF SANTA FE**

#### MAYOR'S YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD

#### **MEETING**

#### Santa Fe, New Mexico November 30, 2017

A meeting of the City of Santa Fe Mayor's Youth Advisory Board was called to order by Megan Sarkissian on this date at 4:30 p.m. at the Monica Roybal Youth Center, 737 Agua Fria Street, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

There was a quorum present to conduct official business as follows:

#### **Members Present:**

Yessica Flores

Rudy Flores

Barath Kurapati

Teya Martinez

Franchesca Pino

Megan Sarkissian

#### Members Absent:

Adrian Olivas, resigned (moved)

#### **Staff Present:**

Josie Butler, Oliver La Farge Library/Branch

Richard De Mella, Juvenile Justice Planner

Jessica Gullifand

Edith Martinez, Office Mgr./Acting Rec. Supervisor Monica Roybal Youth Center

Michele Reich, Oliver La Farge Library/Branch

Chris Sanchez, Community Services Division Director

Julie Sanchez, Youth and Family Services Division Program Manager

#### **Others Present:**

Ellie Hoffman, AmeriCorps VISTAS Member

Gus Martinez, Santa Fe County Assessor

Molly Timmons, AmeriCorps VISTAS Member

Councilor Renee Villarreal

Jo Ann G. Valdez, Stenographer

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: A motion was made by Rudy Flores, seconded by Barath Kurapati to approve

the Agenda as presented.

**VOTE:** The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

# **INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS AND GUESTS**

Introductions were made.

At the last Board meeting, Franchesca Pino mentioned that she was interested in serving on the Board. She was asked to submit a letter of interest and a resume. Since the last meeting, she has been appointed to the Board.

The guests introduced themselves.

Because there are some new Board Members, Molly Timmons conducted an "ice-breaker" activity called "Who one It?". The Board Members and guests participated in the activity and the Board moved on to the next agenda item.

# APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 26, 2017 meeting

Approval of the Minutes was not made; therefore, approval of the Minutes of the October 26, 2017 meeting was postponed until the next meeting.

#### **DISCUSSION/APPROVAL:**

#### A. Election of Chairperson

Chris Sanchez suggested that the election of the Chairperson be postponed until the next meeting so that the Members will have an opportunity to consider being the Chairperson and learning who the Board is.

#### B. Teen Nights

Chris Sanchez asked Edith Martinez to speak about Teen Nights.

Edith Martinez said the City of Santa Fe put out a Request for Proposals (RFP'18/06/P) for a Teen Nights Program. One mission of the Youth and Family Services Division is to plan, develop and implement quality programming for Santa Fe's teens. The *Teen Nights Program* was developed as a result and as a recommendation of the Mayor's Youth Summit which involved teenagers from every middle and high school in Santa Fe, both public and private, to participate in a forum where their views, ideas and recommendations could be expressed. The issue that continues to be expressed by the teens is the "lack of recreational and leisurely activities for teens" in

Santa Fe.

Funding for the Teen Nights Program was allocated by the City's governing body from the *Quality of Life Fund* to implement safe and fun activities for local teens as identified in the Mayor's Youth Summit Report. Funds for this program are intended to benefit teenage residents (ages 12-18) of the City of Santa Fe.

The Scope of Services of the RFP include:

- Plan, organize and conduct special events and activities for teens (ages 12-18) in coordination with the Community Services
  Department/Youth and Family Services Division staff, the Mayor's Youth
  Advisory Board and teens from the community. Events and activities to be
  conducted shall be recreational and/or leisurely in nature and shall be
  provided at no cost to participating teens. Activities may be conducted in
  the form of teen dances or competitions such as skateboarding/rollerblading,
  basketball tournaments, talent shows, custom car and bike shows, movie and
  bowling nights, etc. with no less than 30 teen participants.
- It shall be the responsibility of the contractor to provide all staffing, security, advertisement, food and entertainment services for all events.

Edith Martinez noted that the City received four proposals: 1) Wise Fool New Mexico to do two "Teen Circus Dance Parties"; 2) SITE Santa Fe for a series of fourteen events; 3) The Boys & Girls Club for various events and 4) YouthWorks! for their Teen Nights Program. She said there are two organizations who do multiple events and have activities specific to youth. Copies of the proposals were available for the Board's review.

Edith Martinez mentioned that an evaluation panel that consisted of three members was put together to review the proposals. She said they would like to get the Board's input on the proposals. She asked the Board Members to review the proposals and determine what kinds of activities that they may be interested in. She requested that any ideas for events be given to her in the next day or two. She asked if the Board Members had any other ideas that the Board would like to see or include.

Franchesca Pino said college fairs would be a good thing to have. Different people could come in representing various colleges and talk about the programs they have and the scholarships that they provide.

Edith Martinez said that is a great idea and asked if there was anything else.

Megan Sarkissian said she agreed with Franchesca Pino because that would be a good thing that teens should have access to.

Molly Timmons said some youth talked about having soccer tournaments for teens.

Megan Sarkissian said volleyball tournaments could also attract teens.

Molly Timmons said another idea is to have a graffiti community building where youth can add art to.

Another suggestion was made to have organized hiking and nature walks.

Edith Martinez said the Santa Fe Conservation Trust and the Santa Fe Watershed, in collaboration with the City, work on providing hiking and nature walks.

