

Workforce Investment Board of Merced County
Youth Council

Merced County Office of Education – Newbold Room
632 W. 13th Street, Merced, CA
Wednesday, February 9, 2005 – 4:00 p.m.
Meeting Agenda



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1. Call to Order and Roll Call
 2. Approve Agenda
 3. Approve Minutes (December 8, 2004)
 4. Public Opportunity to Speak
 5. Announcements
 6. Action Agenda
 - a. Application for Membership – Nathan Timmerman
 - b. Youth Contracts Renewal Recommendation
 7. Information Agenda
 - a. Youth Council Chair Selection Process
 - b. Younger Youth Program Quarterly Report
 - c. Out-of-School Youth Program Quarterly Report
 8. Chair Comments/Roundtable/Future Agenda Items
 9. Date/Time and Location of Next Meeting – Mar 9, 2005, 4:00 p.m., MCOE Clark Room, 632 W. 13th Street, Merced
 10. Adjourn

Workforce Investment Board of Merced County

Youth Council

Merced County Office of Education – Newbold Room

632 W. 13th Street, Merced, CA

Wednesday, December 8, 2004, 4:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes



MERCED COUNTY YOUTH COUNCIL

Members Present: Bob Bittner, Mary Cavazos, Claudia Corchado, Natalie Culver, Ben Duran, Evelyn Eagleton, Rennise Ferrario, Alexander Hall, Kathy Hassett, Taide Hernandez (Vice Chair), Rebecca Lincoln, Nellie McGarry (Chair), Mayra Ramirez, Vann (Mike) Smith, Rev. Craig E. White, Sr

Members Absent: Ana Andrade, Stephanie Busbea, Robert Harmon, Mary Jane Hawkes, Charlie Lambert, Richard Mahacek, Jim Newberry, Edgar Perez

Others Present: Bob Burk, Dave Davis, Joanna Grimes, Peter Jamero, Dee Knight, Celeste Ramos

1. Call to Order/Roll Call: The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m., and roll call was taken.

2. Approve Agenda: The Chair asked that Agenda Item 8.b. be presented before the Action Agenda because Ms. Kathy Hassett has to leave by 4:30 p.m. It was *M/S/C Hall/Duran* to approve the agenda with the above-mentioned change.

3. Approve Minutes: It was *M/S/C Smith/Hassett* to approve the October 13, 2004 minutes.

4. Public Opportunity to Speak: None.

5. Announcements:

- a. Ms. Hassett introduced Mr. Bob Burk, Program Administrator for Children's Services, who works with the Foster Care Program. Mr. Burk has been in Child Welfare Services for 27 years, and comes to Merced County from San Luis Obispo.
- b. The CWA Youth Conference 2005 will be held January 25-27, 2005, in Garden Grove, CA. Those attending from the Youth Council will be Ms. Claudia Corchado and Mr. Dave Davis. Ms. Holly Newlon, Ms. Eve Snelling, Ms. Mayra Ramirez and Ms. Rebecca Lincoln will be making a presentation on Collaboration with the Community. An Empower youth will also be attending.
- c. Ms. Corchado introduced Mr. Peter Jamero, who will be the Interim Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Club—Ms. Corchado has resigned.

8. Presentations:

b. Independent Living Program: Ms. Natalie Culver gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Merced College Independent Living Program (ILP)—ILP history, information, current foster youth statistics and specific barriers. She provided two pamphlets: 1) What Merced College ILP provides—activities, services, scholarships and incentives, and 2) The Merced College ILP Americorps Foster Youth Mentoring Project. They have over 500 youth participants in Merced County, and 150 in Madera County. Most alarming is that 46% of foster youth don't complete high school, and 51% within 2-4 years after emancipation are unemployed. Anyone having questions or wanting more information on the ILP can call Ms. Culver at 384-6369.

Since foster care is a target area, the Chair asked Ms. Culver to provide the Youth Council with periodic updates on the ILP.

6. Action Agenda:

a. Youth Council Goals #3 and #4: It was *M/S/C Eagleton/Corchado* to accept Goals #3 and #4 as written.

b. Youth Contracts Oversight Working Group: It was *M/S/C Eagleton/Hall (abstain Ramirez)* to reestablish a Contract Oversight Working Group for all youth contracts, and the group will meet as required.

