

**Merced County Workforce Investment Board
Youth Council**



**Merced County Dept of Workforce Investment, Lg. Conference Room
1880 Wardrobe Avenue, Merced, CA
May 20, 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. Action Agenda
- a. Youth Council Membership – Atenas Vallejo..... Alfredo Mendoza
- b. Youth Council Membership – Nellie McGarry
- c. Youth Council Membership – John Fowler..... Alfredo Mendoza
- d. Youth Council Membership – Sgt. Robert Bender..... Alfredo Mendoza
- e. Youth Council Membership – Melissa Abby
- f. Youth Council Ad-hoc Committee for Youth Projects..... Alfredo Mendoza
7. Presentation
- a. Re-Direct Program(15 minutes)..... Family Resource Council Staff
8. Discussion Agenda.....
- a. Member Attendance.....Claudia Corchado
- b. Member Resignation – Wendy Lomeli..... Alfredo Mendoza
9. Reports
- a. Youth Resource Directory Ad-Hoc Committee Update
10. Information Agenda
- a. EMPOWER 3rd Quarter Report
- b. YOP 3rd Quarter Report
11. Chair Comments/Roundtable/Future Agenda Items
12. Date/Time and Location of Next Meeting – June 17, 2009, 4:00 p.m., MCOE, Bldg M, 632 West 13th Street, Merced.....
13. Adjourn

Workforce Investment Board of Merced County Youth Council

MC Office of Education, Clark Room
632 W. 13th 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>

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

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 13th Street, Merced.

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

TO: Youth Council

DATE: 5/20/09

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: 5/20/09

FROM: Youth Council Staff

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: Application for Membership

PROPOSED MOTION(S): That the Youth Council approve Ms. Nellie Mc Garry, Board President of the Merced Boys & Girls Club, for membership on the Youth Council.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Mc Garry applied for membership on the Youth Council. Ms. Mc Garry has served on numerous organizations including Chambers of Commerce and the Workforce Investment Board, Kiwanis and is a past Youth Council member. Ms. Mc Garry would like to provide more opportunities to youth and brings years of experience in working directly with Workforce Investment Act programs.

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

TO: Youth Council

DATE: 5/20/09

FROM: Youth Council Staff

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: Application for Membership

PROPOSED MOTION(S): That the Youth Council approve Mr. John Fowler, Former Director of Merced County Dept. of Commerce, Aviation, & Economic Development, for membership on the Youth Council.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Fowler applied for membership on the Youth Council. Mr. Fowler has served on the P-16 Council, Merced County Workforce Investment Board, Business Education Alliance of Merced (BEAM), Castle Challenger Learning Center, and various Chambers of Commerce. Mr. Fowler brings over 15 years of economic development knowledge and participated in the Merced County Office of Education Constructing Connections Project.

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

TO: Youth Council

DATE: 5/20/09

FROM: Youth Council Staff

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: Application for Membership

PROPOSED MOTION(S): That the Youth Council approve Sgt. Robert Bender, a Recruiter and Retention NCO with the California Army National , for membership on the Youth Council.

DISCUSSION: Sgt. Robert Bender applied for membership on the Youth Council. Sgt. Robert Bender has served as a California National Guard Recruiter and understands the needs and wants of students and high school graduates. Sgt. Robert Bender is currently assisting individuals reach their financial, educational, and vocational goals.

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

TO: Youth Council

DATE: 5/20/09

FROM: Youth Council Staff

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: Application for Membership

PROPOSED MOTION(S): That the Youth Council approve Melissa Abby, an Admissions Counselor with Job Corps Female Admissions Office, for membership on the Youth Council.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Abby applied for membership on the Youth Council. Ms. Abby currently serves on the Madera Advisory Board, the Tulare County Youth Council, and has served on the Fresno Youth Council. Ms. Abby's purpose for membership is to assist in linking all youth agencies within the community in order to provide services for youth in Merced County. Ms. Abby also has experience in working as a Job Placement Specialist and understand what companies are seeking when they hire youth.

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

TO: Youth Council

DATE: 5/20/09

FROM: Youth Council Staff

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: Youth Council Ad-hoc Committee for Summer Youth Projects

PROPOSED MOTION(S): That the Youth Council form a Summer Youth Projects Ad-hoc Committee and appoint reviewing members.