Chris Sanchez said if there are any more ideas, Board Members can send/email them to Edith Martinez.

#### C. Library Program Proposal

Chris Sanchez introduced Jessica Gullifand who works with the Public Library and with youth on a lot of different things. He said they want to get people to work together, from the senior services to the youth.

Jessica Gullifand said they want to bridge our community more and create better and stronger relationships with the youth and the Public Library here in Santa Fe. Their proposed program is to do some more outreach to the youth and inform them of the library services.

She noted that there are some youth who do not have access to computers and the library is a great place for them to have access to information and do their homework.

Chris Sanchez said one thing they will be doing is a library assessment where they will talk about the needs for the community in terms of the libraries. They would like to bring the libraries to the 21st Century and make them a hub where young people can meet. He said the Board's input is very important.

He mentioned that there were 12 items that were developed in the Youth Action Plan and they would like to tie these together. He asked if there were any thoughts on this.

Megan Sarkissian thinks this is a great idea and would be a great program especially for those who do not have access to the internet and computers at home and may not know the resources that are available at the library.

Rudy Flores said it is a really good idea and would be a way for youth to learn more about the resources that are available and let them know that they can access computers at the library.

Jessica Gullifand said this would also help library staff develop relationships with youth and help them build or create book collections that the youth are actually interested in.

#### D. Discussion on Job Center

Chris Sanchez said one of things that Maya Martinez is working on is the development of a job center and they are looking at doing this out of the Southside Library. This could serve as a hub to bring youth in and they are establishing this partnership presently. They are looking to launch this sometime in January or February 2018.

Franschesca Pino said one thing they can do to attract more people to come into the libraries is having several sessions where the library staff guides them through the library and help guide them through the technology that the libraries may have. She thinks this would be helpful.

Councilor Villarreal asked if the Public Library still has children reading and do they have any bilingual programs.

Jessica Gullifand said they do and they are usually held in the mornings around 10:30. She said this is one of the questions she wanted to ask the Board is for them to let them know what they can do better to reach families. She noted that they will be having a meeting tomorrow with all the children librarians and the Directors of Libraries tomorrow and it would be good to report to them on what this Board recommends.

Chris Sanchez said possibly a survey could be done that would be administered throughout the community and provide this information to the library. After discussion, the Board will consider potential questions for the survey at the next meeting.

Chris Sanchez said he and Julie Sanchez have to leave the meeting by 5:30 p.m. to attend the "State of the School" address.

#### E. Review of Youth Summit Report Action Plan

Copies of the Youth Summit Report from the 2017 Mayor's Youth Summit were distributed. A copy is hereby incorporated to these Minutes as Exhibit "A".

The purpose of the Youth Summit was to invite youth from all socioeconomic backgrounds to discuss in-depth issues and concerns young people face in Santa Fe and to create a "Call to Action" plan that outlines solutions to improve the quality of life for youth in Santa Fe. Utilizing the identified action plans which resulted from concerns, needs and wants that the youth expressed at the 2015 Fall Youth Summit, the Mayor's Youth Advisory Board prioritized six critical action areas to focus on for the 2017 Youth Summit. In preparation for the summit, the Children and Youth Commission and MYAB continued the partnership with the Eagle Rock Professional Development Center. They hosted several group training and facilitation sessions with a group of 20 youth, ages 14-20 who were identified as leaders and advocates within their schools or community. 300 youth throughout Santa Fe to include private, public, tribal and charter high schools, and local disconnected and homeless youth participated in a half-day summit. During the Summit, the youth leaders facilitated discussions with participant

groups on the six identified priority areas.

Chris Sanchez referred to page 13 and reviewed the seven priority areas as follows:

- 1. Job Opportunities for Youth
- 2. Alleviate Financial Stress
- 3. Lack of Community Activities
- 4. Bullying
- 5. Support for Homeless Youth
- 6. Behavioral Health & Substance Abuse
- 7. Immigration

Behind each of these was the designed action plan, which showed the current need and wants, the barriers and the next action steps.

Chris Sanchez asked the Board Members to read the Report before the next meeting. He asked if there were any questions.

Councilor Villarreal asked how many Board Members there are now.

Chris Sanchez said nine but two were unable to make it today due to transportation issues and they will figure out what they can do for these individuals in terms of transportation for them.

# F. Discussion and Recommendation for Approval of Teen Nights Proposals

This agenda item was discussed above.

## COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR AND BOARD MEMBERS

There were no comments from the Chair and Board Members.

## COMMENTS FROM COUNCILOR RENEE VILLARREAL

Councilor Villarreal said she would like the Board to consider having a different approach for presenting to City Council. She said she has been talking to some people in Albuquerque who have statewide youth councils and she knows that some of them are focusing more on advocacy and youth organization. She recommended that the Board talk about different ways for youth engagement and organizing and not just the issues that face the youth but understanding the causes of the problems at the next meeting.

#### REPORT FROM STAFF

Julie Sanchez said the Mayor was unable to attend today's meeting but he wanted to thank each of the Board Members personally for their service. She distributed some welcoming letters from the Mayor to all of the Board Members.

#### MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR

There were no matters from the floor.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on January 25, 2018 at 4:30 p.m. There will be no meeting in the month of December due to the Christmas holiday.

