

## Workforce Investment Board of Merced County

# Youth Council

Merced County Office of Education, Room "M"

632 West 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Merced, CA

Wednesday, May 12, 2004, 4:00 p.m.

## Meeting Minutes



MERCED COUNTY YOUTH COUNCIL

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**Members Present:** Ana Andrade, Stephanie Busbea, Evelyn Eagleton, Alexander Hall, Mary Jane Hawkes, Taide Hernandez (Vice Chair), Jerry Johnson, Charlie Lambert, Rebecca Lincoln, Richard Mahacek, Jim Newberry, Edgar Perez, Mayra Ramirez, Vann (Mike) Smith, Ralph Vigil

**Members Absent:** Bob Bittner, Mary Cavazos, Claudia Corchado, Ben Duran, Rennise Ferrario, Laura Gongora, Robert Harmon, Kathy Hassett, Nellie McGarry (Chair), Kristen Miller, Rev. Craig E. White, Sr.

**WI Staff Present:** Dave Davis, Dee Knight

**Others Present:** Holly Newlon, MCOE; Debbie Perez, Case Manager Westside Empower

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**1. Call to Order/Roll Call:** The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m., and roll call was taken.

**2. Approve Agenda:** It was *M/S/C Lambert/Eagleton/Hall* to approve the agenda, with the addition of having a youth present his "success" story.

**3. Approve Minutes:** It was *M/S/C Eagleton/Lambert* to approve the April 14, 2004 minutes.

### 4. Public Opportunity to Speak:

a. Ms. Becky Lincoln thanked everyone who participated in the Children's Summit. It was a very productive Summit—approximately 200 youth attended. The young people presented some great ideas. She will be providing the Council with updates as the plan is developed and action items are accomplished. They hope to have more participation next year. Staff noted the Youth Council was volunteered as an advocate to look at the "Continuing and Expanding Vocational Education" issue.

b. Mr. Jim Newberry noted he is working with a group that is in the process of developing a Special Education Program for local youth. The program will be located downtown in a multiplex that will house approximately 20 various businesses, a business incubator, and classrooms for older students with disabilities that will help these young people develop their skills in business enterprise, and hopefully for some of them to become independent owners.

### 5. Announcements:

a. Mr. Jerry Johnson announced this would be his last meeting, and invited everyone to his Retirement Party on June 11, 2004, from 4:00-9:00 p.m., at the Eagles Nest Restaurant. Since he is leaving, he would like a Council member to take over mentoring Kristen Miller and maintain contact with her. Ms. Lincoln volunteered to mentor Kristen Miller.

### 6. Action Agenda:

a. **P-16 Council Member:** The P-16 Council is a collaborative effort between Merced County Superintendents, business leaders and economic development to broaden the range of education in relation to economic development and workforce development activities in the County.

*"Today's Youth ... Tomorrow's Leaders"*

The P-16 Council meets once a month. They need someone who is in business and not education to sit on this Council. It was *M/S/C Eagleton/Hall* that Mr. Vann (Mike) Smith become a member of the P-16 Council.

## **7. Information/Discussion Agenda:**

**a. Youth Council Vision, Role, Mission Statement, Goals:** Youth Council members were asked to review and familiarize themselves with the Council's Vision, Role, Mission and Goals to determine, possibly at the June or July meeting, the next steps of the Council.

**b. YOP and Empower—Who Are We Serving?:** Staff provided a definitive breakdown of the youth served in the YOP and Empower programs, and how many are in these programs. It was noted that the majority of the youth served are deficient in "Basic Literacy Skills", the "Pregnant/Parenting Youth" category is going down, and there are four "Homeless" kids in the Younger Youth Program.

**c. Congressman Cardoza's Foster Care Visit:** Congressman Cardoza visited the Valley Community School several months ago, and the visit caused him to become more involved with the state of our foster youth. Congressman Cardoza invited Principal Jill Macha to bring four foster youth to Washington, DC to attend his address to the House of Representatives regarding foster youth issues. A video of Congressman Cardoza's address was viewed by the Youth Council.

**8. Presentation:** Empower Case Manager Debbie Perez gave an update of the Westside program, which covers Los Banos, Dos Palos and Gustine. They have 29 participants who have exited, and 26 are working. She is currently serving 53 participants—7 are in GED preparation in the PLATO Lab, 4 are in GED preparation and working part-time, 1 completed GED and is working, 8 are in vocational education, 13 have completed vocational education and are working, 7 are in Job Readiness training, 9 are in Job Search, and 4 are actively working. The biggest challenge they face is providing transportation to Merced for the workshops. The Department is researching ways to provide the needed transportation.

**9. Chair Comments:** None.

**10. Other Comments:** Council members agreed to have the youth "success" presentation at next month's meeting if possible.

**11. Date, Time and Location of Next Youth Council Meeting:** Next meeting is June 9, 2004, 4:00 p.m, at Merced County Office of Education, Room "M".

**12. Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Devilla D. Knight