

**Merced County Workforce Investment Board  
Youth Council**

**Main Street Youth Center  
1577 W. Main Street, Merced, CA 95340  
Wednesday, September 12, 2007 – 4:00 p.m.**



**Meeting Agenda**

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

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1. Call to Order and Roll Call .....
  2. Approve Agenda .....
  3. Approve Minutes (July 11, 2007) .....
  4. Public Opportunity to Speak .....
  5. Announcements.....
  6. Presentation.....
    - a. Main Street Youth Center ..... Patricia Evans(10 minutes)
    - b. DoWith Program (Wraparound) ..... Sharon Salaiz (15 minutes)
  7. Action Agenda
    - a. Youth Resource Directory 2007 .....Rebecca Lincoln
  8. Information/Discussion Agenda .....
  - a. Youth Council Member Training..... Alfredo Mendoza
    - b. CWA Youth Conference..... Alfredo Mendoza
    - c. YOP 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Report ..... Alfredo Mendoza
    - d. EMPOWER 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Report ..... Alfredo Mendoza
  9. Chair Comments/Roundtable/Future Agenda Items .....
  10. Date/Time and Location of Next Meeting – September 12, 2007, 4:00 p.m., Main Street Youth Center, 1577 W. Main Street, Merced, CA 95340.....
  11. Adjourn .....

Video and tour of Main Street Youth Center provided by Patricia Evans immediately following the scheduled meeting.

# Workforce Investment Board of Merced County Youth Council

Merced County Office of Education

632 W. 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Merced, CA

Wednesday, July 11, 2007 – 4:00 p.m.

## Meeting Minutes



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

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**Members Present:** Ben Duran, Kathy Hassett, Mary Jane Hawkes, Taide Hernandez, Stephani Martinez Sheena Murry, Holly Newlon, Rick Osorio, Edgar Perez, Rebecca Rodriguez-Lincoln Deloris Sharp, Nancy A. Silva, Vann (Mike) Smith, Mayra Vega-Ramirez (Vice-Chair)

**Members Absent:** Bob Bittner, Stephanie Busbea, Claudia Corchado, Adam Cox, Natalie Culver-Dockins, Martha Dueñas, Rennise Ferrario (Chair), Alexander Hall, Wendy Lomeli Richard Mahacek, Isabel Nash, Nathan Timmerman, Nancy Vega-Mendoza

**Others Present:** Dave Davis, Patricia Evans, Patricia Hinson, Alfredo Mendoza

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**1. Call to Order/Roll Call:** The Vice-Chair called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. Roll call was taken.

**2. Approve Agenda:** It was *M/S/C Newlon/Murry* to approve the agenda as published.

**3. Approve Minutes:** It was *M/S/C Hawks/Silva* to approve the June 13, 2007 minutes.

**4. Public Opportunity to Speak:** None

**5. Announcements:** Ms. Deloris Sharp and Ms. Sheena Murry noted the California Youth Connection is having its Annual Youth Conference August 10-13, 2007. The public is invited to attend on August 13<sup>th</sup> Modesto Doubletree Hotel.

Ms. Rebecca Rodriguez-Lincoln invited Youth Council members to attend the Summer Youth Opportunity Program Entrepreneur workshop presentations and end of summer celebration. Monday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am., Merced County Office of Education Campus, Bldg. L. There will be an opportunity for Q&A after each presentation. After the presentations, refreshments will be served.

### 6. Action Agenda:

**a. Youth Council Meeting Dates:** It was *M/S/C Hassett/Osorio* to disapprove having the Youth Council meeting every other month.

### 7. Presentations:

**a. Bear Creek Academy:** Ms. Nancy A. Silva, Merced County Probation Department gave a presentation on Bear Creek Academy. The Academy's primary focus is to give minors the opportunity to enter a coordinated system of care with the goal of breaking old patterns that have resulted in negative and destructive behavior. To be eligible for this program minors must be Merced County residents or resident of a county that contracted with Merced County for services. Following are some of the eligibility criteria:

1. Must be age 13 and less than age 18.
2. Must not have graduated from high school, or have a high school equivalency certificate.
3. Must not have an existing medical condition which would preclude the minor from participation by virtue of the physical requirements.
4. Must not have a clinically diagnosed mental illness.