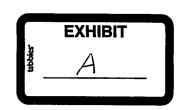
#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Its business being completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Chris Sanchez, Community Services Division Director

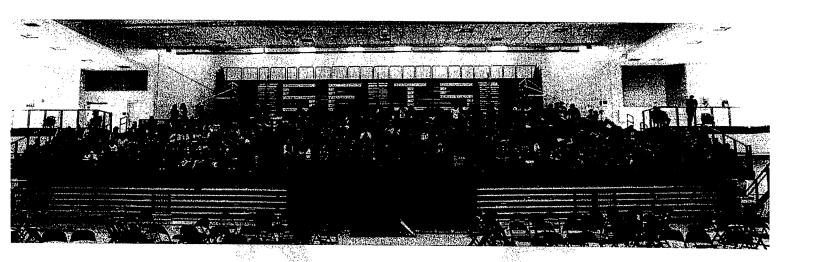
Respectively submitted by:

John G. Valde, Stenographer



# City of Santa Fe

# Mayor Javier M. Gonzales



# 2017 Youth Summit





Santa Fe, a City that Cares about Kidsi





The 2017 City of Santa Fe Youth

# Summit Report

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# I. Introduction

The following report outlines the planning process, the agenda, and the outcomes of the 2017

City of Santa Fe Mayor's Youth Summit. The purpose of the Youth Summit was to invite youth from all socioeconomic backgrounds to discuss in-depth issues and concerns young people face in Santa Fe and to create a "Call to Action" plan that outlines solutions to improve the quality of life for youth in Santa Fe.

Utilizing the identified action plans which resulted from concerns needs and wants youth expressed at the 2015 Fall Youth Summit, the Mayor's Youth Advisory Board (MYAB) prioritized six critical action areas to focus on for the 2017 Youth Summit. In preparation for the summit the Children and Youth Commission and MYAB continued partnership with Eagle Rock Professional Development Center. Eagle Rock is a national leader in youth advocacy and works closely with school districts and youth services organizations across the United States to help those entities create healthy, high-functioning learning environments with the aim to improve student engagement.

Eagle Rock hosted several group training and facilitation sessions with a group of twenty (20) youth ages 14-20 who were identified as leaders and advocates within their schools or community.

Three hundred youth throughout Santa Fe to include private, public, tribal and charter high schools, and local disconnected and homeless youth participated in a half-day summit. During the summit, the youth leaders facilitated discussions with twelve participant groups on the six identified priority areas of change revealed by the 2015 Youth Summit and reinforcing the work done on the 2015 "Call to Action Plan."

#### II. Philosophy

#### Purpose and Goals of the Youth Summit

Mayor Javier M. Gonzales, the Santa Fe City Council, the Children and Youth Commission and the Mayor's Youth Advisory Board partnered with Eagle Rock to train the youth in leadership and facilitation tactics.

The goal of the Youth Summit was to strategically design 12 different breakout sessions, as it related to the 6 priority areas. The intent of the breakout sessions was for the youth leaders to create focused discussion, encourage in-depth brainstorming and give updates on the initial action steps around the priority topic selected as their key concern.

# III. The Planning Process

#### Mayor's Youth Advisory Board (MYAB)

The Mayor's Youth Advisory Board is an official City of Santa Fe Youth Board that provides input, suggestions or recommendations to the City Council and Mayor pertaining to matters affecting youth in the community.

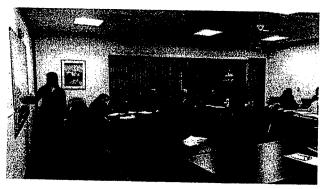
Because the Youth Summit was a youth-driven event, the initial step in the planning process was to contract a nonprofit organization that has demonstrated successful experience in leading youth in focused group discussions.

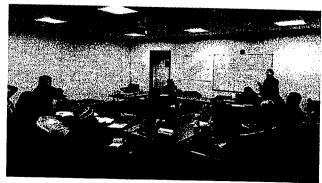
# 2017 Youth Summit Identification of Seven Priority Areas

As a result of this half- day summit, youth receive updates and made additional suggestions on the most common needs, wants and concerns they face in the community to include, but not limited to: Bullying, Alleviating Financial Stress, Lack of Community Activities, Support for Homeless Youth, Job Opportunities for Youth, Immigration, and Behavioral Health/Substance Abuse. The findings of the first youth summit provided the framework to design

# 2017 Mayor's Youth Summit and Partnership with Eagle Rock for Training Youth Leaders

During the 2016-2017 school year, MYAB, the Children and Youth Commission and the recruited youth partnered with Eagle Rock Professional Development, a national leader in youth advocacy and training.





Eagle Rock's goal in partnership with Children and Youth Commission and MYAB was to train the youth on group facilitation skills with a strong focus on development of action plans to address the need, want or concern identified as key priority areas revealed and discussed during 2015 Fall Youth Summit.





Eagle Rock hosted a series of training sessions, creating project specific templates that prepared each of the youth to facilitate focused group discussion regarding their selected priority topic and equipped each youth with the ability to design action plans in partnership with other youth to address the needs, concerns or wants outlined within the 2017 Youth Summit.

