



**Improving Educational Opportunities Working Group**  
**Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation**  
**404 Euclid Ave., San Diego, CA 92114**  
**March 14, 2018, 10a.m. - 12p.m.**  
**Meeting Notes**

**In Attendance:** Harder + Co, City of San Diego Promise Zone, AmeriCorps VISTA, HUD, Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation, Barrio Logan College Institute, Home Start, Second Chance, Reality Changers, Access Youth Academy, Outdoor Outreach, United Way of San Diego County, Heartland Youthbuild, San Diego Public Library, City of San Diego Human Resources

**Welcome and Introductions**

This meeting officially began the transition into implementation. The transition period will be tested over the next 3-6 months. The hope is by focusing on age groups and individual subgoals resources can be better leveraged by the partners, both federal and local. This is not about creating new work but understanding current programs and making sure services are cohesive and complementary.

**Review of February 2018 Working Group Meeting**

Last month the group discussed structure and decided to focus efforts by subgoal. Each subgoal area would reach out to partners who needed to be around the table for prioritizing activities.

**Mapping and connecting existing efforts**

**Access Youth Academy:**

New building:

- Access Youth Academy will be moving into land by Horton Elementary and by open by school year 2019.
- Building will include classroom space and squash courts. Classroom space will be available during school hours, and they are looking for partners to utilize the space.

Program:

- Recruit students for program during 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Program runs from 7<sup>th</sup> grade through two years Post College.
- Combine educational assistance with squash coaching to help students on college pathways.

Suggestions:

- The Promise Zone network can be used to refer students to programs that best fit their drives and abilities. Can also be used to connect siblings and families to resources.
- Most of the middle school and OY subgoals focus on the transition periods when students fall off the path to success. Connecting these programs across those transition periods helps

with prevention as well as intervention.

## **Second Chance:**

### WIOA Youth Program (sub-recipient of DOL funding through SDWP):

- The WIOA Youth Program embodies a positive youth development approach to helping justice involved youth and youth adults attain the skills necessary to become self-sufficient.
- Youth enrolled in the program focus on workforce development or achieving educational goals. Services include: Case Management, Job Readiness Training, Occupational Skills Training, Industry Recognized Certifications, College Readiness, Paid Internships, Weekly Youth Development Workshops, Employment/Advanced Training Placement Assistance.
- Eligibility Criteria:
  - Ages 16-24
  - Currently on probation or have been on probation in the past
  - Currently Out of School (drop out, not attending, HS graduate)
  - Reside within metro region: 92102, 92105, 92113, 92114, 92115
- Recruitment:
  - Direct referrals from Probation
  - Outreach and Recruitment by Second Chance
  - Direct recruitment by Second Chance inside county's juvenile and adult detention facilities
  - Self-Referrals/ Walk-ins
- Contact:
  - Rob Armstrong- Program Coordinator (619) 839-0942  
Rarmstrong@secondchanceprogram.org

### Second Chance Youth Garden (multiple funding sources):

- Our Youth Garden program addresses the workforce training and education needs of San Diego's low to moderate income youth as they navigate the difficult transition between adolescence and emerging adulthood.
- In doing so, it bridges the skills gap these individuals must overcome in order to lift themselves out of poverty, while also promoting environmental stewardship and instructing the key principles of social justice and civic engagement.
- The Youth Garden curriculum offers six weeks of incentivized labor opportunities for youth at risk of dropping out of school who have little or no work experience. Over the six weeks, youth take direct responsibility for the growth, harvest and sale of the fresh produce grown in two garden sites in Encanto and City Heights. While the manual labor involved improves work ethic, the financial and entrepreneurial skills taught through vegetable resale offers an introduction to the mechanisms involved with operating a small business.
- Eligibility:
  - Ages 14-21
  - Reside within city of San Diego

- Low income
- Attending school
- Recruitment:
  - Direct referrals from local high schools and educational institutions
  - Outreach and Recruitment by Second Chance
  - Self-Referrals/ Walk-ins
- Contact:
  - Kristin Kvernland- Program Manager (619) 839-0952  
Kkvernland@secondchanceprogram.org

#### Suggestions:

- End goal is to connect students to employment or education. Potential partnerships with San Diego Continuing Education could help open the pathway to junior college by having local community colleges recognize the job training.

#### **Outdoor Outreach:**

##### High School programs:

- Recruit students from Lincoln and Gompers.
- After school programs include rock climbing, surfing, hiking, snowboarding, and camping.

##### Internship program:

- Accept 10 students every year for a paid 8 week summer internship.
- Teach them how to be instructors, and give them interpersonal connection training.

#### **Reality Changers:**

##### College Town:

- Serving over 250 8th-11th grade students.

##### College Apps Academy:

- Serving over 500 12th grade students.

##### Alumni Network:

- Serving all 1600+ program graduates.

##### Location and Recruitment:

- Reality Changers provides programming at 19 locations in San Diego County. Reality Changers recruits 8th graders from Bell Middle School, Clark Middle School, Memorial Preparatory, and Wilson Middle School.

#### Suggestions:

- Partners should look to each other and other Promise Zones for best practices on parent engagement, student reengagement, and long term success.

#### **Next Steps and Closing**

Partners requested that next month's meeting be a similar format, so they can become more aware of the partnership opportunities and work being done in this area. Descriptions of partner programs

will be provided at the next meeting to update new partners.

**Next Meeting Date:**

Second Wednesday of Each Month

Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation

April 11, 2018, 10a.m. – 12p.m.