EVENT BRIEFING MEMO: Opportunity Youth Managers and Youth Meetings
Greater Englewood Development Corporation ★ 815 West 63rd Street, 4th FL (US Bank Bldg) ★ Chicago, IL 60621

Discussion with Opportunity Youth:
EVENT DATE & TIME: June 28, 2018 | 10:30 am - 11:30 am  
Commissioner Lead: Avril Haines  
Staff Lead: 
Commissioner Co-Lead: Ed Allard

Discussion with Opportunity Youth Program Managers:
EVENT DATE & TIME: June 28, 2018 | 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm  
Commissioner Lead: Alan Khazei  
Staff Lead: 
Commissioner Co-Lead: Jeanette James

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE:
Chicago has approximately 50,000 “Opportunity Youth” (OY) – youth ages 16-24 who are out of school and work – who are disproportionately youth of color between 20-24 with a high school diploma. Chicago has in place the 10,000 Reconnected Campaign, a collective citywide goal to reconnect 10,000 youth, ages 16-24, back to school or work by 2020. In May 2018, Mayor Rahm Emanuel joined the Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS) and Thrive Chicago to announce the City’s latest investments to reconnect young people back to school and jobs. These latest investments are an extension of the Mayor’s philosophy that investing in youth and investing in prevention are key to improving public safety. Since taking office, Mayor Emanuel has made mentoring universal for young men in high crime areas, more than doubled the size of the city’s youth summer jobs program, and expanded after-school programming every year.

The purpose of this meeting is:
➢ To offer Commissioners an opportunity to engage with both participants and program managers in Opportunity Youth programs in Chicago.
➢ To learn from current participants (opportunity youth) about motivations, barriers, and incentives to engage more young adults in service.
➢ To learn from program managers about factors involved in operating programs targeted at opportunity youth including how they recruit and supervise members, build partnerships, and secure funds.

PARTICIPANTS:
This engagement includes two different discussions. One group consists of current or recent alumni of opportunity youth service programs, and the other consists of program managers. Key participants include:

Opportunity Youth:
• LaShawn Edwards, Greater Englewood Community Development VISTA
• Diamond Franklin, Greater Englewood Community Development VISTA
• Walter Barney, Year Up
• Amber Williams, Year Up
• Henry Harris, Friends of the Forest Preserve
• De’Andre Taylor, GreenCorps Chicago
*Veronica Vazquez, Year Up staff member.*

Program Managers:
- Amrit Mehra, Manager of Workforce Initiatives, Thrive Chicago
- Stephen Bauer, Interim CEO, Public Allies
- Moses Williams, Program Manager, Public Allies Chicago
- Edde Jones, Program Director, GreenCorps Chicago
- Robert Houston, Greater Englewood Community Development
- Zach Taylor, Conservation Director, Friends of the Forest Preserve
- Cherice Price, Teamwork Englewood
- John Hosteny, Illinois State Director, Corporation for National and Community Service
- Monique Ellington, Chicago Director, Service Year Alliance
- Scott McFarland, Executive Director, Serve Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service
- MSG Eric Hayman, Deputy Director Mid-West Region, Soldier for Life

*Bios of participants can be found on page 4 of this memo.*

AGENDA:
10:30 am – 11:30 am Opportunity Youth: Youth and participants
10:30am – 10:35am Welcome remarks
10:35am – 10:45am Roundtable introductions
10:45am – 11:30am Roundtable discussion

11:30 am – 12:30 pm Lunch

12:30pm – 1:30 pm Opportunity Youth: Conversation with program managers
12:30pm – 12:35pm Welcome remarks
12:35pm – 12:45pm Roundtable introductions
12:45pm – 1:30pm Roundtable discussion

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:
The questions below are provided for guidance only and are not intended to serve as a protocol or script for meetings.
PARTICIPANT BIOS

Amrit Mehra, Manager of Workforce Initiatives, Thrive Chicago
Amrit Mehra joined Thrive Chicago in March 2016 after serving in the Chicago Mayor’s Office policy team, where he provided a mix of analytical and project management support on youth violence, high school transition, and performance management initiatives. Amrit came to Chicago after working nearly six years in DC in a variety of federal government and policy roles. During the Obama Administration, he served as policy advisor to the Federal Co-Chair of the Appalachian Regional Commission, an independent agency focused on promoting sustainable economic development in the historically distressed region, and as special assistant to the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Before that, he was a legislative aide in the Office of Senator Barack Obama and an Emerson National Hunger Fellow at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a think tank focused on federal anti-poverty policy. Amrit received his B.A. and his Masters in Public Policy from the University of Chicago.

Stephen Bauer, Interim CEO, Public Allies
Stephen Bauer serves as Public Allies’ Chief of Staff where he works with the national network to operationalize the strategic vision of the organization to create a more just and equitable society and the diverse leadership to sustain it. Prior to this role, Bauer served as Director of Strategic Initiatives where he managed a diverse portfolio of work including new site expansion, the National Leadership Institute, national recruitment efforts, and work to increase academic pathways for our Allies. Prior to coming to Public Allies, Stephen was the Director of National Partnerships and External Relations at The Nonprofit Leadership Alliance where, most notably, he launched a national coalition in partnership with Public Allies focused on increasing pathways and support for next generation nonprofit leaders. Stephen was selected as an Independent Sector NGen Fellow (2013-14), a National Human Service Assembly Civic Sector Leadership Fellow (2010-11), and holds a certification in Nonprofit Management and a master’s degree in College Student Personnel from Western Illinois University.