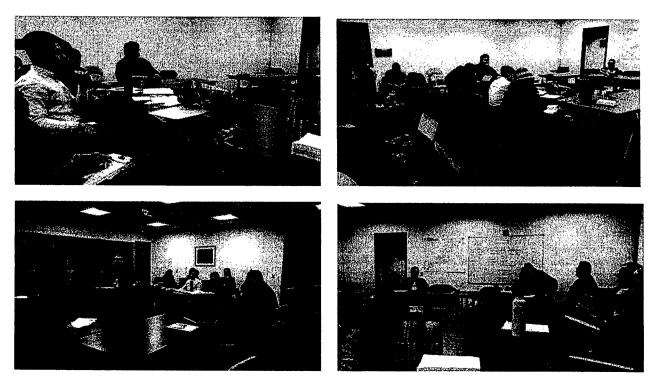




In the month leading up to the Summit, MYAB members filled out speech templates which outlined their topic area including the action which resulted from the original topics of the 2015 Youth Summit. They rehearsed these speeches in front of youth from the Monica Roybal Youth Center After School Program, their peers, adult-co facilitators, and city staff.

#### IV. The Youth Summit Participants

Before beginning the recruitment of Youth Summit participants, the MYAB, Children and Youth Commission and Santa Fe Public Schools representatives first had to identify what type of participant would be needed and necessary to contribute to the Youth Summit. Then, the goal was to create an action plan that identified goals, objectives, action steps and outcomes for each of the priority areas.



It was decided that the voices of all teens was critical, as MYAB wanted to create an action plan that would meet the needs, wants and concerns of all youth throughout Santa Fe. The "Youth" is defined as being between the ages of 13 to 21 years old. Another critical component to the recruitment process was that the youth had to be representative of the demographics of Santa Fe from all socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds. The final component to the recruitment process was to identify which critical "adult" leaders in the community needed to be a part of the process to assist the youth facilitators within their group discussions.



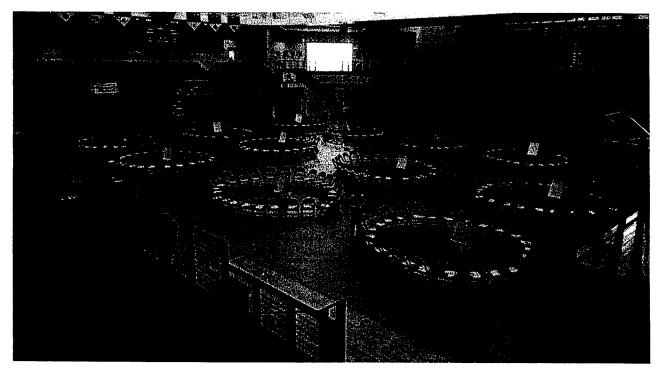
#### Recruitment

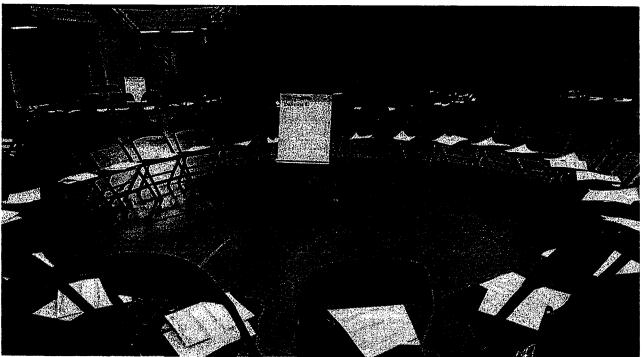
MYAB and Children and Youth Commission convened a series of independent meetings with public, private, tribal and charter school officials and local juvenile justice and nonprofit organizations who specialized in working with disconnected youth.

The team formulated the purpose and rationale of the Youth Summit and asked the schools and organizations to select youth by whom they thought would be great participants and contributors to the Summit. Organizations were encouraged to select youth between the ages of 13 to 21, as MYAB wanted to ensure that all voices were represented during the Summit.

In addition, the team met and discussed what Community Leaders needed to be included and recruited to participate in the Youth Summit. The team agreed that the leaders had to be stakeholders who could assist the youth in pushing forth their action plans either through policy or funding.

300 youth were recruited from the following areas: All Santa Fe Public Schools, All Santa Fe Charter Schools, St. Michaels High School, Santa Fe Preparatory School, New Mexico School for the Deaf, Santa Fe Indian School, YouthWorks, Youth Shelters, Santa Fe County Juvenile Detention Center, Santa Fe Community College.





Principal community leaders were invited to either speak or participate as co-facilitators: Mayor Javier Gonzales; City Councilor, Renee Villarreal; Representative from the Police Chief's Office; Children and Youth Commission Chair, Joanne Lefrak; Children and Youth Commission Member, Daniel Slavin; County Assessor, Gus Martinez; Interim Community Services Department Director, Chris Sanchez; Youth and Family Services Program Manager, Julie

Sanchez; Juvenile Justice Senior Planner, Richard DeMella; Superintendent, Roy Herrera; Santa Fe Community Foundation Vice President, Joohee Rand; Santa Fe Community Foundation Director of Collective Impact, Katherine Courtney; Santa Fe Mountain Center Healthy Transitions Program Manager, Bea Velazquez-Morales; Human Services Committee Member, Bryan Serna; Immigration Committee Member, Susan Hayre;

This year the Mayor's Children, Youth, Community Cabinet in partnership with the Santa Fe Birth to Career Collaboration hosted six AmeriCorps VISTAs whose assignment included assistance with planning, outreach and implementation of the Santa Fe Youth Summit.