**b. Main Street Services:** Ms. Patricia Evans Merced Human Services Agency (HSA), gave a presentation about the Main Street Youth Center. The Center's primary focus is foster youth, however, any youth needing services may participate. The Center is a collaboration between HSA and community partners. Cal-Learn, Permanency Placements, and representatives from Probation are currently housed at the Center. The Center plans to expand services in the future and include more partners from the community.

**8. Information Agenda:**

**a. Youth Council Directory Update:** Ms. Rodriguez-Lincoln noted the Youth Council Directory has been updated and is ready for printing. The next phase is finding financial sponsors.

**b. Formation of Ad-hoc Committee for 2008 RFP:** The following Youth Council members volunteered to be part of the 2008 RFP Ad-hoc group: Mr. Rick Osorio, Ms. Stefani Martinez, Ms. Taide Hernandez and Mr. Mike Smith.

**c. Update on Youth Council Retreat:** Staff gave an update on items that were discussed at the retreat held on May 6, 2006. Committee members would like to invite Ms. Andrea Baker to attend a Youth Council meeting. The members also requested an update on the Youth Council budget.

**9. Chair Comments/Roundtable/Future Agenda Items:** None

**10. Date, Time and Location of Next Youth Council Meeting:** Next meeting is August 8, 2007, 4:00 p.m. MCOE, Building M, 632 W. 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Merced.

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

Minutes prepared by Patricia C. Hinson.

**TO: Youth Council**

**DATE: 9/12/07**

**FROM: Ad-hoc Youth Resource  
Directory Committee**

**For Action**

**For Information**

**For Discussion**

**SUBJECT: Youth Resource Directory 2007**

**PROPOSED MOTION(S): That the Youth Council request \$500 financial support from the Workforce Investment Board for printing of the updated Merced County Youth Resource Directory.**

**DISCUSSION: Recently, the Youth Council Chair announced that the Youth Resource Directory is a very valuable tool to case managers as well as youth and finding funding to print this directory was critical. A plan to produce (print) 1,000 copies of the updated Merced County Youth Resource Directory was formulated from the August 8, 2007 Workgroup. The estimated cost for printing the directory is \$1500. Funding for the printing costs will come from City of Merced Parks & Community Services, and Housing Authority of Merced County. Both organizations will provide \$500 each toward these costs. The remaining \$500 is being requested from the WIB to complete this project. The main recipients of the Youth Resource Directories are youth of Merced County, but, most importantly, these directories are aimed at WIA enrolled youth currently in the programs or in follow-up services. At least one-third of the directories will be provided to eligible WIA youth.**

**ATTACHMENT(S): N/A**

**TO: Youth Council**

**DATE: 9/12/07**

**FROM: Youth Council Staff**

**For Action**

**For Information**

**For Discussion**

**SUBJECT: Youth Council Training**

**PROPOSED MOTION(S): Information only.**

**DISCUSSION: One of the goals of the Budget Ad-hoc Committee is to encourage training and provide a refresher course for the Youth Council. A facilitator from New Ways to Work has been secured for Youth Council member training. The overall scope of the training will revolve around the following:**

- **History of youth councils;**
- **What youth councils are tasked to do under the Workforce Investment Act;**
- **What youth councils can do with reduced funding;**
- **What other councils in the State are currently engaged in.**

**Input is needed from members regarding the following:**

- **Timeframe- Should this be a morning or afternoon meeting, or all day?**
- **Should this training be during the weekday or on a Saturday morning?**
- **In order to secure attendance, commitment will be needed to inform the presenters the number of members that plan on attending.**

**The training is tentatively scheduled for late September or early October depending on member approval.**

**ATTACHMENT(S): N/A**

**TO: Youth Council**

**DATE: 9/12/07**

**FROM: Youth Council Staff**

**For Action**

**For Information**

**For Discussion**

**SUBJECT: CWA Youth Conference**

**PROPOSED MOTION(S): Information only.**

**DISCUSSION: The California Workforce Association Annual Youth Conference will be held in early January 2008. The conference will be held in Southern California. The Youth Council has funding to send two (2) individuals to the conference, to be chosen from non-provider Youth Council members and staff. These individuals will be expected to present back to the Youth Council concerning their experiences while at the conference.**

