

TO: Youth Council

DATE: 10/20/10

THROUGH: WIB Staff

For Discussion

FROM: Rebecca Lincoln, MCOE Staff

For Action

For Information

SUBJECT: Empower Program 1st Quarter Report (Jul-Aug-Sep)

PROPOSED MOTION(S): For Information Only

DISCUSSION:

A. Overall status of the program:

There were 221 (two-hundred and twenty-one) active participants served in the EMPOWER Program in the first quarter. Most case loads are at full capacity therefore we had only three new enrollments. The EMPOWER advisors were able to exit 54 (fifty-four) EMPOWER participants who obtained employment &/or attending college/vocational training or entering the Military. The WIA-YOP Client action reports for goals, activities, exits and follow-ups (phase II) remain up to date and 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.

B. Past Quarter Highlights:

- 1) **EMPOWER Workshops:** The EMPOWER Workshops were provided to youth only in the month of September this quarter. The following is an accounting of the workshops offered.
 - a) **EMPOWER Orientation:** Conducted on Friday, September 10, 2010;
 - b) **EMPOWER Workshop I:** ‘*Gettin’ Ready for the Job*’ conducted on Friday, September 17, 2010;
 - c) **EMPOWER Workshop II:** ‘*The Real Game California*’ was conducted on September 20, 22, & 24 2010;
 - d) **EMPOWER Workshop III:** ‘*Gettin’ a Job*’ was conducted on September 27, 29 and October 1, 2010.
- 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) **Green Job Corp Field:** September 20 – 22, 2010, seven CA Green Jobs Corps participants had the opportunity to attend a San Francisco Green Awareness Field Trip. On the first day, the



participants received a behind-the-scene tour of the Academy of Science facility. They learned about careers that are needed for the facility, i.e. marine biologist, maintenance crew, nutrition, scuba diver, sales etc. The building was built with recycle materials, such as using blue jeans for insulation material. It was also equipped with

solar panels for electrical use. The building proudly claims itself the “Greenest building in the world.” Participants had the opportunity to also tour the building and had an awesome time exploring and viewing the different species the world has to offer.



On the second day, participants visited the Marine Mammal Center of San Francisco. It was a classroom setting where they learned the importance of keeping the ocean clean and that everything that goes into the ocean comes back to us. They learned about Skull Morphology, Radio & Satellite Telemetry, Radiology, and Hematology. They also received a behind-the-scene tour of the facility and learned that

center is primarily used as a rescue center for marine mammals. Research is also done at the site.



On the third day, participants received a behind-the-scene tour of the Aquarium of the Bay facility. Our tour was given by a naturalist intern. The participants learned about marine life and the different careers that are connected to the facility. Most of the participants were excited to learn jobs can include being a scuba diver for the giant tanks.



This certainly was an experience of a lifetime for our Green Job Corps participants. These young men have never left Merced and/ or had the chance to visit a large city like San Francisco. They also discovered job careers and opportunities available in the Green Job fields.

4) EMPOWER Success Story: *Guillermo Badillo Jr.* enrolled into the EMPOWER Program on May 8, 2009; a nine-teen year old with a high school diploma having difficult time finding a job



with no work experience. Guillermo walked into the Los Banos *WorkNet* and was referred immediately to the EMPOWER advisor. The advisor explained the EMPOWER Program and invited Guillermo to the EMPOWER Workshops. Guillermo attended all the workshops and placed on a worksite by June 1, 2009.

Guillermo was thrilled to have the opportunity to learn customer service skills and cashier training. Guillermo did an excellent job and was hired on as a part-time employee in August 2009. In September, Guillermo was attending classes at Merced College, but had to give notice at his job because his family was planning to move to San Diego. In December, Guillermo contacted his EMPOWER advisor to ask if she could assist him with finding work, since his family decided to wait until June to move. The advisor placed him at J.C.Penny; Guillermo did another excellent job and was hired on part-time as a sales associate. In June, Guillermo's family did move to San Diego. Guillermo was able to transfer to the J.C.Penny in San Diego where he is presently employed and attending Southwestern College as a full-time student, majoring in Criminal Justice. Guillermo expresses his gratitude to the EMPOWER program for the on-going support, encouragement and assistance to help him change and succeed in his life.

C. Past Quarter Deficiencies: none reported

D. Past Quarter recruiting and marketing efforts:

Program participants continue to be our greatest source of recruiting and marketing.

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