DISCUSSION: Summer Youth Projects need reviewing and approval by the Youth Council. Staff sent an email asking for volunteers to be part of a reviewing team. From the responses received, the following members are recommended for project reviews:

- **Ms. Nancy Silva;**
- **Ms. Claudia Corchado; and**
- **Mr. Richard Mahacek.**

Staff will provide assigned members with copies of the projects (electronically) for review.

ATTACHMENT(S): N/A

TO: Youth Council

DATE: 5/20/09

FROM: Youth Council Staff

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: Member Attendance

PROPOSED MOTION(S): For Discussion and Possible Action.

DISCUSSION: Member attendance is extremely important to ensure all items presented to the Youth Council receive proper attention. On April 15, 2009, the Youth Council Vice Chair began the conversation about the lack of regular member attendance. Quorum is met when a majority of members are available at a meeting (1 member over 50%). Meetings will now be held the third Wednesday of the month which may alleviate some of the attendance issues. It is recommended that ideas be shared by members regarding how to increase member attendance. All suggestions will be captured and placed on an electronic survey to be voted on by all members.

The Youth Council is a part of the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) of Merced County.

The VISION of Merced County's Youth Council is: Today's youth ... Tomorrow's leaders.

The ROLE of Merced County's Youth Council is: Strategically link/connect all youth delivery systems in a way that promotes a countywide vision of successful youth.

The MISSION STATEMENT of Merced County's Youth Council is to: Fund programs and foster collaboration to instill in our youth the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to succeed in their education and career.

ATTACHMENT(S): N/A

TO: Youth Council

DATE: 5/20/09

FROM: Youth Council Staff

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: Youth Council Resignation

PROPOSED MOTION(S): For Information Only

DISCUSSION: Youth Council Staff was notified that Ms. Wendy Lomeli has resigned from the Youth Council. The effective date of her resignation is April 16, 2009. The records show that Ms. Lomeli has been a Youth Council member since April 11, 2006. Ms. Lomeli noted that her school schedule has kept her from making the meetings.

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: **May 2009** (January, February & March 09)

A. Overall status of the program:

The EMPOWER program enrolled 23 new participants this quarter; this brings the total active to one-hundred and thirty-four (134) 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 9 and March 13, with an average of 25-40 attendees per session;
 - b) **EMPOWER Workshop I:** ‘*Gettin’ Ready for the Job*’ conducted on Friday, January 15, and March 20 with an average of thirty youth in attendance;
 - c) **EMPOWER Workshop II:** ‘*The Real Game California*’ was conducted on January 26, 28, and 30 and on March 23rd and 24th with an average attendance of twenty participants in attendance per session;
 - d) **EMPOWER Workshop III:** ‘*Gettin’ a Job*’ was conducted on February 2, 4 & 6 and on March 25, 26 & 27 with an average attendance of 25 participants per session.

- 2) **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.

3) California Workforce Association Ninth Annual Youth Conference “Smart Moves in Turbulent Times” was held on January 20-22, 2009 at the Renaissance Long Beach Hotel, in Long Beach, CA. YOP and 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.

On Tuesday afternoon, DWI Grant Coordinator, Alfredo Mendoza; MCOE Career Educator, Rebecca Garcia; Merced County Probation Officer, Nancy Silva and Gabriel Morales from the Center of Employment Training in Santa Marie provided an interactive session titled *CalGRIP Project- Increasing Opportunities for Gang Involved Youth*. This presentation was an overview on the Merced County CalGRIP Project, current gang statistics were provided; insights were shared from other counties in this session along with short video of current Merced County Cal-Grip participant’s experiences.

4) EMPOWER Success Story: Dean Harmon

Dean Harmon enrolled into the EMPOWER program on 12/10/04. When Dean was approached by Toula Moua, a Career Educator with EMPOWER; he was walking the streets on his way to Merced College. Toula stopped him to explain the benefits of Empower Program and gave him her business card. Dean called back and was invited to attend the EMPOWER workshops where he completed an employability portfolio. Dean was provided monthly bus passes so he continued to attend Merced College, but unable to maintain a satisfactory GPA. Dean had many barriers and challenges to overcome. He floated around his circle of friends and due to his physical limitations; many times he was left homeless.

