

**Merced County Workforce Investment Board
Youth Council**

**UC Cooperative Extension (Ag Building)
2145 Wardrobe Avenue, Merced, CA
October 21, 2009 – 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.**

Meeting Agenda

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



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1. Call to Order and Roll Call
 2. Approve Agenda
 3. Approve Minutes (September 16, 2009)
 4. Public Opportunity to Speak
 5. Announcements (Roundtable)
 6. Discussion Agenda.....
 - a. CWA Youth Conference..... Alfredo Mendoza
 7. Presentations
 - a. Longitudinal Study of Merced County Youth Richard Mahacek
 - b. Jobs Corps for Females..... Melissa Abby
 8. Information
 - a. Youth Council Resignation – Taide Hernandez Alfredo Mendoza
 - b. EMPOWER 4th Quarter Report (May – July).....Holly Newlon
 - c. YOP 4th Quarter Report (May – July).....Holly Newlon
 9. Chair Comments/Future Agenda Items
 10. Date/Time and Location of Next Meeting – November 18, 2009, 3:30 p.m., Dept of Workforce Investment, Large Conf Room, 1880 Wardrobe Avenue, Merced.....
 11. Adjourn

Workforce Investment Board of Merced County Youth Council

MC Office of Education, Newbold Room
632 W. 13th Street, Merced, CA

Wednesday, September 16, 2009 – 3:30-4:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes



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

Members Present: Bob Bittner, Martha Dueñas, John Fowler, Debbie Glass (Chair), Mary Jane Hawkes, Richard Mahacek, Nellie McGarry, Holly Newlon, Nancy A. Silva, Vann (Mike) Smith

Members Absent: Stephanie Busbea, Claudia Corchado (Vice Chair), Patricia Evans, Alexander Hall, Taide Hernandez, Henry Ildefonso, Rick Osorio, Edgar Perez, Atenas Vallejo

Others Present: Bernedette Castaneda, Patricia Hinson, Alfredo Mendoza, Maria Negrete, Joanne Presnell, Jacqueline Walther-Parnell, Linda Xiong

1. Call to Order/Roll Call: The Chair, Ms. Debbie Glass, noted at 3:38 p.m. there was no quorum so the Youth Council will listen to the announcements. After the announcements, the chair called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m. Roll call was taken.

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

3. Approve Minutes: It was *M/S/C Newlon/Smith* to approve the July 15, 2009 minutes as published.

4. Public Opportunity to Speak—Ms. Linda Xiong, Central California Alliance Program, attended because she is considering membership on the Youth Council.

Ms. Maria Negrete, Employment Development Department-Youth Employment Opportunity Program, attended because she is considering membership on the Youth Council.

Staff introduced Ms. Eve Snelling, who is now part of the Workforce Investment Board staff team. She will be attending Youth Council meetings.

5. Announcements: Mr. Edgar Perez noted Central Valley Opportunity Center, CVOC is in the process of hiring a coordinator to start a new High School Equivalency Program in collaboration with the CVOC Modesto office. This program will focus on youth ages 16-21.

Ms. Holly Newlon noted 9 youth are in Camp Green Meadows Outdoor School attending the Green Corps Job training funded through the Governor's 15% American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds. Some of the youth will be co-enrolled in the Empower Program.

Ms. Nellie McGarry noted the Boys and Girls Club summer program was a success. Thanks to the Summer Youth Program participants and the Summer Youth counselors, there was an increase in enrollment this year. Approximately 60 youth are visiting the Boys and Girls Club daily.

Ms. Nancy Silva noted a young man enrolled in and finished the Summer Youth Program is now working at Rancho San Miguel. The Probation Department is very proud of this young man.

Ms. Mary Jane Hawkes noted there are two upcoming programs at Castle Challenger Learning Center: 1) September 19, 2009, Challenger Chapel Building, a UC Merced professor will facilitate a workshop on Science and Psychology. This workshop is targeted for Jr. High School students. There will be two other workshops, one in October and another one in November. 2) On Friday, October 16, 2009, the Castle Science & Technology Center will host an open house to the public. Additionally there will be 7 new exhibits, with staff from Merced College and NASA talking about the lunar launch. Ms. Hawkes noted that last year's event was a success.

Mr. Bob Bittner noted he enjoyed having Summer Youth participants working at the Employment Development Department. Mr. Bittner noted they worked very hard and enjoyed what they were doing.

