



Dane County

Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee

Youth Commission

Consider:

Who benefits? Who is burdened?

Who does not have a voice at the table?

How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

5:30 PM

Centro Hispano, 810 W Badger Rd, Madison

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A. Call To Order

Present 7 - Chair MEGHAN BENSON, Vice Chair FRANCESCA MASCIOPINTO, Supervisor KELLY DANNER, Supervisor ANALIESE EICHER, ADAM FEARING, KARI STAMPFLI, and SHRIYA KATA

Absent 3 - KEMA WILLIAMS, KHADDY JARJOU, and MARCIA MORALES

Others present: Evelyn Cruz, Centro Hispano of Dane County Deputy Director; Marisela Gomez-Castellanos, [Re]Generación Lead Facilitator & Co-Founder; Maria Paula Lujum, Youth Programs Manager; student participants in [Re]Generación; Emily Johnson and Andrea Swarez, UW MSW students

B. Consideration of Minutes

1. [2019 MIN-157](#) 2019_0722 Youth Commission Minutes

Attachments: [2019_0722 YC Minutes](#)

A motion was made by FEARING, seconded by DANNER, that the Minutes be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 7 - BENSON, MASCIOPINTO, DANNER, EICHER, FEARING, STAMPFLI and KATA

Absent: 3 - WILLIAMS, JARJOU and MORALES

C. Action Items

D. Presentations

1. Tour and overview of Centro

Commissioners received a tour of Centro and an overview of the agency mission and programs provided to the community.

2. Listening session with Centro ReGeneracion participants

Introductions were followed by an overview of the Youth Commission and the purpose of the listening sessions. [Re]Generación youth had received the listening session outline prior to the meeting allowing time to prepare their thoughts and answers—which they had done.

Youth identified many benefits to participating in services at Centro including the opportunity to learn about their culture and heritage; to participate in art projects; get academic support, develop leadership skills; explore career options (through Escalera); and have access to legal resources, family support, and the Food Smart Families program. They described Centro as a safe space that is “like a home or family” where their Latinx life experience is understood and where they feel affirmed, seen, hear, and supported instead of marginalized.

[Re]Generación has impacted participant lives in many ways including making better peer and behavior choices, learning “who I am and seeing a future”, feeling valued rather than marginalized, practicing self-care, health and nutrition, making friends, getting support and having the opportunity to go from program participant to facilitator. They described being in the program as “transformational.”

Positives about their school and community include ESL classes and being encouraged to help support students learning English. The Latinos Unidos club organizes events and information for Hispanic Heritage Month and hosts a dance program. Some schools provide Chromebooks and have a Black Student Union.

The concerns about the community and school included:

- When filling out race categories, Latinx is not included (Hispanic is not the same) – not represented, “other” feels marginalizing*
- Some schools don’t address issues impacting Latinx students (e.g. ICE raids) or provide resources or support for Latinx students to address the stress created by these situations*
- Latinx students are treated differently, assume that they need additional help or placed in lower level class*
- School curriculum is not culturally-inclusive of Latinx experiences—do not “acknowledge we exist”. Curriculum on immigration is insensitive and inaccurate.*
- Spanish-language classes teach Spanish from Spain, and are not inclusive of Spanish from Mexico or Latin American countries and have been told by teachers they are speaking Spanish “wrong”*
- Efforts to voice their concerns to school officials have not made a difference—“nothing happens”*

[Re]Generación participants feel they have a voice at Centro. Programs are led by youth and provide an opportunity to move from participant to facilitator. Programs are holistic, use an equity lens and inclusive.

Youth do not feel they have a voice in their school or community. Many feel invisible as expressing needs or asking for help is a risk in the current climate of ICE and deportation.

The Facilitator noted that pity is not needed and challenged the Youth Commission to carry on uncomfortable conversations with ourselves, with our families and coworker; to join existing efforts through Freedom Inc.

[2018](#)
[PRES-095](#)

Youth Commission Guidance to Listening Sessions

Attachments: [YC Guidance to Listening Sessions](#)

E. Reports to Committee

1. DCYA Research Planning Summit Update

Postponed to the next meeting due to time constraints.

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

Next meeting is on Wednesday, October 16 at 5:30 at the City County Building in room 507A—the newly remodeled PHMDC space.

G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

I. Adjourn

7:15 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Connie Bettin pending Commission approval.