



YOUTH COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor Edwin M. Lee
Honorable Members, Board of Supervisors

CC: Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board
Jason Elliott, Mayor's Office
Maria Su, Director, Department of Children, Youth, and Families
Michele Rutherford, Office of Early Care and Education
Laurel Kloomok, Executive Director, First Five Commission
Hydra Mendoza, Education & Families Services Advisor, Mayor's Office
Legislative Aides, Board of Supervisors
Alisa Miller, Clerk, Rules Committee

FROM: Youth Commission

DATE: May 9th, 2014

RE: **Referral response to BOS File No. 140441 Charter Amendment Introduced Children and Youth Fund; Commission on Children, Youth, and Their Families**

At our regular meeting of Monday, May 5th, 2014 the Youth Commission voted unanimously to support the following motion:

To support BOS File No. 140441, Charter Amendment to amend the Charter, Section 16.108, adding a new Section 4.133, and repealing former Section 4.133, to: 1)renew and rename the Children's Fund and eliminate the Fund's expiration date; 2) increase the property tax set-aside for the Fund from three cents per \$100 of assessed valuation to five cents; 3) provide for services for at-at risk youth 18 to 24 years old; 4) revise and expand the planning process for expenditures from the Fund; 5) modify the advisory committee for the Fund; 6) create a Commission on Children, Youth and Their Families; and 7) repeal an obsolete section of the Charter.

During discussion on this item, the Youth Commission proposed and approved the following comment and recommendations regarding this item:

- *We urge the Board of Supervisors to consider our recommendations for the Children's Fund [adopted in our resolution 1314-04 Policies and Priorities for the](#)*

[Children's Fund" on April 7th, 2014.](#) We would like to restate these policy recommendations: 1) allowing the use of the fund for transitional age youth (TAY) to be served by existing youth-serving community programs and for specific needs of disconnected TAY; 2) reserving 25% of seats on any body that is in charge of Children's Fund oversight for youth, with half of the total youth seats represented by youth under 18 years old and the other half represented by disconnected TAY. These seats should be appointed and supported by the SF Youth Commission; 3) proactively supporting and facilitating better coordination between the City, the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD), and community based organizations serving youth by increasing the sharing of cultural competency best practices, making available complementary spaces for youth programs to convene youth town halls and meetings, and considering other potential points of collaboration; 4) resourcing youth leadership groups to design and facilitate annual youth town halls to identify their unmet needs, and to evaluate the programs and services they receive as part of the Community Needs Assessment and evaluation plan; 5) increasing the fund allowing services to provide for and support the unmet needs of youth, including disconnected TAY population.

- We also identified the following unmet services that should be prioritized and expanded in the Children's Fund: 1) increase dedicated services, support, and employment opportunities for undocumented youth; 2) extend mentoring programs currently provided to juvenile detainees and probationers to transitional aged youth in the adult probation system; 3) increase support for 17 and 18 year olds transitioning between juvenile and adult systems, including support interviewing for eligibility for release and entry into diversion programs and community programs used as sentencing alternatives.
- We would also like to recommend including stipends for all members of the proposed Commission on Children, Youth, and their Families. The Youth Commission is unique among city commissions in not having stipends for commissioners and it has posed challenges in maintaining diversity of representation and posed barriers to involvement for several qualified young people.

Please inform us of forward movement on any details about this item.

If you have any questions about these recommendations or anything related to the Youth Commission, please don't hesitate to contact our office at (415) 554-6446 or your Youth Commissioner.



Chair, Nicholas Persky
2013-2014 San Francisco Youth Commission
Adopted Monday, May 5th, 2014