Other youth facilitators included members of the Student Wellness Action Team, students from the Santa Fe Indian School and the Santa Fe Community College's Student Ambassadors Program.



#### V. The Summit

#### The Identified Goals of the Youth Summit

When planning the Youth Summit, our youth leaders discussed and prioritized the following goals and requirements:

 The Summit needs to be broken into manageable breakout sessions consisting of no more than 25 youth per session.

#### **Priority Topic:** Job Opportunities for Youth

<u>Concern/Need/Want:</u> Youth indicated that there is a lack of job opportunities within the City of Santa Fe.

Barriers:	Action Steps:
<ul> <li>Because of the high minimum wage, youth are not able to compete with older, more experienced individuals</li> <li>Lack of skills and/or work experience that employers are requiring for their vacancies or lack of educational degree required for the job that some youth, who have dropped out of school, do not qualify</li> <li>Fluency in English or other language limitations</li> <li>Access to transportation</li> <li>Judgement on appearances –tattoos, piercings etc.</li> <li>Trying to balance school and work</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Design and implement a Job Center that would:         <ul> <li>Train on standard of holding a job</li> <li>Educate the youth about businesses who employ youth</li> <li>Teach and assist youth with filling out applications</li> <li>Teach job interview skills - what to wear, what to expect during an interview</li> <li>Inform about businesses that provide job shadowing and/or internships</li> <li>Make it more feasible to work while staying in school i.e.) receive school credit for working or work study</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

#### 2017 Updates/Suggestions:

#### **Current Projects:**

- Future job center
  - o Collaboration with workforce development, state, city, YouthWorks, etc.
- Innovate + Educate
  - Santa Fe Advance study and data recommendation release

- School preparing for work force:
  - More programs/courses for dual credit
  - Networking opportunities to speak with professionals and community leaders
  - More career days to hear from professionals about specific skills
- Opportunities for all students to get training on how to apply for jobs and create resumes, not just AVID students
- Have a school based program where people can donate nice clothes for youth to use for interviews
- More school based resources on volunteer work, workshops and internships to get job training
  - Help desk-community info/navigation office for community programs
- Have a community based career day specifically for teens
- Banks having free financial literacy training specifically for youth
- Training for youth on how to deal with employers in tough situations
- Have the business community have flexible work situations for teens to accommodate school
- Have a job tester rotation to try out different jobs in the field for real life scenarios
- Implement an in-school internship like a work study

#### **Priority Topic:** Alleviate Financial Stress

<u>Concern/Need/Want:</u> More and more youth in Santa Fe are experiencing poverty, which is leading to higher rates of truancy, drop-outs, criminal activity, substance abuse, hunger, health and mental health issues.

#### Barriers:

- Children who live in poverty do not have the same access to opportunities and support systems
- Families have a hard time affording health care benefits
- Families sometimes do not have food
- Families live in substandard housing
- Families receive lower wages
- Youth have fewer job opportunities
- Youth cannot afford childcare so they are dropping out to either stay home with younger sibling/s and/or looking for work to help the family
- Youth drop out because their lack of money for clothes, lunch and field trips is embarrassing

#### Action Steps:

- Design and implement career pathways, job training and apprentice programs for traditional and non-traditional to help youth and parents develop the tools and skills they need to succeed
- Design a program that will help families afford basic necessities as well as large expenses such as job training programs or a car repair
- Find ways to help families receive paid family, maternity and sick leave options for their mom and dad, as well as a work schedule for parents to take care of children in times of need without the threat of losing employment and a secure source of income for their families.
- Provide incentives to keep youth involved in school to include tutoring and after-school programs that focus on alleviating financial stress
- Provide easier access to supplies and meals
- Provide financial classes to include: Budgeting, Checking and Saving Accounts, filling out financial forms, etc.

#### 2017 Updates/Suggestions:

#### **Current Projects:**

- Resource center within the Teen Center
  - o alternative pathways

- Get a stipend or a coupon book for good grades
  - Local youth tax exemption
  - Youth microloans to accommodate family need with work/grade programs
- Paid mentoring and tutoring opportunities
- Have an art gallery for youth where they get paid for having their artwork in it
- High school led fundraiser to help students whose families are in need of money
- Free youth clinic

#### **Priority Topic:** Bullying

<u>Concern/Need/Want:</u> Youth indicated that bullying is one of the biggest epidemics they face, which is leading to truancy, dropping-out of school, suicide attempts and substance abuse.

#### Barriers:

- Students have repeatedly reported bullying to school officials to only have it get worse
- No system is place for parents and/or student to access or use to stop bullying
- When reported, the bully and the person being bullied are not separated and no notification is made to parents about the situation, investigation or precautions that will be taken to protect the student being bullied
- No follow-up with the students reporting the bullying
- Lack of training or information being provided to teachers, parents and students on what bullying is and how to report it and stop it
- Teachers target and bully students
- School bus transportation is another location where bullies target their victims
- There are language barriers for parents and students to know their rights

#### **Action Steps:**

- Conduct a student survey to determine the following:
  - o percentage of students who are bullied
  - o understand or know how to report bullying
  - o ways to feel safe
- Focus on having student assemblies at all grade levels to talk about bullying
- Create a support group for students who have been or are currently being bullied
- Establish a 24hr, 7 days a week hotline, where students could report bullying
- Provide current up-to-date training for teachers, principals and parents on all the steps of reporting the bullying, a system established for protecting the student and a follow-up process to inform the student being bullied of the actions or steps taken to stop the bullying incident.
- Provide help for the bully
- Have schools show anti-bullying movies. Maybe create an antibullying movie with local students to spread the message.
- Have inspirational speakers talk to students about bullying
- Adults need to listen to the kids!

