

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION NO. 09-114

Adopting the *Youth Engagement Manual* and *PDXyouth.org* as the Primary Tools to Engage and Support the Role of Children and Youth in the Decision Making Processes of Multnomah County, a Key Strategy to Implementing "Our Bill of Rights: Children + Youth"

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. The well-being of children and youth is an important indicator of the health of the community.
- b. Multnomah County provides many services which directly impact the lives of young people including the Schools Uniting Neighborhoods program (SUN), School-based health clinics, and juvenile justice and homeless youth services.
- c. Multnomah County recognizes that children and youth under age 18, who number 147,250 in our County and account for 22% of our population (2000, Census Bureau) do not have voting powers and thus are often denied the opportunity to influence decisions that affect their lives.
- d. 90% of students believe the interaction of public officials with young people builds civic engagement (citation from US Mayor's Conference website).
- e. Only 37% of American adults believe today's children, once grown, will make the world a better place (<http://www.ysa.org/nysd/statistics.html>).
- f. Children and youth are the future leaders of our world and should be given adequate skills and support to prepare them for such a responsibility.
- g. As a *Connected by 25* partner, Multnomah County recognizes young people thrive when they are connected to work, school, and their community.
- h. Multnomah County takes pride in a strong tradition of implementing inclusive policies and reaching out to people from all ages and backgrounds.
- i. On May 22, 2007, by Resolution 07-102, the Board affirmed "*Our Bill of Rights: Children + Youth*," and promoted youth engagement strategies throughout departments and agencies in the County.
- j. The City of Portland's Youth Planning Program has created a *Youth Engagement Manual* to tangibly assist government agencies in engaging youth at various levels of involvement.
- k. The City of Portland's Office of Management and Finance has created a youth web portal called *PDXyouth.org* to facilitate the relationship and dialogue between youth and local government.

- l. The Multnomah Youth Commission, the official youth policy advisory body to the County Board recommends, and the City of Portland supports, joint usage of both the *Youth Engagement Manual* and *PDXyouth.org*.
- m. The *Youth Engagement Manual* and *PDXyouth.org* will provide opportunities to engage and empower children and youth and promote their involvement throughout City bureaus and agencies.

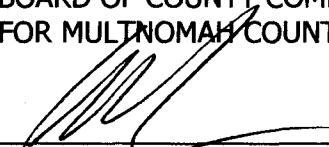
The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

1. To support the use of the *Youth Engagement Manual*, attached as Exhibit A, and *PDXyouth.org* as the primary tools to engage and support the role of children and youth in the decision making process in the City of Portland.
2. To encourage County staff to utilize these tools to promote youth engagement in the decision-making process, especially with respect to decisions that directly affect the lives of children and youth.
3. To charge the Commission on Children, Families & Community, through its Youth Development Coordinator with initiating and coordinating technical assistance and training on these tools for County Departments and Agencies seeking to advance the articles of the Youth Bill of Rights and reporting back to the County Board within one year on progress and suggestions for improvement.
4. To encourage County departments and agencies to look for and inform children and youth of involvement opportunities such as internships and volunteering.
5. That this Resolution is a non-binding County policy.

ADOPTED this 21st day of September, 2009 and ratified September 24, 2009.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON



Ted Wheeler, Chair

REVIEWED:

AGNES SOWLE, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By 

Stephanie E. Duvall, Assistant County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY:

Joshua Todd, Interim Director, Commission on Children, Families & Community