

Workforce Investment Board of Merced County

Youth Council

Employment Development Department, Half-Dome Rm.

1205 West 18th Street, Merced

Tuesday, August 19, 2008 – 11:00 a.m.

Meeting Minutes



MERCED COUNTY YOUTH COUNCIL

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

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- Members Present:** Bob Bittner, Stephanie Busbea, Claudia Corchado (Vice Chair), Martha Dueñas Alexander Hall, Kathy Hassett, Mary Jane Hawkes, Stefani Martinez, Holly Newlon, Rick Osorio, Edgar Perez, Rebecca Rodriguez-Lincoln, Nancy A. Silva, Vann (Mike) Smith
- Members Absent:** Rennise Ferrario (Chair), Taide Hernandez, Wendy Lomeli, Richard Mahacek, Deloris Sharp, Nancy Vega-Mendoza
- Others Present:** Andrea Baker, Eldonna Caudill, Patricia Evans, Patricia Hinson, Kathy Poage, Samuel Rangel
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- 1. Call to Order/Roll Call:** The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 11:18 a.m. Roll call was taken.
- 2. Approved Agenda:** It was *M/S/C Hawkes/Hall* to approve the agenda.
- 3. Approve Minutes:** *It was M/S/C Smith/Bittner* to approve the July 9, 2008 minutes.
- 4. Public Opportunity to Speak:** Ms. Patricia Evans, Human Services Agency (HSA) attended the meeting and informed members that HSA is starting its Independent Living Program for foster youth between the ages of 16 to 21. The first workshop will be tonight. She introduced Ms. Kathy Poage as the new program coordinator.
- 5. Announcements:** Mr. Bob Bittner noted two students who assisted with the Youth Employment Opportunity Program were laid off due to the State budget.
- 6. Presentation:**
 - a) YOP at Housing Authority:** Ms. Stephanie Busbea gave a PowerPoint presentation which she noted was prepared by a Youth Opportunity Program student. The Housing Authority has been providing services to Merced County residents since 1942, with affordable housing to low and very low income families in the County.

Mission Statement: The Housing Authority of the County of Merced offers affordable housing opportunities to the community by providing access to a variety of services and programs to promote self-sufficiency and to enhance the quality of life for those who are served. Strive to provide housing assistance, training, education, and home ownership opportunities by participating in the acquisition, development and operation of affordable housing through the utilization of various funding sources and partnerships that build pride and responsibilities in our residents. We are committed to give the clients and each other courtesy, respect and quality customer care.

Public housing units:	450 Countywide
Housing choice vouchers:	2,705 Countywide

Migrant units:	158 units and 49 units at the Planada Village
Valley View Homes	73 units
Total	3, 439 assisting housing units

The Obanion Learning Center: The Obanion Learning Center is located in an area of high unemployment and limited access to training programs. The Center provides affordable office space to small businesses and non profit organizations. Following are other offices located within the center: Golden Valley Health Center, Central California Child Development services, Merced County Office of Education, Women Infants & Children (WIC), a small branch of Merced County Library. Housing Services and Resident Services Departments, and free after school programs. All services are free to the public.

b) New Hope Merced: Mr. Samuel Rangel gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding New Hope Merced. A program for young men involved in gang activities or at-risk of joining a gang. Following are some of the goals:

- Bring young men into a mentoring relationship with positive role models;
- Employ young men allowing them to earn ‘clean money’;
- Change young men’s lives in a fundamental way.

To be part of New Hope Merced participants must be 16 to 24 years of age, and be a resident of the Merced/Atwater area. The young men must be looking for a way out of the gang environment, have gang affiliation, or be at-risk of joining a gang.

Some skills taught to the young men are responsibility, good work ethics and anger recognition awareness. Counseling services are available.

The future vision of New Hope Merced is to add more counselors, bring more youth into positive relationships with New Hope mentors, and to provide additional avenues for at-risk youth in obtaining employment.

c) Tulare County WEX & Website Development: Ms. Eldonna Caudill gave a Power Point presentation on the Tulare County Youth Transitions Program. Tulare County wanted to have a program that would assist youth in transitioning to adult roles and responsibilities and also meet the demands of employers and foster youth. Ms. Caudill discussed the following topics:

- Issues faced by many vulnerable youth transitioning to adult roles and responsibilities,
- Beating the odds,
- Program partners, Evolution, and Goals,
- Initial services and Case Management,
- Workshops,
- Job Placement,
- Educational services
- Support, leadership, and retention,
- Outcomes, and Lessons Learned

7. Information Agenda:

a. College Track (San Jose Unified): At the July meeting, staff was asked to provide information on a Bay Area project that places every high school student on the ‘college track’. Staff gave

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members a copy of the San Jose Unified School District's implementation of a college-ready curriculum. Members would like to invite Mr. Lee Andersen, Superintendent of Merced County Office of Education, to provide information about the Merced County school system. Staff will check the availability of Mr. Andersen.

8. Chair Comments/Roundtable/Future Agenda Item: The Vice Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting, and would like to see the following presentation on the September Agenda: Workforce Investment Board Youth Council, an up-to-date presentation on how the Youth Council is performing. Who is part of it? Who are the partners? What has been accomplished? What are the future goals.

9. Date, Time and Location of Next Youth Council Meeting: September 10, 2008, 4:00 p.m., Merced County Office of Education, Newbold Room, 632 W 13th Street, Merced.

12. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Patricia Hinson.