The following volunteered for the Working Group: Mr. Vann (Mike) Smith, Rev. Craig White, Ms. Nellie McGarry, Ms. Rennise Ferrario, Ms. Claudia Corchado, and Ms. Kathy Hassett.

7. Information Agenda:

a. Children's Action Plan – Youth Development Action Plan: It was noted that the Summit and program were developed by the Human Services Agency. All Action Plan subcommittees are working on developing a Children's Summit for April 2005. Staff will find out if the emphasis is going to be on older youth.

8. Presentations:

b. EMPOWER Zone: Ms. Joanna Grimes, Job Developer, EMPOWER Program, gave a presentation on the EMPOWER Zone (they had two events this year—June/October). EMPOWER Zone is a component of the EMPOWER Program. EMPOWER Zone gives all participants an opportunity to assess the skills they have learned in the workshops by: 1) Creating a portfolio that is modeled after the ROP portfolio; and 2) Presenting the portfolio to judges who are volunteers from the business community. She explained the criteria that are covered and how participants are judged. Those scoring the highest points receive a Gold (\$100), Silver (\$75), or Bronze (\$50) award. This gives participants an opportunity to experience what is expected in the workforce. She noted they are always looking for judges for the EMPOWER Zone events.

c. Center for Public Policy Report: Ms. Culver passed out two copies of a report entitled, "Aging Out", which was done by the Centers for Public Policy, Stanislaus University. This is a study of the transition process for foster youth in Stanislaus County—the struggles, the challenges, the opportunities and the strengths. She provided this report so the Youth Council could see what other counties are looking at, and the issues facing foster youth.

This report is on the Centers for Public Policy website. The report looks at the infrastructure of the system, and how foster youth are treated before being released. There are some recommendations as to how the system might change. Dr. Ben Duran, Ms. Ramirez and Ms. Culver are part of a Stanislaus County working group that is working to implement some of the recommendations in Stanislaus, and eventually other areas. The Centers for Public Policy Board is hoping to have a symposium/conference for the entire Central Valley in the near future for those interested in foster youth who are aging out.

d. One-Stop Connections: Ms. Culver noted in October 2004 she attended a One-Stop Connections Workshop in Fresno. The purpose of the workshop was to find a way to connect foster youth with the One-stops, and how to make the One-Stops more youth friendly. There will be, in the near future, some performance measures for foster youth under the Workforce Investment Act. She noted the facilitator is willing to come to Merced County and give a presentation to the applicable agencies.

e. State Youth Council Report: The state has put together two working groups—1) The State Local Initiatives, and 2) The State Level Initiatives that have difference objectives/action plans listed under each group. The Chair noted she would send the lists to staff to e-mail to Youth Council members, and she would like comments/feedback to take to the State Youth Council/CWA Conference in January 2005.

9. Chair Comments: The Chair recommended that at the January meeting, members be ready to formulate what type of agenda items/presentations they would like to have for 2005. She wished “Happy Holidays”

10. Date, Time and Location of Next Youth Council Meeting: Next meeting is January 12, 2005, 4:00 p.m, at Merced County Office of Education – Newbold Room, 632 W. 13th Street, Merced.

11. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Devilla D. Knight

TO: Youth Council

DATE: 2/09/05

FROM: Youth Council Staff

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: Application for Membership

PROPOSED MOTION(S): The Youth Council approve Mr. Nathan Timmerman, a youth, for membership on the Youth Council

DISCUSSION: Mr. Nathan Timmerman, a youth, has applied for membership on the Youth Council. Nathan is a 14-year-old Eagle Scout and a student at Merced College. He is active with the Boy Scouts, and has participated in many community related activities. He was instrumental in the cleanup of the river and campsites at McConnell State Park. He was a member of the building crews for Eastman Lake's public cooking grills, and has planted the flowers on Broadway for the City of Atwater.

Nathan volunteers his time with the Challenged Family Resource Center. He is also a member of his church Life-Teen Program, and is the church's primary instructor for youth altar servers.

Nathan hopes to graduate from one of the nation's military academies.

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

TO: Youth Council

DATE: 2/09/05

FROM: Youth Council Staff

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: Youth Contracts Renewal Recommendation

PROPOSED MOTION(S): Approve the renewal of the Younger Youth and Out-of-School Youth contracts, contingent upon receipt of funding.