#### 2017 Updates/Suggestions:

#### **Actions Taken:**

- The City of Santa Fe Afterschool and summer programs revised their bullying policy
- The Santa Fe Public Schools begin collaboration with the City of Santa Fe to align their bullying policy

- Training for students to teach them how to stand up for themselves and others
- Assemblies are not creating effective change because the message is not impactful and may be delivered in a relaxed manner by the motivational speaker
  - Create an effective video depicting the results of bullying
  - Have a panel of former bullies to discuss real issues
- Have a 24/7 text counseling line
- Have identifiable safe spaces in schools that students are allowed to go to at any time and teachers with safe

zone training at every school in Santa Fe

- Have students, parents, teachers and administrators enter into a non-bullying contract
- Stop forcing the victim to confront the bully in counseling

L. N. Christian La

• Social media campaign to raise awareness about resources and reassuring victims it is ok to speak up

# **Priority Topic:** Support for Homeless Youth

<u>Concern/Need/Want:</u> Youth indicated that there is a growing number of homeless youth in Santa Fe.

#### Barriers:

- Schools are not educated in identifying youth who are homeless or do not care
- Homeless youth are:
  - o afraid to tell or acknowledge that they are homeless
  - o afraid or ashamed to seek help
  - o lack understanding or knowledge of systems that can help them
- Homeless youth do not have proper school records, which often leads to incorrect classroom placement
- Homeless youth have difficulty staying at the same school for an entire school year
- Homeless youth do not have access or know where to access medical, mental health, eye or dental care
- Lack of thorough screening of background checks for foster parents

#### **Action Steps:**

- Partner with public schools and conduct ongoing training as it relates to homeless youth
- Create a better system to identify homeless youth students and provide help
- Create a partnership with homeless youth and NM CYFD to discuss background checks and foster parents. Homeless youth can help CYFD learn what happens with foster parents who are not screened properly
- Create a support group for homeless youth to help them understand how to navigate systems that will help them.
- Work with Homeless Youth Shelter to promote independence and job, tax and general education
- Work with Food Depot to provide more routine food-drives to improve homeless youth health
- Develop a homeless youth campaign for other homeless youth to know that the community cares and wants to help with essential needs
- Work with government to develop a wraparound support system
  that includes health and mental health care, housing, utilities,
  reengagement, alternative educational pathways, work, internships
  or apprenticeships, childcare and parenting classes, etc.
- Create dorms specific for homeless youth

#### 2017 Updates/Suggestions:

#### **Current Projects**

- Recognizing the need of homeless youth the emergency shelter, ShelterNow!, was developed in January 2017 by interfaith leaders and community partners as an emergency solution to twenty five young adults ages 18-24 who have had no place to live.
- Teen resource center
- Alternative Pathways through SFPS

- Advertise current shelters through social media channels
- Raise awareness about EBT and other affordable food options
- Implement rent-control and have affordable housing for youth within Santa Fe
  - Start a program to assist youth in paying for temporary housing

- Start a 'homeless for a day' or shadow a homeless youth program so affluent students can understand their homeless peers
- Give homeless youth the opportunity to make choices without parent permission
  - Make all sign ins for shelters anonymous
  - o Better resources/guidance for emancipation
- More fundraisers and events that are centered around homeless youth
  - O Schools should have a year round shoe and clothing drive for homeless students
- Have a drop off/pick up location within schools for personal hygiene supplies
- Have a free laundry facility in the community for homeless youth
- Have daycare and child assistance available for homeless youth
  - o Help young parents get all supplies for raising their children (toys, food, clothing) or specific needs
- Training for students, adults and law enforcement on how to approach homeless youth
- Have a better holding location for homeless youth than Juvi/Jail or the hospital
  - Partner with schools to use gyms for shelters at night
  - O Host families to take in a youth for a night

#### **Priority Topic:** Immigration

<u>Concern/Need/Want:</u> Youth who are Latino/Hispanic or immigrants are more likely to drop-out of school, not attend college or find a career within Santa Fe.

