

The November 29th Executive Committee has been cancelled. Mr. Headding has asked that you be informed of the following:

1. Brian Griffin has resigned from the WIB. Brian had served since joining the Private Industry Council in 1995. He has found that his work on the Federal Emergency Management Agency is keeping him out of Merced. The hurricanes in Florida resulted in Brian being gone for 60 days. Brian will certainly be missed.
2. Youth Programs Update

EMPOWER – Contract calls for up to 313 WIA eligible youth, ages 17-21, to be served in a 12 month program ending June 30, 2005 at a cost not to exceed \$875,000. The recent “High Concentrations of Youth” subgrant will add up to 35 new participants from the Juvenile Justice system at a cost of an additional \$70,000. The EMPOWER program is the 11th largest out-of-school program in California.

Total number of active participants: 198

Total number of participants in follow-up: 173

Number of exits (Jul – Sep): 45

Enrollment in program components:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| • Adult Basic Ed, GED, HS Diploma | 20 |
| • Career Technical Training | 29 |
| • Workshop II | 8 |
| • Work Experience | 14 |
| • Unsubsidized Employment | 40 |
| • Case Management | 87 |

Program Positives

- Recruitment continues at high levels
- The program continues to positively evolve and its basic structure is proving to be sound
- The number of active Arbor and JCG clients is now approximately 50% of the program. Of the participants found after the closure of JCG, most have been re-assessed and had new program plans started.
- The cost per participant is going down. ARBOR was \$5600+, JCG \$5000, and MCOE is now \$2000+. Reasons are experience and the amount of leverage MCOE has with its resources.
- MCOE PLATO labs are now open in Merced and Los Banos.
- MCOE has contracted with Merced College to provide “Thrive and Survive in the Workplace” to all EMPOWER participants.

Program Concerns

- Performance measures for the program are lagging. MCOE inherited JCG's performance, in addition to not being able to locate over 75 of the inherited JCG clients. In this past year's exits, 38% of the hard exits were youth who could not be located after JCG closed.
 - Corrective actions for MCOE include (1) one-on-one training of case managers in performance, (2) all exits are now reviewed by WI, (3) the use of a locally recognized credential is maximized through the program design.
- Other areas in need of attention (Source – WI Monitoring Report Nov 12, 2003 – Feb 24, 2004).
 - Reconciliation of enrollment activity information with the State's JTA system
 - Development of MCOE internal monitoring procedures
 - Development of the EMPOWER OJT program

In summary, the Out-of-School program is serving Merced County's needs. Training will be given in Performance Measures, Internal Monitoring, and Exit Strategies. An OJT manager has been hired and is developing the OJT program.

Younger Youth – **Youth Opportunity Program**: Contract calls for up to 520 WIA eligible youth, ages 14-18, to be served in a 12 month program ending June 30, 2005 at a cost not to exceed \$1,624,000. This program is the 6th largest younger youth program in California.

Total number of active participants: 256
Total number of exits (Jul-Sep): 210

Program Positives

- Program exceeds all performance measures
- New enrollments are underway. Emphasis is on enrollment from the Junior class
- Summer work experience was successfully completed by 300 students

Program Concerns

- Past program lead instructor left. New program lead instructor is running both younger and out-of-school programs, and younger youth program is running on past momentum. WI is providing technical assistance to help establish new leadership.

- While new enrollments are on-going, the process is running slower this year. There are several new case managers. Program Director, Holly Newlon, is aware and taking management steps to enhance the enrollment process.
- Training is required for new staff in the areas of performance measures, low-income eligibility verification, and internal monitoring procedures.

In summary, the YOP younger youth program continues to serve Merced County youth's needs. Training is being conducted one-on-one with case managers on program performance measures, the JTA state computer tracking system, and eligibility criteria for enrollment.