DISCUSSION: The Workforce Investment Board presently has contracts with Merced County Office of Education for Workforce Investment Act youth programs. The contracts will expire June 30, 2005, and contractually may be extended one year at a time, for an additional two years.

The County's allocation for next year's youth programs is expected to be the same as this year's. But, the size of next year's contracts should be smaller than present due to past decisions to maximize current programs by the maximum use of carryover funds. Next year's contracts will have limited carryover available, and will have to rely solely on the new allocations. It is expected that overall funding to youth programs could be \$1 million less than the present \$2.5 million devoted to the 2004-05 youth contracts.

Both contracts are recommended for renewal. The programs are meeting their enrollment requirements, are achieving performance measures, and continue to improve. With 50 Workforce Investment Areas in California, the Merced Younger Youth Program has grown to be the sixth (6th) largest in the state, and the Out-of-School Program ranks thirteenth (13th) in enrollment. Additionally, the Empower Program was chosen by the California Workforce Association (CWA) to present at the 2005 CWA Youth Conference as a successful older youth program.

Period of the new contracts will be July 1, 2005–June 30, 2006. When level of funding is received, the Youth Council will be informed to allow contract negotiations to proceed.

ATTACHMENT(S): N/A

TO: Youth Council

DATE: 2/09/05

FROM: Youth Council Staff

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: Youth Council Chair Selection Process

PROPOSED MOTION(S): Information

DISCUSSION: Mr. John Headding, Chair of the Merced County Workforce Investment Board (WIB), has recently resigned from the Board. Ms. Nellie McGarry, 1st Vice Chair of the WIB, has accepted the chairperson duties of the WIB. Ms. McGarry has requested that Youth Council members be made aware of the selection process for committee chairs, to include the Youth Council.

The bylaws of the Workforce Investment Board of Merced County delineate the committee chair selection and appointment process. The following are drawn from the bylaws:

- **Chairperson (WIB Chair). The Chairperson shall be a representative of business. The duties of the Chairperson shall be to:**
 - d. **Establish standing and ad hoc committees, and name chairpersons and appoint members to such committees;**
- **Youth Council**
 - d. **At least five (5) seats on the Youth Council shall be filled by voting members of the Board.**
 - e. **The Chairperson of the Youth Council shall be one of the five above-mentioned voting Board members.**

In summary, the WIB Chair will select the Youth Council Chair from those WIB members who are on the Youth Council. The WIB Chair can also appoint any WIB member to the Youth Council. The bylaws require that at least five voting WIB members be on the Youth Council. There is no maximum number for membership.

ATTACHMENT(S): N/A

TO: Youth Council

DATE: 2/09/05

FROM: WIB Staff

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: Younger Youth Program Quarterly Report

PROPOSED MOTION(S): Information Only

DISCUSSION: Younger Youth Report, October/November/December 2004 is attached.

ATTACHMENT(S): Younger Youth Quarterly Report will be available at the meeting.

To: Dave Davis
Employment & Training Analyst, Department of Workforce Investment

From: Rebecca Lincoln
Career Educator, Youth Opportunity Program, Merced County Office of Education

Re: Merced County Youth Council Quarterly Report- Younger Youth Program

Date: January 31, 2005 for the quarter ending December 31, 2004

A. Overall status of the program:

The program continues to exceed performance measures. This quarter **155 YOP participants** were enrolled into the program. Of those students who were exited this quarter, 95% (92/97), attained basic skills, work readiness, and/or occupational skills goals, 63% (12/19) of participants attained a diploma.

B. Past quarter highlights:

1) **Career Industry Days:** 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. This quarter, the following three Career Industry Days were held at the Merced County Fair Grounds:

- a) Careers in Arts and Communications was held on Thursday, October 21, 2004
- b) Careers in Industrial Technology was held on Wednesday, November 3, 2004
- c) Careers in Agriculture was held on Thursday, December 2, 2004

YOP mentors and their participants attended these Career Industry Days. The mentors are encouraged to invite those participants whose career goals or technical training aligned with these pathways.

2) **WIA Goals Training** was provide for YOP mentors, and support staff on October 19, 2004, Mary Cavazos, a representative from our EDD partner, provided the training.

3) **PLATO Training** for YOP mentors and support staff was held on December 15, 2004, (Beginning session) and on December 16, 2004 (Intermediate session).