Barriers:	Action Steps:
<ul> <li>No programs geared or targeted for immigrants within public schools</li> <li>Classes being taught are taught in English, not in Spanish aside from ESL</li> <li>Lack of Bilingual Teachers in schools</li> <li>Feel out of place/not accepted</li> <li>Not able to speak Spanish because school faculty is not bilingual</li> <li>Continual bullying of immigrants in schools</li> <li>Resources in schools and community do not match immigrants needs</li> <li>Lack of support/counseling with someone who speaks and understands Spanish</li> <li>Lack of awareness as it relates to immigrants</li> <li>Hard to access or receive work permits</li> <li>Lack of Spanish speaking college or career counselors</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Work with schools, colleges, government agencies and community to design programs that target the needs and wants of immigrant youth</li> <li>Work with schools to develop Spanish speaking classes</li> <li>Work on recruiting Spanish speaking teachers</li> <li>Develop a program that helps eliminate bullying</li> <li>Create a campaign that brings together immigrant youth to work on an awareness campaign and identify what additional resources are needed that are in alignment with their needs and motivations/passions/goals</li> <li>Create a youth-immigration day</li> <li>Work with community-based programs to help parents learn English</li> <li>Create a Center that provides resources to help immigrants with resources, work readiness, job placement, college or trades, career pathways, etc.</li> </ul>
2017 Undotos/Suggestioner	

#### 2017 Updates/Suggestions:

- Jobs where documentation is not required for employment
- Scholarships available for immigrant students
- Raise awareness about resources for youth and their families to get help, documentation or create a plan should they get deported
- Have community conversations and campaigns to change profiling and discrimination of immigrants
- Have rules in place within educational institutions against profiling and discrimination based on immigration status
- Have a system in place to help youth who are left behind after their parents are deported
- Train teachers to set an example for all youth to be treated the same despite immigration status
- Build a soccer field on the Southside for the immigrant community

### **Priority Topic:** Behavioral Health/Substance Abuse

<u>Concern/Need/Want:</u> Youth experience barriers and stigma towards seeking help in recovery services and/or mental health services.

Barriers:	Action Steps:
There is a stigma around having mental health issues	Teen Resource Center     Positive support
Counseling is expensive and rarely covered by healthcare	<ul><li>Peer support/advice</li><li>Free/low cost counseling</li></ul>
<ul> <li>Few are educated about substance abuse and mental health, especially in schools</li> <li>There are no drop in counseling services</li> <li>There is no anonymous service to get help with addiction</li> <li>Few youth have a positive influence in their life</li> <li>Peer pressure and availability of drugs leads youth to become addicted</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Group to open up and learn to communicate</li> <li>Health center</li> <li>Education for parents/families</li> <li>House youth groups</li> <li>Have knowledge on community resources</li> <li>Educate school staff about how to handle students with mental health issues</li> <li>Set up an anonymous help line</li> </ul>
Family and friends do not understand these issues	<ul> <li>Have speakers at school assemblies who have had mental health issues or recovered from substance abuse</li> <li>Train teachers and youth to be good listeners</li> </ul>

#### 2017 Updates/Suggestions:

#### **Current Projects:**

Planning of a parents/community symposium through the Human Services Committee (upcoming in Fall 2017)

# **Additional Topics from 2015 Youth Summit:**

Although these topics below we're not addressed during the last Youth Summit, they continue to be woven into the discussions and actions of MYAB.

#### **Topic:** Healthier Food in Schools

<u>Concern/Need/Want:</u> Youth indicated that there is a growing rate of health issues to include: obesity, high blood pressure, etc. among youth in the community and a lack of nutritious food being provided at school.

Barriers:	Action Steps:
<ul> <li>Lack of funding and prioritizing healthy and nutritious food and snacks in public schools</li> <li>Not enough time to prepare or cook healthy meals</li> <li>Limited time to teach nutrition because teachers have to focus on meeting state academic standards</li> <li>Implementing healthier foods runs the risk of students buying fewer lunches resulting in loss of needed revenue</li> <li>Schools pay for special activities or other items not covered in school budget with profits from vending machines and/or snack bar sales</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Fundraising to get healthier foods in schools</li> <li>Donations or discounts from farmers for healthier foods</li> <li>Encourage healthy eating habits at home</li> <li>Develop and implement community gardens</li> <li>Implement healthier and fresher foods in schools</li> <li>Restrict other less healthy food choices in the lunch and snack menu and vending machines</li> <li>Work with schools to modify recipes to lower fat content in popular foods</li> <li>Encourage health eating by integrating nutrition lessons into reading and math classes</li> <li>Enlist help from parents, community organizations and businesses</li> </ul>
2017 Updates/Suggestions:	

# **Topic:** Kids Physical Education in Schools

Concern/Need/Want: Youth indicated that there is a lack of Physical Education in Schools.

Barriers:	Action Steps:
<ul> <li>P.E. is not an essential or core part of academics</li> <li>Lack of funding designated to P.E.</li> <li>P.E. is not a requirement</li> <li>Bullying takes place during P.E./Recess</li> <li>Lack of P.E./Physical activity has contributed to poor physical and mental health</li> <li>With the decreased physical activity in schools, inappropriate classroom behavior has increased.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Partner with schools and design strategies to incorporate more physical activities through the school day</li> <li>Meet with School Board and create a partnership to bring more physical activities/P.E. back to schools because it increases academic success, better physical and mental health, and social development</li> <li>Partner with community to find more funding to help schools with:         <ul> <li>P.E. Teachers</li> <li>Equipment</li> <li>Uniforms</li> <li>Shoes</li> </ul> </li> <li>For schools that have some sort of P.E./Physical Activities, develop activities that all students can participate in.</li> <li>For schools that do not have P.E./Physical Activities, partner with community programs to provide recreational activities to students.</li> </ul>
2017 Updates/Suggestions:	

# **Topic:** Sports for Girls

<u>Concern/Need/Want:</u> Youth indicate that sports and sporting activities are more geared for boys, rather than it being equal for girls.