Staff noted the Green Jobs Corps Program is in full gear. The outdoor training was divided in two different sessions to accommodate youth living in either north or south counties. The program will give outdoor training to 131 youths throughout the San Joaquin Valle, and will fulfill one of the program requirements entitled 'environmental stewardship. Staff will give a full report after the trainings are completed.

Mr. Richard Mahacek noted the UCCE 4-H Program will be facilitating workshops and sessions. The sessions are geared to develop skills in presenting science topics in nonformal settings such as, youth groups, afterschool, park and recreational programs and others. Most sessions are scheduled every 4th Wednesday of each month from 6:00-8:00 p.m. The sessions are targeted for teens and adults. Two weekend workshops will be held on September 25-26, 2009 and February 5-6, 2010. For more information on current dates and topics for the sessions, contact the UCCE office or visit the website, <http://merced4h.ucdavis.edu>.

6. Action Agenda:

a. Disposition of Unspent Year-Round Youth Funding – It was *M/S/C Smith/McGarry* (Abstain: Newlon) to accept option (h) as the recommendation for disposition of unspent year-round funding.

Staff voiced concerns that in previous years, Merced County Office of Education has not spent all the funding allocated to the Youth Opportunity Program (YOP). Following are the recommendations of option (h):

- 1.) Modify Contract No. 2009149 by replacing \$175,000 of ARRA funds in (Out-of-School Youth) with up to \$267,783 unspent WIA formula funds, and
- 2.) Modify Contract No. 2009148 by replacing \$175, 000 of ARRA funds in (In-School Youth) with up to \$225,000 unspent WIA formula funds; and
- 3.) Authorize the Department of Workforce Investment to utilize up to \$350,000 of ARRA funds to continue the Work Experience Program to serve approximately 140, 18-24 year-old youth in Merced County, and forward to the Board of Supervisors for approval.
- 4.) Members recommended using up to \$47, 217.00 of remaining funds for travel, training and other Youth Council activities.

7. Chair Comments/Roundtable/Future Agenda Item: Future presentations for next meeting agenda: Mr. Richard Mahacek will present at the next Youth Council meeting.

Members would like to know how much money is available to spend and would like a list of restrictions regarding how the money could be spent and what travel is allowed through available funds.

8. Date, Time and Location of Next Youth Council Meeting: October 21, 2009, Location, Merced County Office of Education, Newbold Room.

9. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

TO: Youth Council

DATE: 10/21/09

FROM: Youth Council Staff

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: CWA 2010 Youth Conference

PROPOSED MOTION(S): For Information Only.

DISCUSSION: The California Workforce Association (CWA) Annual Youth Conference will be held January 19 – 21, 2010. The conference will be held in Long Beach, CA. The Youth Council has funding to send several members to the conference. These individuals will be expected to present back to the Youth Council concerning their experiences while at the conference, and share the information from the workshops they attend.

The following information was retrieved from the CWA website at www.calworkforce.org : This year's CWA Youth Conference theme is inspired by Resident Poet Eric Morago – A Billion Beats. “They are referring to heartbeats – both our individual heartbeats and how we chose to use each one of them – and our collective heartbeats...all of you out there working everyday to help youth succeed in their schools, their work, and their lives. A billion heartbeats is a lot of heart being dedicated to California's youth. We want you to bring your brain and your heart to Long Beach, to join with others, to grow our collective wisdom, and to teach and learn.”

It is anticipated that staff will submit a presentation (including video) regarding the San Joaquin Valley Green Jobs Corps regional project.

ATTACHMENT(S): N/A

TO: Youth Council

DATE: 10/21/09

FROM: Youth Council Staff

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: Youth Council Resignation – Taide Hernandez

PROPOSED MOTION(S): For Information Only.

DISCUSSION: On September 29, 2009, Youth Council Staff received an email notification from Taide Hernandez stating that due to conflicts with her work schedule, she may no longer serve on the Youth Council. Taide Hernandez thanked the Youth Council for the opportunity to serve as a member and would like to return when her employment schedule changes.

The effective termination date of her membership is September 29, 2009.

