

March 20, 2025

Subject: Youth Empowerment Commission January 25, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Staff Lead: Jennifer Serrano, Senior Program Analyst, Youth Empowerment Commission

Recommended Action

Approval of the January 25, 2025, Youth Empowerment Commission Meeting Minutes.

Youth Empowerment Commission January 25, 2025- Meeting Minutes***Agenda Item #1: Welcome***

- Review purpose of the meeting, agenda, and public comment process

Wednesday Pope, Chair, Youth Empowerment Commission

Augustin Arreola, External Affairs Manager, Governor's Office of Planning and Research

A. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Wednesday Pope called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM

B. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Chair Pope acknowledged the gathering on the traditional and ancestral lands of the Yits people, expressing gratitude to the indigenous communities.

C. REVIEW OF AGENDA: Executive Director Wallace reviewed the agenda as the following:

- Welcome
- Introduction of Distinguished Guest
- Public Comment on matters not on the agenda
- Consent Agenda- ACTION ITEM Approval of November 23, 2024 Meeting minutes
- Commission Ice Breaker
- Proposed Strategic Planning Process & Timeline
- Break
- Commission Vision: Focus Question

- Lunch
- Strategic Planning Activity: The Wave- Trends Analysis
- Commission Research Preview and Topics Exploration
- Next Steps for Staff Action
- Adjournment

D. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM: Quorum Met; 7 out of 13 members present:

Commissioners Present:

1. Melany Acosta- Parra
2. Raj Bhutoria
3. Madyson Chung-Lee
4. Shae Dellamaggiore
5. Aiden Lin-Tostado
6. Collin McCarthy
7. Jessica Mi
8. Giselle Morris
9. Wednesday Pope
10. Adelina Ramirez
11. Andrea Terrones
12. Sarah Yee

Commissioners Absent:

1. Trevor Merrell
2. Avanti Ramraj
3. Jocelyn Weinstock

E. PUBLIC COMMENT PROCESS

Commission Discussion:

No commission discussion on this agenda item.

Public Comment:

No public comment on this agenda item.

Agenda Item #2: Introduction Of Distinguished Guests

- Introduce and recognize distinguished guests

Thomisha Wallace, Executive Director, Youth Empowerment Commission

Commission Discussion:

No commission discussion on this agenda item.

Public Comment:

No public comment on this agenda item.

Agenda Item #3: Public Comment on matters not on the agenda

Wednesday Pope, Chair, Youth Empowerment Commission

Augustin Arreola, External Affairs Manager, Governor's Office of Planning and Research

Public Comment:

No public comment on this agenda item.

Agenda Item #4: Consent Agenda- Action: Approval of November 23, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Wednesday Pope, Chair, Youth Empowerment Commission

Augustin Arreola, External Affairs Manager, Governor's Office of Planning and Research

Commission Discussion:

No commission discussion on this agenda item.

Public Comment:

No public comment on this agenda item.

Lin-Tostado: Motions for approval of meeting minutes

Bhutoria: Seconds Motion for approval of meeting minutes

Arreola: Called the Roll Call Vote

Motion passes (11-0-1*). *Marks abstention or absence from vote.

Agenda Item #5: Commissioner Ice Breaker

Raven Tahara, Certified Professional Facilitator, Strategy by Association

Tahara: Facilitated by Raven to foster engagement and creativity among commissioners. Participants shared reflections on images representing the youth experience in California.

Dellamaggiore: Represents Madera County and the Clock image represents the urgency that come with being a youth.

Morris: Represents Costa County and the three dots that show the difference experience of youth while having unity.

Mi: Represents San Francisco and the storm cloud represents the climates that are issues impacting youth

Yee: Represents Sacramento and the yarn represents youth unraveling different parts of themselves

Pope: Represents Northern part of CA and the hearts represent how youth share a common heart for community

Ramirez: Represents Southern part of CA and the clouds and heart represents the current climate CA faces and heart in community

Acosta-Parra: represent Los Angeles and the connection of lines represents the access to connect to news and media

Lin-Tostado: Represents state appointee and the mountains represent the youth having to pivo through the experience of ups and down

Bhutoria: Represents silicone valley and the spiral image represents the difficulty youth have had navigating new changes

Chung-Lee: Represent Orange County and the tent image represents the mountain task youth are currently facing

Terrones: Represent Inland Empire and the thread of yard image represents already youth policy that needs to be unraveled.

McCarthy: Represent San Francisco and the thread of yard image represents that living dynamic and how easy it is to get raveled up.

Public Comment:

Aniyah: Youth Leadership: Thanked the Youth Empowerment Commission for visiting Madera, CA.

