

# Merced County Workforce Investment Board Youth Council

Merced County Office of Education, J-2  
632 W 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Merced, CA  
March 11, 2009 – 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.

## Meeting Agenda

<http://www.co.merced.ca.us/wi/youth/youth.html>



1. Call to Order and Roll Call .....
2. Approve Agenda .....
3. Approve Minutes (February 11, 2009) .....
4. Public Opportunity to Speak .....
5. Announcements.....
6. Presentation.....
  - a. Teal Program (15 minutes) ..... Mae Pierini
7. Action Agenda .....
- a. Youth Council Membership-Atenas Vallejo ..... Alfredo Mendoza
  - b. Proposed Economic Stimulus Funding Levels for PY 08/09-10/11 ..... Alfredo Mendoza
  - c. Proposed Economic Stimulus Funding by Age Groups ..... Alfredo Mendoza
8. Discussion Agenda.....
  - a. Youth Resource Directory Ad-Hoc Committee Update .....Claudia Corchado
9. Information Agenda .....
- a. Empower 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Report .....Holly Newlon
  - b. YOP 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Report.....Holly Newlon
10. Chair Comments/Roundtable/Future Agenda Items.....
11. Date/Time and Location of Next Meeting – April 8, 2009, 4:00 p.m., MCOE, J-2, 632 W 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Merced.....
12. Adjourn .....

# Workforce Investment Board of Merced County Youth Council

MC Office of Education, Clark Room  
632 W. 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Merced, CA

Wednesday, February 11, 2009 – 4-5:30 p.m.

## Meeting Minutes



<http://web.co.merced.ca.us/wi/youth/meetingpkts/meetingpkts.html>

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**Members Present:** Stephanie Busbea, Claudia Corchado (Vice Chair), Patricia Evans, Alexander Hall, Kathy Hassett, Mary Jane Hawkes, Taide Hernandez, Henry Ildefonso, Edgar Perez, Nancy A. Silva, Vann (Mike) Smith

**Members Absent:** Bob Bittner, Martha Dueñas, Rennise Ferrario (Chair), Richard Mahacek, Stefani Martinez, Holly Newlon, Rick Osorio, Samuel Rangel

**Others Present:** Dee Knight, Alfredo Mendoza

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**1. Call to Order/Roll Call:** The Vice Chair, Ms. Claudia Corchado, called the meeting to order at 3:09 p.m. Roll Call was taken.

**2. Approve Agenda:** It was *M/S/C Hall/Evans* to approve the agenda as published.

**3. Approve Minutes:** It was *M/S/C Hassett/Smith* to approve the October 8, 2008 minutes.

**4. Public Opportunity to Speak:** None.

### **5. Announcements:**

Mr. Alexander Hall noted Parks and Community Services will be having two park dedications—1) “Murchie Park” on Saturday, Mar 14, 2009, 12-2 p.m., at Arrow Wood and Bancroft Streets (Bellevue off ‘M’ St, north of Merced College), and 2) Bernasconi Park on Friday, Apr 24, 2009, 12-2 p.m., located south of Yosemite and east of McKee.

### **6. Action Agenda:**

**a. Ad-Hoc Committee to Update Youth Resource Directory:** Staff noted volunteers were needed for the Youth Resource Directory ad-hoc committee. It was *M/S/C Hall/Hassett* to accept the following volunteers: Ms. Claudia Corchada, Ms. Patricia Evans, Mr. Alexander Hall, Ms. Kathy Hassett, Ms. Mary Jane Hawkes, Ms. Taide Hernandez and Mr. Henry Ildefonso.

**b. Youth Council Member Termination – Ms. Deloris Sharp:** Staff noted all attempts to contact Ms. Sharp were unsuccessful; therefore, it was requested her name be removed as a member. It was *M/S/C Hassett/Smith* to remove Ms. Deloris Sharp from the Youth Council, effective Feb 11, 2009.

**7. Presentation – CalGRIP Video:** Staff presented a video that was shown at the Youth Conference regarding the impression CalGRIP has made on the life of two of the participants. There are 31 enrolled in the program, and a total of 40 will be served.

**8. Reports – CA Workforce Association Youth Conference:** The Annual Youth Conference, January 20-22, 2009, in Long Beach, CA was attended by Ms. Nancy Silva and Mr. Alfredo Mendoza. They provided highlights of the following workshops attended:

- Projects, Basic Learning (concept on a different way of learning);
- Gang Diversion & Intervention-Larry Robbins (tools to use in working with gang-related youth);
- Reducing the Dropout Rate in California (a mentoring program); and
- Entrepreneurship and related websites—elance.com (to find anything you want done), alibaba.com (to find very low priced items that anyone can resell), eclips.cornell.edu and ecorner.stanford.edu (for guest lecturers), and vistapring.com (for free business cards).