Barriers:	Action Steps:
<ul> <li>Lack of female coaches</li> <li>Lack of funding for both genders, so funding is allocated to boys.</li> <li>Media focuses on boy sporting events and athletes</li> <li>Lack of co-ed sport teams</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Work with schools to understand how funding is divided between male and female sports</li> <li>Survey all sports and verify how many female coaches are coaching. Create a campaign to recruit more female coaches</li> <li>Work with media to cover more female sports and athletes. Maybe create a "Female athlete of the Week" section in the newspaper</li> <li>Create co-ed sports teams</li> <li>Designate specific places for girls to play sports</li> </ul>
2017 Updates/Suggestions:	
Santa Fe Dukes, a female football team	was developed in 2014 and in 2017 became a member of the Women's

 Santa Fe Dukes, a female football team was developed in 2014 and in 2017 became a member of the Women's Football Alliance

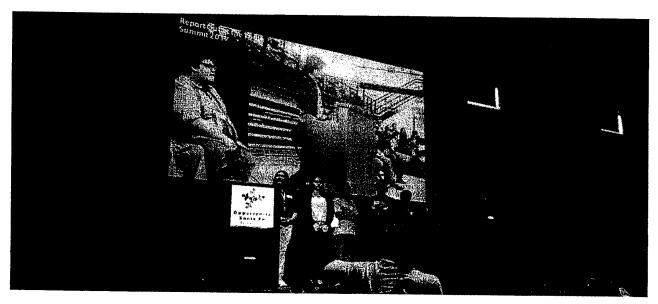
# **Topic:** School Funding (& Other)

<u>Concern/Need/Want:</u> Youth indicated that there is not enough funding within public schools or college and would like to know where money is being spent or how to access money.

<ul> <li>Partner with schools and create a system that includes yout in understanding where funding is being spent in schools</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Allow student/s to join School Board as a voting member</li> <li>Create partnerships with people who can fund or help fund extra-curricular activities: City, County, and Private funder and/or partner with the community to provide hands-on experiences, mentorships or other free extra-curricular activities</li> <li>Create fundraising projects</li> <li>Sign out computers or books to students and they are responsible for them</li> <li>Divert funds from things less important; cut testing; have renewable energy in schools, such a solar panels and solar roadways</li> <li>Create a survey for teachers and see why they need to be more successful in their jobs.</li> <li>Other:</li> <li>Truancy: Meet with youth who are truant or have dropped out and find out why, what can be done to reconnect them and what needs to be put into place to keep youth from bein truant or dropping-out of school</li> <li>College Readiness:         <ul> <li>Create a program that helps youth understand what college is and how they can access money to pay for college</li> <li>Create a program in public schools that ensure that youth are college ready</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

#### VII. Moving Forward

**Presentations:** After the Youth Summit, the youth facilitators, in partnership with the MYAB, were left with the important questions of how to move forward with the outcomes and action plans presented at the Youth Summit. In an effort to spread awareness of the action plans as a result of the Youth Summit, the youth leaders, presented at the Opportunity Santa Fe Summit put on by the Santa Fe Birth to Career Collaboration.



#### **Evaluation of the Youth Summit**

Following the Youth Summit, the youth facilitators, Eagle Rock, MYAB and Children and Youth Commission met and discussed the overall process.

Overall, participants, facilitators and co-facilitators felt that the process went well, although improvements could be made for the next Youth Summit. Suggestions include:

- Creating groups in a "C" shape for deaf/hard of hearing youth
- Having more time for discussions explore full day instead of half day
- More team-building exercises
- Groups for the adults who brought the youth to the summit

Eagle Rock did a great job in facilitating the training of the youth leaders leading up to the Youth Summit and did a great job supporting and motivating the youth leaders at the Summit.

Facilitators and co-facilitators did a great job and presented very well. It was evident that youth summit participants were engaged and contributing the in-depth discussions regarding the priority focus areas being discussed.

#### Challenges

Although the consensus was that the Youth Summit was a success, there were some challenges. The following items were identified as challenges:

- As it was during the last summit, the initial trainings provided by Eagle Rock for the youth leaders was difficult to ensure that all youth attended each training session in preparation for the Youth Summit. Because of school functions to include scholastic or sports, youth could not make every training session.
- Some youth leaders were not as prepared as others because of their inability to attend all the training sessions.
- Confirming speakers and arranging entertainment for the event was a challenge.
- Coordination with schools on the names and number of youth attending.

#### VIII. Conclusion

This report summarizes the creation and execution of the 2017 Youth Summit designed to bring our youth together to generate action plans to improve the needs, wants and concerns addressed through the Youth Summit. It outlines the planning, execution and follow-up stages of the Summit from 2015. It also presents the new 12 priority areas with "Call to Action" plans identified by the youth throughout Santa Fe. The Summit demonstrates that young people can be involved in planning a forum to showcase youth voice, they can lead targeted discussions on pertinent issues in the community and they can have a voice in identifying needs for change in their community. It also shows that youth can present those findings to a larger group of youth and community members.

The sincere hope of MYAB and its partners is that this report and future Youth Summits inspire others to provide youth with opportunities to offer their voice to generate solutions to addressing their needs, wants and concerns. Although there is still work to be done, the Youth Summit helped begin a dialogue about addressing the needs, wants and concerns of youth within the community.