4) **Beginning SCANS I Training** for new YOP Mentors was held on October 8, 2004. This session provided an overview of the SCANS competencies. Mentors learned how to integrate the competencies into existing coursework and how to motivate students to learn using the SCANS model.

5) **BE SAFE: Gang Awareness and Sexual Harassment Training** for YOP staff held on November 1, 2004.

6) **Advanced SCANS II Training** was held for YOP mentors on December 10, 2004. This

workshop builds upon the teaching strategies introduced in SCANS I training and includes Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligences.

- 7) **"30 Ways to Shine,"** a training on strategies intended to assist new employees to be successful, was provided for new YOP staff members on November 17, 2004.
- 8) **Partner staff from the Merced Union High School District** toured the Work-Net One Stop Employment Resource Center on October 4, 2004.
- 9) **EDD & YOP community service project:** In November, twenty-one youth donated non perishable items, to provide six families with a box of food items for Thanksgiving, to include a turkey. A family of an EMPOWER participant was selected for a donation. For Christmas, eighteen other youth either donated a toy or helped wrap gifts for Head Start Migrant children with a total of 50 gifts wrapped. Thirty gifts were provided for Head Start and the rest were provided to assist EMPOWER in their community service project.

10) Success Story: Brandy Mejia

Brandy Mejia, a YOP student, is a senior attending Buhach Colony High School in Atwater. She is enrolled in academic classes, involved in community clubs and activities and applying to colleges and universities. On January 11, 2004, she received a letter many seniors await anxiously. There were the words she had been waiting to see, *"Congratulations, you have been accepted."*

Brandy enrolled in YOP as an 8th grade student at Rivera Middle School. Brandy comes from a low-income family who works seasonally in agriculture. She has attended several schools including Valley Community School in Livingston, Atwater High School and now Buhach Colony School. Brandy's freshman year was difficult. She ended up failing some classes. Her sophomore year brought a huge improvement, earning mostly 'A's in her classes. She also took summer classes to make up her credits and she earned all 'A's. She continued to earn good grades and also took challenging classes such as AP U.S. History and French. Brandy has done this while working during the summer YOP program and giving to her community by helping to put together Thanksgiving food baskets for the needy. She is also the Community Chair for the Interact club.

Brandy plans to major in communications at Cal State L.A. to become a journalist. She is also interested in teaching. Brandy is looking forward to attending Cal State L.A. and is grateful for the opportunity given to her to not only earn money during the summers working under YOP, but also being given guidance and encouragement to pursue her dreams.

C. Past quarter deficiencies: None.

D. Past quarter recruiting/marketing efforts:

- 1) YOP staff distributed brochures at the Merced Job Fair held on October 6th
- 2) YOP staff distributed brochures at the "Lights On" event held at the Merced Mall on

- October 14.
- 3) YOP staff provided a presentation and distributed materials at Valley Community School Healthy Start committee meeting on October 26, 2004.
 - 4) All partners are enrolling new participants and have provided information in classrooms and career centers at the high schools.

E) Number enrolled & number of participants in each program component: December 2004

Total number of active students: 398

Total number of participants in follow-up: 190

F) Number of hard/soft exits for the quarter: 19/00

G) Next quarter challenges: Preparation for annual monitor's review.

H) Technical assistance needed: none

TO: Youth Council

DATE: 2/09/05

FROM: WIB Staff

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: Out-of-School Youth Program Quarterly Report

PROPOSED MOTION(S): Information Only

DISCUSSION: Out-of-School Youth Report, October/November/December 2004 is attached.

ATTACHMENT(S): Out-of-School Youth Quarterly Report will be available at the meeting.

To: **Dave Davis**
Employment & Training Analyst, Department of Workforce Investment

From: **Rebecca Lincoln**
Career Educator, EMPOWER Program, Merced County Office of Education

Re: Merced County Youth Council Quarterly Report- EMPOWER Program

Date: January 31, 2005 for the quarter ending December 31, 2004

A. Overall status of the program:

The overall status of the program continues to show growth and improvement. Fifty nine participants were enrolled during the months of October, November, and December 2004. WIA-Client Action reports on goals, activities, exits and follow-ups show significant improvement that resulted in a December soft exit report with no participants listed.

