

TO: Workforce Investment Board

DATE: 03/11/04

FROM: Youth Council

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: Merced County Children's Summit – "It is all about Kids"

PROPOSED MOTION(S): Endorse the Youth Council's support of the Merced County Children's Summit – "It is all about Kids".

DISCUSSION: What is the Children's Summit? A County-wide event to create a Strategic Plan with goals and objectives for children ages 0-22 in 6 areas.

- 1. Capacity for affordable and high quality child care**
- 2. Success in school (including school readiness)**
- 3. Safe and stable families (including family violence, substance abuse, economic self sufficiency, child abuse prevention)**
- 4. Healthy children (including physical fitness, nutrition/obesity, health insurance)**
- 5. Systems capacity (including coordination/collaboration, less duplication of services, involvement of private sector)**
- 6. Youth preparedness (including job training, youth development, youth assets)**

Who are the participants? 250-300 people, a mixture of professionals and community/parents/teens – elected officials, schools, public agencies, community based member's organizations, health care providers, substance abuse providers, businesses, media, and faith based organizations.

**When? April 30, 2004, Friday, 8:00am – 4:00pm, Adult Breakout Sessions
4:00pm – 8:00pm, Teen Breakout Sessions
8:00pm – 10:00pm, Teen Dance
May 1, 2004, Saturday, 10:00 am – 1:00pm**

Where? Boys & Girls Club, Merced Site

Youth participation is a key to the Summit's success. Eighty to 100 youth are expected and will come from the following programs:

- Younger and Older youth in WIA programs**
- Youth in Independent Living (group homes)**
- ROP – youth in the child care intern class**
- Youth members of Boys & Girls Club**
- Youth leadership groups**

Topics for the Teen Session

- 1. Transition at 18 including foster children**
- 2. Youth crime and violence including gangs**
- 3. Teen pregnancy prevention, parenting and childcare**
- 4. Beyond High school, Voc ed, job training, access to higher education**
- 5. Relationship violence**
- 6. Coping skills for youth depression and stress**
- 7. Youth drug and alcohol use**
- 8. Youth development – positive focus on youth's strengths and assets**
- 9. After school programs and activities**
- 10. All youth one system – what would it look like/ Give it a name?**

ATTACHMENT(S): Letter of Support



MERCED COUNTY YOUTH COUNCIL

March 11, 2004

**First 5 Merced County
33227 M Street, Suite C
Merced, CA 95348**

The Merced County Youth Council enthusiastically endorses this year's Merced County Children's Summit, April 30 – May 1, 2004, "It's All About Kids". This dynamic County wide event will help to create a Strategic Plan to make Merced County an even safer and more successful place for children and families to live happy, healthy lives.

The Summit will be a springboard to redesigning the Child Welfare System. Additionally, the Summit will be instrumental in providing a roadmap to bring all youth programs into a single coordinated system. "All Youth – One System" has been a rallying cry of the Merced County Youth Council, almost from its inception. This Summit is what Merced County needs.

**Nellie McGarry
Chair
Merced County Youth Council**

The Merced County Workforce Investment Board concurs with the Youth Council's endorsement for a successful County Children's Summit. Youth are the future for Merced County. This year's Summit will be key to providing the structure and systems to support our youth in the years to come.

**John Headding
Chair
Merced County Workforce Investment Board**