Staff will get a copy of the video for the Youth Council made by Ideal, which pertains to creating products and making them better.

**9. Information Agenda:**

**a. Empower Quarterly Report:** Staff gave an overview of the enrollments for Empower and YOP. Staff met with Merced County Office of Education to make sure the contracts funds would be spent.

**b. YOP Quarterly Report:** See item 9.a. above.

Staff noted there would possibly be a Summer Youth Program included in the stimulus package. The Department is getting everything started in expectation of these funds.

**10. Chair Comments/Roundtable/Future Agenda Item:** The Vice Chair noted the Youth Council membership is missing some sectors. She would like a list for review to pinpoint the missing sectors so recruitment discussions can begin.

Staff noted Mr. Kurt Silva, Employment Development Dept, has been asked if he would allow one of his YEOP employees to be a member of the Youth Council.

**11. Date, Time and Location of Next Youth Council Meeting:** March 11, 2009, 4:00 p.m., Merced County Office of Education, Room J-2 , 632 W 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Merced.

**12. Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

**TO: Youth Council**

**DATE: 3/11/09**

**FROM: Youth Council Staff**

**For Action**

**For Information**

**For Discussion**

**SUBJECT: Application for Membership**

**PROPOSED MOTION(S): That the Youth Council approve Ms. Atenas Vallejo, EDD Student Assistant/Peer Mentor, for membership on the Youth Council.**

**DISCUSSION: Ms. Vallejo applied for membership on the Youth Council. Ms. Vallejo has served as Student Assistant/Peer Advisor through the Employment Development Department's Youth Opportunity Program. Ms. Vallejo is a former youth program participant and wishes to become more involved with the community.**

**ATTACHMENT(S): Application will be available at the meeting.**

**TO: Youth Council**

**DATE: 3/11/09**

**FROM: Youth Council Staff**

**For Action**

**For Information**

**For Discussion**

**SUBJECT: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funding Levels for PY 08/09 – 10/11**

**PROPOSED MOTION(S): That the Youth Council recommend to the Workforce Investment Board that youth funding from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 be divided as follows: 70% spent in PY 08/09; 30% spent in PY 09/10.**

**DISCUSSION: On February 17, 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was signed into law. States are expected to spend Recovery Act funding quickly and effectively with the majority of these funds utilized within the first year of availability. The recommendation for funding in the proposed motion is due to Senate enacting language as well as recommendations by the Employment Training Administration to provide as many youth as possible with summer employment opportunities.**

**ATTACHMENT(S): N/A**

**TO: Youth Council**

**DATE: 3/11/09**

**FROM: Youth Council Staff**

**For Action**

**For Information**

**For Discussion**

**SUBJECT: American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) - Age Groups**

**PROPOSED MOTION(S):** That the Youth Council recommend to the Workforce Investment Board that youth funding from the ARRA be divided as follows: 25% of PY 08/09 funding be spent to augment current WIA Youth Contract Programs which includes increasing the number of summer youth employment for year round youth throughout PY 08/09, and 75% of PY 08/09 funding be divided between 14-17, 18-21, and 22-24 year old youth for stand-alone summer youth components.

**DISCUSSION:** The ARRA funding that would be provided to the current WIA youth contract programs shall begin with increasing the number of year round participants that will begin with summer youth employment activities.

This summer, with the ARRA funding, the Workforce Investment Board is allowed to provide stand-alone summer youth employment components. The recommendation for funding in the proposed motion is due to Senate enacting language as well as recommendations by the Employment Training Administration to “use a significant portion of these funds to operate expanded summer youth employment opportunities”. The focus for the funds shall:

- **Require separate funding and participant tracking;**
- **Include Foster Youth;**
- **Include TANF Family Youth; and**
- **Serve youth throughout the County.**

The length of these funds shall be from February 17, 2009 through June 30, 2011.

**ATTACHMENT(S): N/A**

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: **February 2009** (October, November and December 2008)

**A. Overall status of the program:**

There are presently 116 active participants in EMPOWER at the end of the second quarter; this past quarter the program had eleven (11) new enrollments and five( 5) exits. 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 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 month of November this quarter. The following is an accounting of workshops offered and numbers attended:
  - a) **EMPOWER Orientation:** Conducted on Friday November 7<sup>th</sup> had an attendance of sixteen youth;
  - b) **EMPOWER Workshop I:** ‘*Gettin’ Ready for the Job*’ conducted on Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup> had seventeen (17 ) youth in attendance;
  - c) **EMPOWER Workshop II:** ‘*The Real Game California*’ was conducted on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> had an average attendance of fifteen (15) participants per session;
  - d) **EMPOWER Workshop III:** ‘*Gettin’ a Job*’ was conducted on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> had an average of fifteen (15) participants per session
  
- 2) **Bldg K-Computer Lab:** EMPOWER participants use the computer lab daily to work on résumés, portfolios, and conduct job search. *PLATO* is educational software designed to increase math and reading skills, it is also available to the participants in the computer lab. Sign-in sheets are used to track the number of participants using the computer lab daily.
  
