

Workforce Investment Board of Merced County Youth Council

Merced County Office of Education
632 W. 13th Street, Merced, CA, Newbold Room
Wednesday, February 13, 2008 – 4:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

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



Members Present: Bob Bittner, Stephanie Busbea, Martha Dueñas, Claudia Corchado, Natalie Culver-Dockins, Alexander Hall, Mary Jane Hawkes, Wendy Lomeli, Richard Mahacek, Holly Newlon, Rick Osorio, Edgar Perez, Rebecca Rodriguez-Lincoln, Nancy A. Silva, Vann (Mike) Smith, Nancy Vega-Mendoza, Mayra Vega-Ramirez

Members Absent: Ben Duran, Rennise Ferrario (Chair), Kathy Hassett, Taide Hernandez, Stefani Martinez, Sheena Murry, Deloris Sharp, Nathan Timmerman

Others Present: Alfredo Mendoza

1. Call to Order/Roll Call: The past Chair Mr. Rick Osorio called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m., a sign-in sheet was used in lieu of roll call.

2. Approve Agenda: It was *M/S/C Bittner/Smith* to approve the agenda.

3. Approve Minutes: It was *M/S/C Newlon/Corchado* to approve the October 10, 2007 minutes.

4. Public Opportunity to Speak: None.

5. Announcements: Ms. Claudia Corchado invited members to the Central California Regional Obesity Prevention Program meeting on March 27, 2008, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the UC Cooperative Extension Classroom, 2145 Wardrobe Avenue, Merced.

Mr. Alexander Hall noted the City of Merced Parks and Community Services will offer Summer Camp at numerous school sites throughout the city. The Summer Camp program provides trips, tours and snacks to youth for a total of 8 weeks at a cost of \$240.00.

Mr. Edgar Perez invited members to the Central Valley Opportunity Center Annual Scholarship Banquet. This year, 15 scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$750 each. The event will take place on May 16, 2008, 671 E. Yosemite Avenue, Merced beginning at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. For tickets, contact Ms. Liz Teixeira at 357-0062.

Mr. Rick Osorio invited members to attend the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Mixer, which immediately follows this meeting. The mixer will be held at Woodmill Furniture, corner of Martin Luther King and 16th Streets in Merced.

Ms. Natalie Culver-Dockins noted she is officially resigning from the Youth Council effective March 14, 2008. Ms. Culver-Dockins has accepted a position with Fresno City College as Dean of Workforce Investment.

6. Presentation: Merced College for Kids, Teen Leadership Camp: No presentation was given.

7. Action Agenda:

a. Request for Proposal (RFP) Evaluation Committee: It was *M/S/C Hall/Silva* to approve the RFP Evaluation Committee 2008-09. The members selected are: Mr. Rick Osorio, Ms. Stephanie Busbea and Ms. Nicole Pollack. Committee members were asked to sign a Confidentiality Statement, and are not personally associated with the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Youth Programs. Ms. Pollack was considered to take part of the Evaluation Committee because of her WIA background. She is the Deputy Director of the Human Services Agency Employment and Training Branch. As a County employee, Ms. Pollack is mandated to keep confidentiality, and does not have to sign a Confidentiality Statement.

8. Discussion Agenda:

a. Youth Council Member Training: Members reviewed the outcomes from the December 19, 2007 training facilitated by New Ways to Work. Members decided to group Action Ideas as follows:

- Build on success: Campaign/information to County about what is working. Get others to invest in the current approach to serving youth.
- Promote youth development assets (parent organizations, etc); certify Youth Council members as Youth Development Asset trainers and marketers; promote youth development principles.
- Facilitate Labor Market Information (LMI) training for high school educators, employers, parents. (Share information about certificate programs, etc.)
- Raise awareness about high school dropout issue; raise community awareness about starting early to prepare youth for successful employment.
- Develop a council of young people to advise the Youth Council on different topics.
- Create a newsletter to address youth issues.

Some of the preliminary ideas generated by Youth Council members included the creation of a website that is youth friendly and have a “My Space” feel. The website can be used as the “vehicle” to encompass several Action Ideas including promoting the 40 Developmental Assets, LMI information for youth and parents, raise awareness of the high school dropout rates and share articles from other agencies. Other ideas included, marketing the Youth Council by placing an ad in high school yearbooks, seeking business support (through advertisements) for the website. Promoting youth programs to local Chambers of Commerce through ongoing short “stories” aimed at being printed in the Chamber’s newsletter. Members were asked for more ideas to be shared at the meeting in March.

b. CWA Youth Conference: Ms. Claudia Corchado and staff shared information about the California Workforce Association (CWA) Youth Conference. Ms. Corchado noted the theme of the conference focused on gang awareness and how difficult it is to reach and connect with this target population. She also shared information from a breakout session provided by a Modesto Police Officer. She noted how well the speakers were able to convey the messages about engaging our youth.

Additionally, Mr. Alfredo Mendoza shared information from Ms. Judith Green regarding historical

reasons why Los Angeles gangs are increasingly violent as compared to New York City gangs. Ms. Green presented homicide information for both cities and cited 50% of Los Angeles' homicides were attributed to gangs, while only 6% of New York City's homicides are gang-related. Ms. Green emphasized the societal responsibility to create programs to curb gang recruitment and not just to use "prosecution" as the only tool against the gang epidemic. Ms. Liz Clingman spoke to conference attendees and reiterated the Employment Training Administration's Strategic Vision for Youth: a) Meet demands of business; b) Use alternative education sources; Focus on neediest youth; and Focus on improved performance. Ms. Clingman stressed that we must make sure we are training our youth for jobs that exist in our communities. A question was posed to performance presenters about the split in funding between Younger Youth and Older Youth to which they replied that most of the State Local Workforce Investment Areas have gone to a 50/50 approach or to a 60/40, with 60% spent on Older Youth.

9. Information Agenda:

- a. **Youth Council Member Training Update:** Staff shared that the online Community Resource Directory link has been placed on one of the City of Merced's websites.
- b. **Final Performance PY 06-07:** Staff presented the Youth Council with final performance results for Program Year 2006-07. Staff informed the Council that the subcontractor, Merced County Office of Education has exceeded all performance measures.
- c. **EMPOWER Quarterly Report:** No questions were asked regarding this report.
- d. **YOP Quarterly Report:** No questions were asked regarding this report.

10. Chair Comments/Roundtable/Future Agenda Items: Ms. Corchado will present at the next meeting information regarding the Central California Obesity Prevention Program.

Mr. Richard Mahacek shared a report found in *California Agriculture (January-March 2008)* entitled "Public Work Projects Cultivate Youth in Workforce Development Programs." Using comparative case studies, they evaluated Youth Workforce Development Programs in California that are funded by the Workforce Investment Act and implemented by local Youth Councils and Workforce Investment Boards. Staff was asked to provide the report to all Youth Council members. (The report is attached to these minutes.)

11. Date, Time and Location of Next Youth Council Meeting: March 12, 2008, 4:00 p.m., Merced County Office of Education, Clark Room, 632 W. 13th Street, Merced.

12. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Alfredo Mendoza.