

TO: Youth Council

DATE: 08/18/10

FROM: WIB Staff

For Discussion

For Action

For Information

SUBJECT: EMPOWER 4th Quarter Report

PROPOSED MOTION(S): None. For Discussion Only.

DISCUSSION:

A. Overall status of the program:

There were two-hundred and forty-nine (249) active EMPOWER participants at the end of the fourth quarter; to include fifteen (15) new enrollments and thirty-six (36) 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 not provided to youth in the 4th quarter; case loads are at full capacity.
- 2) **Wolfe Center- Bldg D-3 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.
- 3) **EMPOWER Success Story:** Elizabeth Valenzuela enrolled into the EMPOWER Program January 9th 2009. Her primary goal included training in the medical field to secure a full time job in a career that interests her and that could give her independence. Elizabeth was focused on her goals and made some good decisions about her future. In April, Elizabeth started school at Merced College Extension in the Medical Assistant program. She did very well, even though she had a few difficulties with math. Elizabeth overcame the obstacles and tested well in all areas throughout the course. In June 2009, Elizabeth wanted to add a part-time job to her busy schedule. She needed the income so she could move out of her parent's home. She was

placed at Lane Furniture where she worked after-school and on weekends, while maintaining her grades in school. In November, Elizabeth graduated from the Medical Assistant class and was placed at Merced Heart Associates. She worked hard to become proficient at her new position and the worksite supervisor gave her great evaluations. In January, Elizabeth enrolled at Merced College; she is very excited to start the RN program.

Elizabeth moved out of her parent's home and is now married to her long time sweetheart. She continues with the RN program and one day will complete this dream too. Elizabeth credits the EMPOWER Program for giving her the direction and support she needed to get as far as she has today.

- 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.
- E. **Next quarter challenges:** None reported.
- F. **Technical assistance needed:** None reported.
- 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.

ATTACHMENT(S): N/A