**ATTACHMENT(S): N/A**

**TO: Youth Council**

**DATE:09/12/07**

**FROM: Youth Council Staff**

**For Action**

**For Information**

**For Discussion**

**SUBJECT: YOP Quarterly Report**

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

**DISCUSSION: YOP Quarterly Report, Apr, May, Jun 2005 is attached.**

**ATTACHMENT(S): YOP Quarterly Report**

To: **Dave Davis:** Special Projects Manager, Department of Workforce Investment  
 From: **Rebecca Lincoln:** Career Educator, Merced County Office of Education  
 Re: **Merced County Youth Council Quarterly Report-** Younger Youth Program  
 Date: **August 2007 (April, May, June 2007)**

**A. Overall status of the program:**

There are presently 231 active participants in the Youth Opportunity Program at the end of the third quarter; this past quarter the program had six new enrollments and eleven exits. The status on all WIA-Client action reports for goals, activities, exits and follow-ups (phase II) remain up to date. The outcomes for the YOP programs fourth quarter results are as follows:

Performance Measurement	Negotiated Performance Level with State of CA. & Merced County Program Year 06-07	Merced County office of Education YOP 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter Performance Results
<b>In- School Youth ( 14- 18 )</b>		
<b>Skill Attainment</b>	<b>85.7 %</b>	<b>94.0%</b>
<b>Diploma or Equivalent</b>	<b>67.0 %</b>	<b>92.1%</b>
<b>Retention Rate</b>	<b>65.0 %</b>	<b>74.2 %</b>

**B. Past quarter highlights:**

1) **The YOP summer employment** component began on June 11, 2007; approximately eighty participants worked this summer with local employers and agencies. The Mentors met with site supervisors to develop training plans for the participants who worked up to 32 hours per week. *The Entrepreneur Workshop*, an 18 hour course was facilitated to all the participants in three-hour per week segments through-out the six-week summer component. By participating in *The Entrepreneur Workshop*, participants explored the advantages and opportunities of becoming a business owner. The youth took part in assessments to help them find their strengths and interests. Then with staff's assistance, students came up with a "Big Idea" for a company, service or product. Each participant then developed a business plan and a marketing plan to include a logo, a flyer and business cards. The participants also completed an updated business résumé and a budget for start- up costs. The six week course ended with presentations given by the participants to MCOE staff, site supervisors and fellow participants.

2) **Opportunity Club:** The Opportunity Club is an ongoing activity that provides monthly sessions on current job, educational, community, and leadership opportunities, as well as

information regarding life skills for EMPOWER and YOP youth in Merced County. All participants are invited and encouraged to attend.

The Opportunity Club met on April 19; eighteen YOP & EMPOWER participants had the privilege to view a DVD presentation by Father G. Boyle, who visited Merced County Office of Education on March, 23<sup>rd</sup>. Father Gregory Boyle, S.J, a Jesuit priest and Founder/Executive Director of *Jobs-For-A-Future/Homeboy Industries*, gave a rousing presentation on “kinship”. Father Boyle is a nationally renowned speaker at conferences for teachers, social workers and criminal justice workers about the importance of adult attention, guidance and unconditional love in preventing youth from joining gangs.

- 3) **Youth Transitions Conference** – On April 27<sup>th</sup>, YOP and EMPOWER staff attend a Youth Transitions Conference held in Visalia that focused on foster youth. Staff learned that within the first 18 months of aging out from foster care, 24 to 50 percent of the youth become homeless. The (ITFH) Interagency Task Force on Homelessness has determined that there was an urgent need to provide current and former foster youth with mental health, housing, educational and employment training services that are easily accessible and obtainable. Thus the following pilot programs were implement; Project HOPE, Alameda County WIB; Project TRENDS, Ventura County WIB; The Foster Youth Pilot Project of the Northern Central Counties Consortium. All three programs have successfully collaborated with the (DSS) Department of Social Services, (EDD) Development Department, and (WIA) Workforce Investment Board in their area.

In conclusion, the message from the Youth Transition Conference revealed a need for all agencies to collaborate with each other for the good of aging-out foster youth; emphasizing the vital role that each partner plays in a foster youth’s future.

- 4) **McNamara Park Resource Fair** on May 4th, Merced City held a 'Cinco de Mayo' celebration at McNamara Park from 4-8pm. Rebecca Garcia and Toula Moua joined other agencies in celebrating the holiday with the citizens of Merced. Ms. Garcia & Ms. Moua represented Empower/YOP by providing brochures and ROP related information.