Dean soon quit Merced College; so he was immediately placed on a work experience site at Annberry Rehabilitation Center as a cafeteria assistant to help him financially. He quickly learned the job duties that was required of him and got along well with the staff. Dean quickly learned from his work experience that he wanted to get into a culinary school.

In September 2008, Dean was introduced to Job Corps. It was explained to him that Job Corps can provide housing and training for him and they also have a culinary program. Dean was very excited to hear about the program; his advisor assisted him in-filing out his application to Job Corps and faxed it over to the recruiter. His application was approved, and within three months,

Job Corps sent Dean a ticket to Utah. Dean is attending training in Job Corp's culinary program and will be earning his culinary certificate within the year.

5) EMPOWER Success Story: Bricela Romero



Bricela enrolled into the EMPOWER program in September 12th 2008. When Bricela first enrolled in the program she had very little work experience and uncertain about her future. Then in November 2008, she enrolled in the Customer Service course through MCOE Adult ROP where she gain more skills and was placed on work experience at

J.C. Penney as a sales associate. Bricela found this to be the perfect fit with her social skills. She enjoys working with people and became an excellent employee; she applied for a position and was hired to begin on March 30th 2009. Bricela is currently finishing the Customer Service training, and planning to continue her education.

6) EMPOWER Success Story: Yarid Arellanes



Yarid Arellanes enrolled into EMPOWER on September 7, 2007. She attended and completed the all the EMPOWER workshops and immediately decided that she wanted to enroll into the Medical Assistant Program offered through the Merced College Extension. She attended the college orientation and began the Medical Assisting Program in October 2007. Throughout the program she faced several barriers but overcame them; completed the class hours and completed her externship

on July 2008. Yarid made such a good impression at her externship site that she was call back and on September 4, 2008 she was offered a position with Dr. Georgiou in Los Banos.

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, Lizcett Romero Career Educator from the EMPOWER Westside attended an Open House at the Dos Palos High School on February 2, 2009. A table with EMPOWER Brochures, flyers and MCOE maps were passed out to students to advise them on the next available EMPOWER Orientation workshop. A sign-in sheet was available for interested students and they were sent an invitation in the mail to advise them of the next EMPOWER Orientation date.

E. Next quarter challenges: none

F. Technical assistance needed:

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 2009** (January, February, and March 2009)

A. Overall status of the program:

There are presently 187 active participants in the Youth Opportunity Program at the end of the third quarter; there were fifty-eight (58) new enrollments and one participant exited. 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 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 career days are as follows:

- c) Careers in Education held on Wednesday, January 15, 2009
- d) Careers in Automotive Transportation Services was held on February 12, 09
- e) Careers in Health held on Tuesday, March 10, 2009

2) California Workforce Association Ninth Annual Youth Conference “Smart Moves in Turbulent Times” was held on January 20-22, 2009 at the Renaissance Long Beach Hotel, in Long Beach, CA. YOP and 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.

On Tuesday afternoon, DWI Grant Coordinator, Alfredo Mendoza; MCOE Career Educator, Rebecca Garcia; Merced County Probation Officer, Nancy Silva and Gabriel Morales from the

Center of Employment Training in Santa Marie provided an interactive session titled *CalGRIP Project- Increasing Opportunities for Gang Involved Youth*. This presentation was an overview on the Merced County CalGRIP Project, current gang statistics were provided; insights were shared from other counties in this session along with short video of current Merced County Cal-Grip participant's experiences.

3) YOP Success Story :

Ishmael Escalante enrolled in YOP in December 2007. Ishmael participated in meetings, events and community service and in the summer of 2008 he worked with the Dos Palos Elementary Maintenance Department. Ishmael did not graduate with the class of 2008 ; with encouragement from his mother and family he enrolled in Dos Palos Adult School. Ishmael came to class each week and worked on his English and U.S. History. Ishmael accomplished the goal of earning his high school diploma in December 2008. Ishmael will be on a job site this summer. He is ultimate goal is to become a chef.

C. Past quarter deficiencies: none

D. Past quarter recruiting/marketing efforts:

Marketing and recruiting efforts for the YOP program were on-going this past quarter. YOP orientations were conducted in February and March through-out the county, and fifty-eight new participants were enrolled into the program.

E. Next quarter challenges:

F. Technical assistance needed: