

**TO: Youth Council**

**DATE: 8/13/03**

**FROM: Youth Council Staff**

**For Action**

**For Information**

**For Discussion**

**SUBJECT: Youth Opportunity Program (YOP) Quarterly Report**

**PROPOSED MOTION(S): Information Only**

**DISCUSSION: The Quarterly Report for the Youth Opportunity Program, April-May-June 2003 is attached.**

**ATTACHMENT(S): Letter, YOP Quarterly Report, May-June 2003**

**To: Youth Council**

**From: Robin Davis**

**Career Educator, Youth Opportunity Program, Merced County Office of Education**

**Re: Quarterly Report, Younger Youth Program**

**Date: July 2003 (April-May-June)**

1. **Overall status of the program:** We received our final monitoring report in April, summarizing that there were less documentation errors and “staff understands what has to be done and how to accomplish it”. File reviews and interviews with mentors and participants revealed “an excellent job in providing youth with workability skills and work experience”. Results of this year’s customer surveys were compiled. Nearly all participants reported satisfaction at exit from the program. A report will be presented to the Youth Council.
2. **Past quarter highlights:** Performance this quarter was excellent. 92% (407/441) of the basic, work readiness, and/or skills goals were attained. 82% (244/296) of youth attained a diploma or equivalent. Those participating in summer work experience will be exited after July 1, and will not be counted in this year’s measurements. All summer youth participants will receive specific job skills, job readiness skills, and high school credit for participation. MCOE and subcontractors have developed cooperative agreements with over 200 businesses in Merced County to place approximately 350 students in paid work experience positions this summer.

All participants are encouraged to show leadership through involvement in community service, a vocational organization, or the youth advisory committee. In April, YOP in ACTION, the all-youth advisory committee for the Youth Opportunity Program, completed a new incentive plan that will take effect in the 2003-04 school year. Participants can earn cash rewards for attaining specific goals and WIA program elements. They are encouraged to achieve academically, maintain above a 2.5 grade point average, have 3 or less school absences, do community service, provide leadership to other youth, and graduate.

Mentors provide avenues for participants to build positive work attitudes, attain basic skills, acquire job skills, and develop leadership. Utilizing the Youth Development Model, the need arises for mentors to be involved in the participant’s holistic growth. During this quarter, mentors provided the following:

- Referrals/coordinate services with probation, public health, mental health, foster care agencies, Healthy Start, and RAFT (Recovery Assistance for Teens) to facilitate drug counseling and rehabilitation, help maintain school attendance, and provide resources
- Assistance in acquiring a driver’s license

- Assistance in dealing with the death of the single parent and enrolling into the GED prep program
  - Field trips to colleges/universities informing participants of the benefits of higher education, admissions requirements, and how they may qualify for financial assistance.
  - Referrals for healthy parenting training and/or childcare to teen parents.
  - Information/speakers who focus on alternatives to gangs and violence. Refer involved youth to appropriate programs, usually offered at Valley Community school
  - Involve parents in support of participant's academic life
  - Ensure students have ways to earn credits needed to graduate (tutoring, summer school)
  - Involve the community in the development of youth through work programs and service clubs such as DECA
3. **Past quarter deficiencies:** Areas noted in the monitoring report for further attention were in maintaining time studies and understanding allowed costs. There were also concerns about documentation errors in some files and they have been corrected.
  4. **Past quarter recruiting/marketing efforts:** none needed.
  5. **Number enrolled:** 500 active / 1614 overall
  6. **Number of hard/soft exits:** 1114 / 0
  7. **Next quarter challenges:** Inability to serve all eligible youth due to budget constraints. These youth are referred either to the One-Stop for job search/career planning assistance or to the out-of-school youth program if eligible.
  8. **Technical assistance needed:** none