

TO: Executive Committee

DATE: 06/02/08

FROM: Youth Council

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: Youth Council Report and Membership Update

PROPOSED MOTION(S): None. Information Only.

DISCUSSION: The Youth Council has assembled an Ad Hoc Website Committee (met twice). This committee will look into creating a “youth friendly” website that will provide information to Merced County youth, parents, educators and employers. Focus groups will be planned once the committee produces a website.

The Youth Council is rotating meeting locations to capture and fully understand the different programs being represented by Youth Council members. Usually there are scheduled presentations from differing community organizations to capture information about other groups that are working with youth.

The Workforce Investment Board Bylaws Section G. “Committees” (3)(d) states that “At least five (5) seats on the Youth Council shall be filled by Workforce Investment Board members.” The current WIB members who serve on the Youth Council include the following:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Rennise Ferrario (Chair) | 4. Ben Duran |
| 2. Van (Mike) Smith | 5. Rick Osorio |
| 3. Bob Bittner | 6. Alexander Hall |

Henry Ildefonso has requested to be a member of the Youth Council beginning July 1, 2008. Ben Duran has termed out of the WIB, and will no longer count as one of the five WIB members serving on the Youth Council.

Upcoming presentations may include Tulare County’s Work Experience in the Public Sector Project, and Common Measures Training is scheduled for August 20, 2008, for the Youth Program staff.

Attached are the latest Quarterly Reports for your review.

ATTACHMENT(S):

Youth Program Quarterly Reports (Jan, Feb, Mar)

To: **Alfredo Mendoza**: Staff Services Analyst, Department of Workforce Investment
From: **Rebecca Lincoln**: Career Educator, Merced County Office of Education
Re: **Merced County Youth Council Quarterly Report- Empower Program**
Date: **May 2008** (January, February & March 08)

A. Overall status of the program:

The EMPOWER program enrolled 15 new participants this quarter; this brings the total active to one-hundred and fifty-seven (157) EMPOWER participants. The Empower advisors continue to track the number of participants enrolled in structured program activities to ensure that the majority of youth are receiving intensive services (as opposed to case management services). The status on all WIA-Client action reports for goals, activities, exits and follow-ups (phase II) remain up to date.

B. Past Quarter Highlights:

- 1) **EMPOWER Workshops:** The EMPOWER Workshops were provided to youth in the months of January and March this quarter. The following is an accounting of workshops offered and number attended:
 - a) **EMPOWER Orientation:** Conducted on Friday January 11th and March 14, with an average of 25-30 attendees per session;
 - b) **EMPOWER Workshop I: ‘Gettin’ Ready for the Job’** conducted on Friday, January 18th, and March 14th had average of twenty youth in attendance;
 - c) **EMPOWER Workshop II: ‘The Real Game California’** was conducted on January 22, 23, and 25 and on March 17, 19, and 21 with an average attendance of 15 participants in attendance per session;
 - d) **EMPOWER Workshop III: ‘Gettin’ a Job’** was conducted on January 28, 30th and February 1st and on March 31, April 2nd and 4th with an average attendance of 15 participants per session.

- 2) **EMPOWER ZONE** was held on February 8th, where fifteen EMPOWER participants were judged on the successful completion of a job application, an employability portfolio, and on their individual and panel interviewing skills. Professionals from public, private and community-based organizations interviewed and scored each participant on a scale of 0-100. The event concluded with a recognition ceremony

- 3) **Bldg K-Computer Lab** is available to EMPOWER participants at the Merced County Office of Education Campus in Bldg K to work on résumés, portfolios, and conduct job search. *PLATO* is educational software designed to increase math and reading skills, it is also available for the participants use in the computer lab. Sign-in sheets are used to track the number of participants using the computer lab daily.
- 4) **The Opportunity Club** is an ongoing activity that provides quarterly sessions on current job, educational, community, and leadership opportunities, as well as information regarding life skills for EMPOWER and YOP youth in Merced County. All YOP and EMPOWER participants are encouraged to attend these meetings.

A meeting was held on February 21st, 2008; thirty-three participants attended from through-out the county to view the HBO Documentary *Smashed- Toxic Tales of Teens and Alcohol*. The presenter, Cyndie Bray, an EMPOWER Career Educator from Merced Office of Education, asked provoking questions after the video to our participants regarding the dangers of drinking and driving. Pre and post surveys are given to provide feedback for future sessions. Most participants tell us they come away with a different outlook on the dangers of drinking & driving and partying in general.

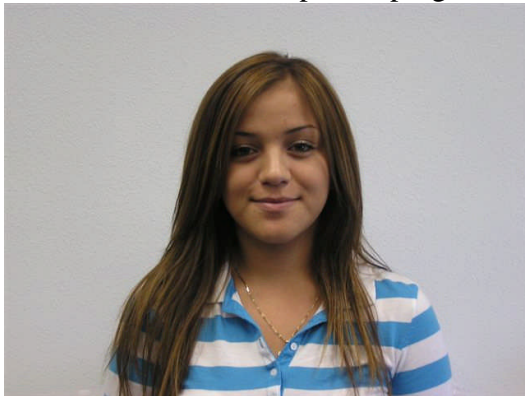
- 5) **Marketing -Working Professional Curriculum Update:** The EMPOWER staff continues to work on the revisions for the ROP Marketing-Working Professional course outline that is the framework for all EMPOWER workshops, work experience activities, and CDE approved youth credential. In the past quarter, staff met to review the Merced County ROP ESLR's to ensure that they are covered in the course outline. Additional tasks included updating training plans that will be used in the community classroom; development of a EMPOWER & YOP Business Brochure and developing a 4-step lesson plan on financial literacy, to include on activity on budgeting ; all the new developments were presented and brought before the Advisory Committee for approval on April 24, 2008.
- 6) **California Workforce Association Eighth Annual Youth Conference** was held on January 15- 17, 2008 at the Renaissance Long Beach Hotel, in Long Beach, CA. YOP & EMPOWER staff attended the three-day conference that was designed to help local Youth Providers, Youth Councils members and policy makers run better programs, connect to other systems, and learn about the latest innovative strategies on youth development. Workshop topics

included “*Moving Youth Beyond Gang Life*”, “*Community Collaboration for Foster Youth*” and training on Youth Common Measures.

7) **Los Banos Outreach** was conducted by EMPOWER Staff who attended the Second Annual League of United Latin American Citizens Youth Leadership conference held at Los Banos High School. It was attended by more than 100 students and parents from the Los Baños community, where students received information and guidance about college and careers. The EMPOWER staff manned a resource booth where EMPOWER brochures, fliers and business cards were given to interested student. This was a daylong event including workshops, entertainment and free meals plus a raffle for a computer and iPod for the students. The highlight of the event was when keynote speaker, Judge Marc Garcia invited students to call on him if they needed a reference or would like to know more about his unconventional path in becoming the youngest and first Mexican-American Judge in Merced County.

8) **EMPOWER Success Story: Melissa Diaz**

Melissa Diaz was enrolled in the Empower program on September 14, 2007. When she first came to the Empower program, she was new to the community. She had no job



leads, little work experience and no GED. She was invited her to attend the EMPOWER Workshops, in which she gladly attended. She learned foundations of work readiness, opportunity to update her résumé, and practice interviewing skills. She was then placed at the Los Banos Wal-Mart to complete the 192 work

experience hours. Melissa was able to demonstrate what she had learned from our workshops and quickly adapted to Wal-Mart’s daily routine. Melissa made such an impression through her work skills and work ethics that after her work experience hours, Wal-Mart offered Melissa full-time employment. With her next goal to obtain, Melissa is presently working on her GED through our Plato Lab.

9) EMPOWER Success Story: Denise Perez



Denise Karina Perez; attended Le Grand High School where she graduated in June 2006. Denise learned about the EMPOWER program from her my career planning class teacher, Mr. Romero Govea. He gave her a brochure on the EMPOWER program and encouraged her to sign-up and attend the EMPOWER workshops in the fall of 2006. Denise was so grateful to

attend the workshops where she had the opportunity to created an employment portfolio, practiced job interviewing skills and learned how important to create a first impression with a future employer.

Denise enrolled into the EMPOWER program in January 2007 and then enrolled into Basic Accounting and Computerized Business Technology class. She admits that there were times when she wanted to drop the class, but with the encouragement and motivation that she received from her Advisor, Roberto Rivera, she was able to finish the course. On January 31, 2008, she received a Basic Accounting Certificate of Completion from the Merced County R.O.P. and on February 3rd, 2008, Denise was hired as a full time Administrative Assistant at New Castle Family Health Care Center in Atwater.

