



WYAC Meeting February 18th, 2024

Call to Order:

- Roll Call Conducted by the President

Present:

Introductions between current WYAC members, and guests

Consent Agenda:

ACTION: Jayse made the motion to approve the consent agenda. Kinsley seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. **Motion carried**

Summary

The WYAC meeting covered various topics including securing \$500,000 in IL funding, new cabinet appointments, upcoming conferences (In-person and Mills Spring Ranch), website updates, finalized bylaws, and community outreach initiatives. Next steps include finalizing the cookbook by June 6th, posting the bylaws on the WYAC website, and holding an orientation for new members the following day at 4 pm.

Details

- **Meeting Start and Note-Taking:** The meeting began with a discussion about who would take notes. Szabre Parker pointed out that Google Meet was recording and transcribing the meeting, and Nathaniel Williams clarified that K.E. would eventually join and assist with note-taking.
- **WYAC Member Introductions and Positive Aspects:** Nathaniel Williams led a roll call and then asked WYAC members what they appreciated most about the organization. Members highlighted inclusivity, the opportunity to create change based on lived experiences, and the ability to advocate for foster youth. Szabre Parker corrected the spelling and pronunciation of their name.

- **Nathaniel Williams's Opening Remarks:** Nathaniel Williams gave a speech emphasizing unity, kindness, and the importance of collective action within WYAC. They highlighted the success of the legislative day and their commitment to listening to members' perspectives. They concluded by calling for a year of action and impact in 2025.
- **Director's Meeting Update and Funding:** Szabre Parker provided an update on the director's meeting, including the successful securing of \$500,000 in ILL funding. They discussed upcoming plans for the In-person conference, including potential guest speakers and the need for group input on speaker topics. They also mentioned that the group's structure and purpose were still under development.
- **Cabinet Updates and New Member Introductions:** Nathaniel Williams announced new cabinet members: K.E. (secretary), J.W. (deputy secretary), A.T. (speaker), and Z.H. (secretary of youth engagement). They also announced an opening for Secretary of Treasury, with the application deadline being March 6th. A description of the Treasury position was provided, focusing on fiscal planning and working with DFS and the Wyoming Children's Trust Fund.
- **Website, Cookbook, and Community Outreach:** Szabre Parker discussed the WYAC website (www.wyac.net), noting that the photos were outdated, and the upcoming cookbook, aiming for completion by June 6th. They mentioned potential collaboration with Governor Gordon's chef and discussed strategies for community outreach, including existing events in Casper and addressing needs in underserved areas like Glenrock. The In-person conference dates (June 20th-22nd and symposium June 17th-19th) and location (Casper Mountain) were confirmed.
- **Committee Assignments and Discussion:** Committee assignments were reviewed and discussed, with opportunities for members to join existing committees. The Joint Symposium committee's purpose was clarified as planning, not participation. The In-person Conference committee's focus was planning the conference. The Judges Resources committee's goal was to provide judges with a comprehensive list of resources for youth. The Cookbook committee was responsible for finalizing the cookbook design and distribution. The Orientation committee would onboard new cabinet and WYAC members.
- **Additional Discussion Points:** Various other topics were discussed including J.W. unavailability for the In-person conference due to National Guard commitment, the importance of an odd number of voting members on the

cabinet, and strategies for cookbook distribution, including potential partnerships with organizations like the Salvation Army and the Council of Service. Concerns were raised about the quality of food provided to foster youth in certain settings.

- **Orientation Details:** Nicole Neider explained that the orientation for new cabinet and WYAC members would be held the next day at 4 pm, lasting approximately 1.5 hours. They emphasized that new members should contact Brian or Nicole if they needed additional information.
- **Meeting Overview and Logistics:** The meeting began with discussions regarding orientation for new members, and a review of the previous legislative day briefing, where attendees shared their favorite aspects of the event. They also discussed Chief Justice Fox's retirement.
- **Bylaws and Website Updates:** Deb Hibbard announced the finalization of the bylaws, with a 30-day comment period before their implementation. They will be posted on the WYAC website (www.wyac.net). Szabre Parker reiterated the importance of accessing these documents via email and the website.
- **Leadership Skills Presentation:** Brian DeTavernier presented key leadership skills, including effective communication (written and verbal), resilience, curiosity, openness to others' ideas, and trust.
- **Foster Care Educational Session:** Deb Hibbard led a discussion about foster parenting, covering the responsibilities, core competencies, and challenges involved. They used a hypothetical scenario involving Tom Holland and his partner to illustrate the process. Participants shared their perspectives on the positive and negative aspects of foster parenting.
- **Upcoming Conference at Millspring Ranch:** Szabre Parker detailed plans for the upcoming conference at Millspring Ranch in Casper, including lodging, meal arrangements, planned activities (survival skills, team building), and entertainment. They emphasized the importance of RSVPs and allergy information. Brian DeTavernier added that applications for the conference would be sent out by the following Friday. Szabre Parker stressed the importance of securing time off work for future meetings.
- **Awards and Recognition:** Nathaniel Williams announced that WYAC received a certificate of appreciation from the Wyoming legislature for their contributions to the foster care system. They discussed potential press releases to publicize this recognition.

- **Community Outreach and Social Media:** Nathaniel Williams updated the group on community outreach initiatives, including the use of a Band app for communication and a community event tracker. Szabre Parker announced plans for a monthly newsletter and discussed the creation of a social media committee, including the potential for a podcast. They also mentioned that social media outreach would fall under the vice president's responsibilities.
- **Meeting Logistics and Recruitment** Szabre Parker discussed the importance of in-person meetings to foster connections but confirmed that a meeting link would always be sent out via email. They emphasized the need to recruit more youth, focusing on genuine engagement rather than incentives. Nathaniel Williams then moved to end the meeting, seconded by Szabre Parker, announcing the next meeting's date and location.
- **Website Updates and Next Meeting Plans** Nathaniel Williams and Brian DeTavernier planned to update the website with bylaws and PowerPoints. They scheduled a meeting for the following day at approximately 10:00 a.m. to accomplish these tasks, noting a leadership meeting at 11:00 a.m. that needed to be considered.

Meeting Wrap-up:

Next Meeting: March 18th 2025

Adjournment: There was no further discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 6:18pm

Respectfully submitted,

Nathaniel Williams

President of WYAC

X _____ Date ___/___/___
President Sign