Edde Jones, Program Director, GreenCorps Chicago
Edde Jones is the Program Director of GreenCorps Chicago for the Chicago Department of Transportation. Hired in 1999 as the Training Coordinator for GreenCorps Chicago, she became the program’s Operations Director for Chicago’s Department of Environment in 2001. Edde holds an Associate of Applied Science degree in Horticulture, a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology, and a Masters of Arts degree in Sociology with an emphasis in community change. She has worked over twenty years in the landscaping/horticulture industries while supporting community-based efforts. This dual interest background has provided an avenue to combine her passions of making the urban environment greener with a strong social justice mission of making “green innovations” more accessible to all residents.
Zach Taylor, Conservation Director, Friends of the Forest Preserve

Zach Taylor joined Friends in March of 2015. Zach has collaborated with FOTFP since 2010 when he managed and developed the job training program Greencorps Chicago-Calumet. He is an advocate for ecologically healthy, accessible, and safe forest preserves that are managed by a culturally diverse workforce. At Friends, Zach guides and manages ecological restoration projects within the forest preserves. The core of his work is the management and promotion of Friends’ diverse Conservation Corps programs. In 2017, Friends of the Forest Preserves offered paid positions to over 200 Conservation Corps members.

Cherice Price, Teamwork Englewood

As a Licensed Clinical Counselor and Certified Rehabilitation Counselor, Cherice practiced psychology in the for-profit arena for several years before venturing out into the world of entrepreneurship. Cherice currently runs an Independent Insurance Brokerage Company and a Workforce Development Consulting Firm where she assist individuals with securing their family’s assets; promoting financial wellness and assisting organizations with strengthening their Workforce Development Program. She is also one of the founding members of Greater Englewood Community Development Corporation and is actively the Vice President of Education for the Greater Englewood Toastmasters speech and leadership club.

Moses Williams, Program Manager, Public Allies Chicago

Moses Williams is a justice-minded millennial navigating post-college life. He received his B.S. in Biology and Psychology from Ball State University (2013). After graduating, Moses completed his term of service with Public Allies in 2014 during which he worked at the Cook County Justice Advisory Council and gained a firm understanding of Chicago's criminal justice system. Moses chose to join Cities of Peace to broaden and reframe his understanding of violence and peace in Chicago. Moses' research topic is labor organizing and human trafficking in Cambodia and Chicago. Moses believes the mainstream narrative of violence and peace in Chicago lacks humanity. With Cities of Peace Moses hopes to create a person-centered understanding of violence and peace for himself and others that will emphasize our individual and collective roles in the processes that spur societal change.

Monique Ellington, Chicago Director, Service Year Alliance

Monique Ellington is skilled, multifaceted leader with a strong record of helping individuals achieve their full potential by creating new opportunities and overcoming barriers to success. Monique has extensive experience in workforce development, program development, individual empowerment and development. She is the Chicago Director of Service Year Alliance, where she strives to make a service year a common opportunity for every young person in the city. Monique is fervently working to address social make a service problems and injustices in Chicago by connecting opportunity youth to new and existing opportunities and overcoming challenges that impact communities through service year
opportunities. Previously, Monique served as the Training Development Manager for Greencorps Chicago, a city of Chicago program to assist individuals in gaining technical and professional skills while simultaneously overcoming multiple barriers to success. Prior to joining Greencorps Chicago, Monique worked Safer Foundation, an organization to assist individuals with criminal records, and Haymarket Center, a comprehensive drug and alcohol treatment facility, where she connected individuals to career opportunities. Monique graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University where she majored in English Literature and minored in Black World Studies. While in college, she implemented a service program teaching arts and crafts and mentoring children in the Delaware, OH community. In her spare time, Monique enjoys spending time with children and youth and exposing them to dance, music, history and poetry.

Scott McFarland, Executive Director, Serve Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service

Scott McFarland earned his B.A., as well as received his Teacher’s Certification in History and Secondary Education from Western Illinois University. Scott holds a Master’s degree in Public Administration from University of Illinois Springfield as well as a Doctorate in Public Administration also from University of Illinois Springfield. Scott has served as a Board of Education Member at the Springfield Public School District 186, Policy Chair at America’s Service Commissions (ASC), and was a Chair for States for Service. As the current Executive Director at Serve Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service, Scott’s roles include: assisting the Governor appointed Commission with business matters, assisting in Illinois AmeriCorps program funding and administration, overseeing the Department of Human Services’ AmeriCorps*VISTA Project as well as planning and coordinating the Illinois National Community Service Recognition Day.

John Hosteny, Illinois State Director, Corporation for National and Community Service

John Hosteny serves as the Director of the Corporation for National and Community Services' Illinois Office. The Corporation is the nation's largest Federal agency that awards grants that support national service initiatives. The mission of CNCS is to engage Americans of all ages and backgrounds in service that addresses critical community needs. Hosteny manages an office that oversees a network of national service 85 national programs that engage 16,000+ volunteers. Hosteny has extensive experience in community and economic development issues where service is a strategy to meet local needs. He serves on the Community Service Committee for the United States Federal Executive Board, the Illinois Council on Aging, the Illinois Elder Care Task Force, the Illinois Long-term Care Ombudsman Program and is an Ex-Officio Member of the Serve Illinois Commission, a grantee of the Corporation.