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: **4th Quarter PY 08/09** (April, May and June 09)

A. Overall status of the program:

The EMPOWER program enrolled 53 new participants this quarter; this brings the total active to one-hundred and seventy-five (175) active 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 month of May this quarter. The following is an accounting of workshops offered and number attended:
 - a) **EMPOWER Orientation:** Conducted on Friday May 8th, with an average of 35-40 attendees per session;
 - b) **EMPOWER Workshop I: ‘Gettin’ Ready for the Job’** conducted on Friday, May 15th with an average of thirty-eight youth in attendance;
 - c) **EMPOWER Workshop II: ‘The Real Game California’** was conducted on May 18th and 19th with average of attendance of twenty-eight (28) participants in attendance per session;
 - d) **EMPOWER Workshop III: ‘Gettin’ a Job’** was conducted on May 20th, 21st and 22nd with an average attendance of twenty-five (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) **ROP Marketing Working Professional Curriculum** revisions and updates were approved by a local advisory committee meeting on April 23, 2009. The EMPOWER staff invited H.R. representatives from several business in Merced to gain input and recommendations on interviewing questions, résumés and portfolios that can best assist our EMPOWER participants in both individual and panel job interviews. The recommendations were valuable and incorporated into our EMPOWER employability workshops.

4) **EMPOWER Success Story:**

Tiffany Solis enrolled into the Empower program when she was at a crossroads in her life. She was pregnant and unsure of what path she needed to follow. Through the assessments and career search, Tiffany decided she wanted to enroll into the Merced College Medical Assistant Program. After the birth of her baby girl, Tiffany began the long road to reach her goal as a Medical Assistant. Tiffany had barriers to overcome, but were temporary; she stayed focused in order to complete her Medical Assistant course in 2008. Tiffany loved the externship site where she was placed, but due to budget cuts they were unable to hire her. Tiffany then came to her EMPOWER advisor for the opportunity to do work experience. She was placed at Merced Faculty Associate's Urgent Care facility; she was a quick study and soon was transferred to the new MFA Cancer Center and was hired full time in March 2009. Tiffany loves her job at the Cancer Center and hopes to enjoy a long career there.

5) **EMPOWER Success Story**



Melissa Mojica enrolled into the EMPOWER program on March 7, 2008. Melissa was a single mom looking for job opportunities and eager to start a career. Melissa came into the program with some clerical experience, but needed help finding a job. In the Empower program she updated her resume, practiced her interview skills, and then she was referred to MCOE Nutrition Office for a temporary clerk position. This temporary position helped to build her job skills and she gained additional work experience. On

June 2009, she was placed at MCOE Business Office, she learned to disperse mail to the appropriate departments, processed employee mileage and reimbursements, and was familiarized with different accounts systems and budgets. Melissa is a highly motivated individual, a self starter, as well as both dedicated and professional. She has great customer service skills and is bilingual in English and Spanish. When she completed her 192 hours of work experience, she was hired with Merced County Office of Education as a full-time Account Tech.

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

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
Re: **Merced County Youth Council Quarterly Report-** Younger Youth Program
Date: **4th Quarter Report** (April, May and June PY 08/09)

A. Overall status of the program:

There were 217 active participants in the Youth Opportunity Program (YOP) at the end of the fourth quarter; to include thirty-one (31) new enrollments. 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 WIA-Client action reports for goals, activities, exits, and follow-ups (phase II) remain up to date.

B. Past quarter highlights:

- 1) **The YOP summer employment** component began on June 09 2009; approximately one-hundred and sixty-seven (167) participants worked this summer with local employers and agencies. The Mentors met with site supervisors to develop training plans for the participants who worked up to 32 hours per week. *The YOP Summer 2009 workshop*; an 18 hours course was facilitated to all the participants in three-hour per week segments through-out the six-week summer component. The curriculum focused on “Volunteerism”, it emphasized the importance of volunteering in our communities. Participants were asked to volunteer three unpaid hours to the non-profit of their choice. The participants will earn a certificate, as well as logging hours to earn their community service cords at graduation. *See attached photo of participants volunteering for United Way’s Tower Theatre Renovation.*

C. Past quarter deficiencies:

D. Past quarter recruiting/marketing efforts:

The program's philosophy is to enroll students in the first semester in order to provide services during the school year and make the summer work opportunity an incentive for year round participation by youth.

E. Next quarter challenges:

F. Technical assistance needed:

Making Merced a Better Place

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Tired



Tower Theatre



Mrs. Bray's class helping out the community!