B. Past Quarter Highlights:

1) EMPOWER Workshops:

- a) EMPOWER Orientation: Conducted on the second Friday in the months of October, November, and December; approximately 35 participants attended each session;
- b) EMPOWER Workshop I: Conducted on the third Friday of October, November and December; approximately 20 participants attend each session;
- c) EMPOWER Workshop II-Job Readiness was conducted in the months of October, November and December. Participants completed an ROP employability portfolio and practiced interviewing techniques.

2) EMPOWER ZONE: The second EMPOWER Zone was held on October 27, 2004. Twenty-four EMPOWER participants were judged on the successful completion of a job application, an employability portfolio, and on their individual and panel interviewing skills. Fifteen professionals from public, private and community based organizations interviewed and scored each participant on a scale of 0-100. The event concluded with a recognition ceremony.

3) Bldg K-Computer Lab: EMPOWER participants use the computer lab daily to work on résumés, portfolios, and conduct job search. Sue Tyler, adult school teacher, was contracted to be available for six hours per week in the computer lab to assist EMPOWER participants with PLATO, an educational software program designed to increase math and reading skills. Sign in sheets are used to track the number of participants using the computer lab daily.

4) Career Industry Days: 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. This quarter, the following three Career Industry Days were held at the Merced County Fair Grounds:

- a) Careers in Arts and Communications was held on Thursday, Oct 21, 2004
- b) Careers in Industrial Technology was held on Wednesday, November 3, 2004
- c) Careers in Agriculture was held on Thursday, December 2, 2004

Empower advisors and their participants attended. The advisors were encouraged to invite those participants whose career goals or technical training aligned with these pathways.

- 5) **WIA Goals Training** was provided for EMPOWER Advisors and support staff October 19, 2004. Mary Cavazos, a representative from our partner EDD, provided the training.
- 6) **PLATO Training** for EMPOWER Advisors and support staff was held December 15, 2004 (Beginning session) and December 16, 2004 (Intermediate session).
- 7) **Beginning SCANS I Training** for new EMPOWER Advisors was held on October 8, 2004. This session provided an overview of the SCANS competencies. Advisors learned how to integrate the competencies into existing coursework and how to motivate students to learn using the SCANS model.
- 8) **BE SAFE: Gang Awareness and Sexual Harassment Training** for EMPOWER staff was held on November 1, 2004.
- 9) **“30 Ways to Shine,”** a training on strategies intended to assist new employees to be successful, was provided for new YOP staff members on November 17, 2004.
- 10) **Advanced SCANS II Training** was held for EMPOWER Advisors on December 10, 2004. This training builds upon the teaching strategies introduced in SCANS I training and includes Gardner’s Theory of Multiple Intelligences.
- 11) **Juvenile Hall Project:** Staff and administrators from EMPOWER, Juvenile Hall, Merced County Probation, and Valley Community School met on November 23, 2004 at Juvenile Hall to develop a referral process. A tour of the facility was conducted.
- 12) **Quarterly EMPOWER Partner meeting** was held on October 1, 2004. Attendees included representatives from Merced College, Merced Adult School, and EMPOWER staff.
- 13) **EMPOWER Focus Group** meeting was conducted on December 6, 2004. Program participants discussed, evaluated, and provided feedback on Workshop II.
- 14) **Opportunity Club:** The Opportunity Club is a newly developed activity to provide monthly sessions on current job, education, community, and leadership opportunities, as well as information regarding life skills for EMPOWER and YOP youth in Merced County. Sessions are conducted in Bldg K at the MCOE campus. All participants are invited and encouraged to attend. This quarter’s schedule was as follows:

- October 25, 2004: Multiple-Intelligences – How are you smart? A discussion was facilitated by Rebecca Lincoln and Joanna Grimes from the EMPOWER Program.
- November 22, 2004: College or Career-Technical Training? Part 1. Dr. Ben Duran, President of Merced College, led a discussion with participants regarding the benefits of pursuing a community college education.
- December 13, 2004: College or Career-Technical Training? Part 2. Holly Newlon, Coordinator of Adult ROP Programs, led a discussion with participants regarding the benefits of career-technical training.

15) Los Banos WorkNet Graduation: Three EMPOWER participants, Jason Cook, Antonio Silveria and Erich Tholen, earned their GED and received a diploma at a graduation ceremony held at the Los Banos WorkNet on November 10, 2004.