- 3) **The Opportunity Club** is an ongoing activity that provides monthly sessions on current jobs, 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.

On October 29<sup>th</sup>, thirty-two (32) YOP and EMPOWER participants attended a presentation called “Inside Merced Gangs” presented by Mr. Sam Rangel, co-founder of “Distinguish Outreach Services,

a national speaker and educator on early warnings signs of gang involvement . Mr. Rangel shared his own life experiences and provided updated statistics on gangs in Merced.

- 4) Golden Valley High School** – On Wed Oct 15<sup>th</sup>, EMPOWER staff were asked to provide an overview to over 200 Golden Valley High School seniors on employability preparation for entering the workforce after graduation. The presentation included resume writing tips, proper completion of a job application, interviewing skills, job placement, job retention strategies, and labor market information. Staff also had the opportunity to provide a short promotion on the EMPOWER program.

**5) EMPOWER Success Story:**



Yuliana Centeno-Terrones enrolled into the EMPOWER Program on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006. When Yuliana started the program, she had many challenges that prevented her from moving forward with her educational goals to become a Medical Assistant. With support from her family and the EMPOWER program, Yuliana completed her class hours and externship in November, 2007. The very next month, she was hired by Dr. Joe Pediatrics in Los Banos as a Medical Assistant full time.

In a recent follow-up visit, Yuliana stated that she is very busy balancing her full time job, raising her two young boys but loves every minute. She has decided that she wants to continue her education to become a Phlebotomist.

**C. Past Quarter Deficiencies:** none

**D. Past Quarter recruiting and marketing efforts:**

Marketing and recruiting efforts for EMPOWER are on-going. In the past quarter, staff conducted presentations to The Merced Adult School, Golden Valley High School; Human Services Agency and to Yosemite High School, Independent Studies and Valley Community High School Counselors.

**E. Next quarter challenges:**

**F. Technical assistance needed:**

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

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

To: **Alfredo Mendoza:** Department of Workforce Investment  
From: **Rebecca Lincoln:** Merced County Office of Education  
Re: **Merced County Youth Council Quarterly Report-** Younger Youth Program  
Date: **February 2009:** (October- November and December 2008)

**A. Overall status of the program:**

There are presently 130 active participants in the Youth Opportunity Program at the end of the second quarter. There were twenty-five (25) new enrollments and three (3) exits; resulting in 100% basic skills, work readiness, and/or occupational goals attained and 67 % (2/3) of the participants exited with employment, post-secondary education, in the military &/or advance training.

**B. Past quarter highlights:**

**1) Career Industry Day Events in 2008-2009:** 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 two career days were offered to our participants in this past quarter:

- a) Careers in Business, Marketing and Computer Information Systems, October 23, 2008
- b) Careers in Arts and Communications, on Thursday, November 20, 2008.

**2) The Opportunity Club** is an ongoing activity that provides monthly sessions on current jobs, 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.

On October 29<sup>th</sup>, thirty-two (32) YOP and EMPOWER participants attended a presentation called “Inside Merced Gangs” presented by Mr. Sam Rangel, co-founder of “Distinguish Outreach Services, a national speaker and educator on early warnings signs of gang involvement . Mr. Rangel shared his own life experiences and provided updated statistics on gangs in Merced.

3. **YOP/EMPOWER Winter Potluck** was held on December 10, 2008, thirty-three (33) YOP and EMPOWER participants took part in a nationwide fundraising for ‘Make a Wish Foundation’ by writing letters to Santa. Macy’s Inc promised to donate \$1 to the ‘Make a Wish Foundation’ for each letter received. Letters were delivered to Macy’s by a CAE coordinator. Overall, YOP/EMPOWER wrote 36 letters to Santa, raising \$36 dollars towards the foundation!



**C. Past quarter deficiencies:** none

**D. Past quarter recruiting/marketing efforts:**

YOP new enrollments were limited the past two program years, due to the number of exits. The referral and recruitment process was reactivated in October at the following school sites: Merced Union High School District Schools; Le Grand High School, Delhi High School, Dos Palos High School, Los Banos High School and Valley Community School at the Merced, Los Banos and Atwater school sites.

YOP orientations were conducted in the months of October, November and December 2008. The YOP Mentors will continue enrolling new participants in January after the students return from the Christmas break. .

**E. Next quarter challenges:**

**F. Technical assistance needed:**