C. Past Quarter Deficiencies: none

D. Past Quarter recruiting and marketing efforts:

Recruiting efforts for EMPOWER are limited. The contract specified that as participants exit, new participants will be enrolled in the following quarter after exits, upon availability of funds. However, on January 7th, EMPOWER Advisors, Roberto Rivera and Toula Moua conducted a presentation on the EMPOWER programs to Planada and Le Grand High School juniors and seniors. Their presentation included program elements, eligibility; and services. EMPOWER Brochures, flyers and MCOE maps were passed out to students

E. Next quarter challenges: none

F. Technical assistance needed: WIA Common Measures Training is scheduled on August 20, at the Merced County Office of Education Campus.

G. Number of clients receiving social services and examples of services received.

Numerous referrals were made to agencies to assist with food, clothing, housing and transportation.

To: **Alfredo Mendoza:** Staff Services Analyst, Department of Workforce Investment
From: **Rebecca Lincoln:** Career Educator, Merced County Office of Education
Re: **Merced County Youth Council Quarterly Report-** Younger Youth Program
Date: **May 2007** (January, February, and March 2007)

A. Overall status of the program:

There are presently 154 active participants in the Youth Opportunity Program at the end of the third quarter; there were 24 new enrollments and no exits. The YOP mentors continue to track the number of participants enrolled in structured program activities to ensure that the majority of youth are receiving intensive services (as opposed to case management services). The status on all WIA-Client action reports on goals, activities, exits and follow-ups (phase II) remain up to date.

B. Past quarter highlights:

1) Career Industry Day Events in 2007-2008: These ROP sponsored events provide youth with detailed information and exploration of specific career pathways. Career Industry Days include tours of local businesses, guest speaker presentations, and hands-on activities related to various careers within a pathway. Career Industry Days are held from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm at the Merced County Fair Grounds in the Exhibit Building. The YOP Mentors are encouraged to invite those participants whose career goals or technical training aligned with these pathways. The following career days were attended by our participants:

- Careers in Education held on Wednesday, January 30, 2008
- Careers in Agriculture (at the World Ag. Expo in Tulare) on February 14, 2008
- Careers in Health held on Thursday, March 6, 2008.

2) The Opportunity Club: This is an ongoing activity that provides monthly sessions on current job, educational, community, and leadership opportunities, as well as information regarding life skills for EMPOWER and YOP youth in Merced County. All YOP and EMPOWER participants are encouraged to attend these meetings.

A meeting was held on February 21st, 2008; thirty-three participants attended from through-out the county to view the HBO Documentary *Smashed- Toxic Tales of Teens and Alcohol*. The presenter, Cyndie Bray, an EMPOWER Career Educator from Merced Office of Education, asked

provoking questions after the video to our participants regarding the dangers of drinking and driving. Pre and post surveys are given to provide feedback for future sessions. Most participants tell us they come away with a different outlook on the dangers of drinking & driving and partying in general.

3) **California Workforce Association Eighth Annual Youth Conference** was held January 15- 17, 2008 at the Renaissance Long Beach Hotel, in Long Beach, CA. YOP & EMPOWER staff attended the three-day conference that was designed to help local Youth Providers, Youth Councils members and policy makers run better programs, connect to other systems, and learn about the latest innovative strategies for youth. Workshop topics included “*Moving Youth beyond Gang Life*”, “*Community Collaboration for Foster Youth*” and updated information was available on Youth Common Measures.

4) **Los Banos Valley Community High School** hosted a Career Fair for Valley students and YOP participants to expose them to opportunities available to them after high school. Representatives from the local community, The Youth Opportunity Program, Head Start, Merced County WorkNet, Los Banos Memorial Hospital, U.S. National Guard, Central Valley Opportunity Center, Los Banos Fire Department and local law enforcement were present to answer questions and distribute brochures and information on careers and jobs in these field of interests.

5) **YOP Success Story :**



Gabriela Vargas graduated from Le Grand High School in June, 2007. She was enrolled in the Youth Opportunity Program since her junior year (2005) at Le Grand. The first summer of YOP work experience, she worked at the Granada Head Start in Planada. On her second year of work experience, she asked to be placed at JAMBA Juice. When the six week program ended, the manager at JAMBA Juice hired her and she has been working there since. Gabriela is now

attending Merced College while working at JAMBA Juice. She is a very hard worker and an excellent role model.

C. Past quarter deficiencies: none

D. Past quarter recruiting/marketing efforts:

Recruiting efforts for the Youth Opportunity Program are limited. The contract specified that as participants exit, new participants will be enrolled in the following quarter after exits, upon availability of funds.

E. Next quarter challenges:

F. Technical assistance needed: WIA Common Measures Training is scheduled on August 20, on the Merced County Office of Education Campus