16) Coat Drive: EMPOWER Advisors and YOP Mentors organized a coat drive to provide coats for 23 children ages 5-12 attending Bellevue Elementary School in Atwater. Flyers were developed and distributed throughout the community. In early November, The Merced Sun-Star featured an article about the coat drive, resulting in 70 new and used coats being donated. Twenty-three of the new coats were delivered to Bellevue Elementary School, and the overstock was given to children in nearby schools.

17) Community Service Project: Marines Toys for Tots and Merced County Boys & Girls Club On Dec 20th, twenty- three EMPOWER participants volunteered their time to wrap a total of 210 gifts at the Science & Technology Building @ Castle and returned on Dec. 21st to help distribute the gifts to members of the Merced County Boys & Girls Club. Media coverage was provided by Don Thomas with Mid-Valley publications, and an article was printed in the Merced County Times on December 23, 2004.

18) Success Story:

Lorena Rios is an EMPOWER participant who was recently hired at Save Mart after completing Workshop II. In the workshop, she learned how to dress for success and received in-depth interview practice, including with her peers and in a panel setting with professionals. During her interview she was able to use her Employability Skills Portfolio (master application, resume, cover letter, references, and letter of recommendation), which was completed during the workshop which Lorena thinks made a big impact on her interviewers. Lorena was selected for the Save Mart position from a field of seven other applicants.

19) CWA Youth Conference: ALL YOUTH. .ONE SYSTEM: CONNECTED is the theme of this years CWA Conference held on January 25th- 27th 2005 in Orange County, CA. EMPOWER staff will be presenting at this year's conference, sharing the EMPOWER Orientation model and SAGE Assessment. Presenters include representatives from the EMPOWER program, EDD, Merced WorkNet, and Marissa Enciso, an EMPOWER participant.

20) Working Professional Curriculum update: EMPOWER staff are in the process of revising the ROP Working Professional course outline, which is the framework for all

EMPOWER workshops, work experience activities, and the locally approved youth credential. An Advisory Committee Meeting for community review and approval of the course outline is scheduled for March 24, 2005.

C. Past Quarter Deficiencies

Staff spent considerable time on JCG exits in order to meet 3rd quarter credential rate.

D. Past Quarter recruiting and marketing efforts:

- 1) Holly Newlon, Empower Coordinator gave a presentation on October 4, 2004 to the Merced County Office of Education Board of Trustees;
- 2) Empower staff dispersed brochures at the Merced Job Fair held on October 6, 2004;
- 3) Empower staff distributed brochures at the "Lights On!" event held at the Merced Mall on October 14, 2004, interested youth were invited to the October Empower orientation;
- 4) Empower staff provided a presentation and distributed materials at Valley Community School Healthy Start committee meeting on October 26, 2004;
- 5) Empower staff gave a presentation on November 18, 2004 at the Family Resource Council;
- 6) Empower Staff distributed fliers and brochures at the Hmong New Year celebration on December 17, 2004 held at the Merced County Fairgrounds;
- 7) Ongoing outreach was conducted in the communities of Atwater, Planada, and Le Grand.

F. Number enrolled & number of participants in each program component: December 2004

Total number of active participants: 244

Total number of participants in follow-up: 146

Enrollment in program components:

Adult Basic Education, GED, HS diploma	28
Career Technical Training	46
Workshop II	16
Work Experience	13
Unsubsidized Employment	56

G. Number of hard/soft exits:

Hard Exits: 15

Soft Exits: 00

H. Next quarter challenges: Preparation for the annual monitor's review.

I. Technical assistance needed: Trainings will be provided for EMPOWER staff as follows:

- a) Feb. 23, 2005; 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Youth Performance Management
- b) Mar. 23, 2005; 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Youth Exit Strategies

J. Number of clients receiving social services and examples of services received:

Sao Lee, an EMPOWER participant currently enrolled in the ROP Office Technologies in a Medical Environment program, is participating in an internship at Mercy Hospital specializing in EKG. In December 2004, Sao had pink eye and was removed from site because of the highly contagious infection. Sao had no medical coverage. Through EMPOWER funds the participant was able to seek attention and had the costs covered. He has since returned to continue his internship at Mercy Hospital.