Agenda Item #6: Proposed Strategic Planning Process & Timeline

Joyce Chiao, Consultant, Abundance

Raven Tahara, Certified Professional Facilitator, Strategy by Association

Chiao: Provided an overview of the proposed strategic planning approach, focusing on:

- Grounding the strategy in data.
- Balancing urgency with deliberation.
- Weaving varied priorities and perspectives.
- Expanding reach and engagement across diverse youth communities.

The strategic plan aims to respond to 3 key questions: What is the greatest source of Power, what is the commission best positioned to do, and how might the commission engage its wide network and community? To answer this the process will explore 4 strategies: Polic, Youth & Community Engagement, Partnerships, and Capacity-Building.

Tahara/Chiao: The Strategic planning approach consists of 5 phases; Project launch (January 2025), Current State Assessment (January- April 2025), Future State Visioning (April 2025), Strategic Plan Development (May- September 2025), Implementation Planning (July 2025).

Commission Discussion:

Terrones: Who will be included in Discovery Interviews, who can be included, and who will be creating questions?

Chiao: Commissioner, Staff, and Go-Serve office but opened to commission to have a deeper dive and a draft question list has been made but are open ended to expand conversation.

Terrones: Are there opportunities to look at past policy?

Chiao: The commission can insert that into the agenda/ planning process outside and check in with Possibility Lab.

Wallace: Has asked Possibility Lab if there is data that exists to examine policy and legislation.

Pope: Using historical data can assist with the planning process and how are we ensuring civic engagement.

Lin-Tostado: Need for more engagement with youth led groups and their voices through discovery interview or other ideas to capture their voice.

Public Comment:

No public comment on this agenda item.

BREAK: Recess for 10 minutes and return at 11:16AM

Agenda Item #7: Commission Visioning: Focus Question

Raven Tahara, Certified Professional Facilitator, Strategy by Association

Tahara: Provided a Collaborative discussion that led to crafting the focus question:
“In order to improve the quality of life for present and future youth, how can we establish, engage, and expand youth power across California to amplify sustainable systems for youth leadership in societal decision-making?” Beginning with “subject: Topic/area of concern”:

Commission Discussion:

Bhutoria: No formal platform for youth to engage with government

Pope: Subcommittee at state level to focus on youth civic engagement

Tahara: the next square is “irrational aim: what do you want to produce?”

Pope: Having a subcommittee or formal groups in each country or city

Bhutoria: Input from youth directly when decision making

Lin-Tostado: Growing youth power for “focus question”

Mi: Establishing key partnerships (non-profit)

Tahara: Next step is “experiential lane: group experience”

Dellamaggiore: Prioritize youth families and members to have their voice part of the conversation.

Pope: Including youth age range from 4-25 yrs.

Yee: Include art and be a space youth can access that component

Terrones: Exposure of different stakeholders that connect with youth of California and how state government works.

Tahara: The next is “stakeholders: the people impacted by the strategic plan”

Pope: Including diverse youth culture as LGBTQ+ and foster youth

Bhutoria: Urban Areas

Mi: School teachers, youth advocates that work with youth directly

Lee: Anyone who translate the work to law

Dellamaggiore: Parents to provide insight on their issues

In-Tostado: partnership that creates more investment and including disability groups

Tahara: The next is “participants”

Pope: State leaders to connect with community members

Bhutoria: Engage youth state leaders

Dellamaggiore: Including the youth that the commission serves

Pope: groups that work directly with youth

Terrones: nonprofits, youth advocates in the region the commission visits

Mi: Youth led origination on educational grounds

Bhutoria: Youth Commissions in other states

Tahara: Next is “timeframe”

Bhutoria: 2030 so 5 years of a timeframe

Dellamaggiore: 2 years with the opportunity to review

Tahara: The current commission is going to create the foundation for the process of planning

Pope: Create a process and do an annual check in to review the strategies

Wallace: suggest that strategies remain the same and change stakeholders who want to support.

Tahara: Moving to center of planning focus question

Ramirez: Looking into prioritizing the sustainability of the commission and what the long term will look like?

Bhutoria: Establish commission and outreach and engagement with the 12 million CA youth to expand the voices of youth across California an enduring platform.

Pope: Setting a precedent foundation for the presence of youth in state and local government

Lin-Tostado: Suggest changing from state and local government to decision makers?

Commissioners: Brainstormed the focus questions and leadership

Tahara: Final questions: In order to improve the quality of life for present and future youth, how can we establish, engage, and expand youth power across California to amplify sustainable systems for youth leadership in societal decision-making?

Public Comment:

No public comment on this agenda item.

30- MINUTE LUNCH- Returning @ 12:46PM

****Note: The final meeting recording was lost and therefore this minute minutes for January 25, 2025, reflects 7 out of 10 Agenda Items.***