## 5) YOP: Success Stories

### Update: Jenny Vang, a June 07 Graduate



Jenny Vang & Penny Sawyer

On February 8, 2007, Jenny Vang (Youth Opportunity Program participant) received a Violet Richardson Award for the amount of \$250 from the Merced Soroptimist International. This award is given to one applicant who takes the time to make the community and world a better place through volunteer work. Jenny is an active member of *KiWins* (junior Kiwanis). She is currently serving as Vice President for the organization at Merced High School.

Then in April 2007, Jenny received a 4-year scholarship for \$26,000.00 from the Merced Kiwanis Club. She graduated from Merced High School in June 2007, and is currently attending California State University, San Jose where she plans to pursue a career in graphics.

### **YOP Success Story: Alfonso Velasquez**



At his enrollment in August 2004, Alfonso set three goals he planned to achieve within four years. His goals were to graduate from high school, attend college and get a job. YOP is thrilled to announce he has accomplished all his goals within three years instead of four.

Alfonso is a proud graduate of Buhach Colony High School's class of 2007! After graduation, Alfonso attended the Entrepreneur Workshops and his work experience at Atwater's City Parks and Recreation. His responsible, hard-working personal qualities earned him a recommendation for hire from his work-site supervisor. Upon the completion of his work experience hours Alfonso obtained a position with Atwater City's Parks and Recreation. Alfonso is currently attending Merced Community College where he intends to obtain a certificate in Automotive Technology.

**YOP Success Story: Agapita Vargas-Ramirez**



Agapita enrolled into the YOP program in March of 2005; she has worked hard on fulfilling all her goal to earn a High School Diploma from Dos Palos High School, on June 8, 2007. During her years with YOP she was very active in the YOP Opportunity

Club, she volunteered at the canned food drives, local blood drive, Red Ribbon Week, and for the “Coats for Kids” fundraiser.

After graduation, Agapita gained her work experience hours at the Dos Palos Community Center as an activity assistant. Agapita’s duties included assisting elementary students with their reading and facilitated summer activities at the center. Agapita attended the Entrepreneur Workshops where she learned the advantages and opportunities available to become your own boss. She loved working with the students at the center and became inspired to move forward with a business and marketing plan to open an after school program in the fall.

Finally, Agapita fulfilled a lifelong dream by enrolling at Merced College, Los Banos Campus, where she is now attending classes. She is the first girl in her family to attend college. It is her goal to continue her college education to earn a degree and become a school teacher. Agapita is a very exceptional young lady. She has come a long way from being that shy, quiet, young girl to being a voice for youth in the future

- C. Past quarter deficiencies:** none
- D. Past quarter recruiting/marketing efforts:**  
There were no recruiting efforts for YOP in the fourth quarter.
- E. Next quarter challenges:** none
- F. Technical assistance needed:** none

**TO: Youth Council**

**DATE: 09/12/07**

**FROM: WIB Staff**

**For Action**

**For Information**

**For Discussion**

**SUBJECT: EMPOWER Quarterly Report**

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

**DISCUSSION: EMPOWER Quarterly Report, Apr, May, Jun 2007 is attached.**

**ATTACHMENT(S): EMPOWER Quarterly Report**

To: **Dave Davis:** Special Projects Manager, Department of Workforce Investment  
 From: **Rebecca Lincoln:** Career Educator, Merced County Office of Education  
 Re: Merced County Youth Council Quarterly Report- **EMPOWER Program**  
 Date: August 2006 for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, ending June 30, 2007

**A. Overall Status of the Program:**

Nine new participants were enrolled into the EMPOWER Program and **twenty-eight** participants were exited during the fourth quarter. This brings the total to 166 active EMPOWER participants and 143 participants in follow-up. The Empower advisors continue to track the number of participants enrolled in structured program activities to ensure that the majority of youth are receiving intensive services, as opposed to case management services. The status on WIA-Client action reports for goals, activities, exits and follow-ups (phase II) remain up to date. The EMPOWER outcomes for the fourth quarter results are as follows:

Performance Measurement	Negotiated Performance Level with State of CA. & Merced County Program Year 06-07	EMPOWER 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter Performance Results
Older youth ( 17-21)		
Enter Employment	65.8 %	88.9 %
Retention	75.0 %	88.9 %
Credential rate	39.0 %	78.6 %
Earning Change	\$3,484.00	\$4, 116.94

**B. Past Quarter Highlights:**

- 1) **EMPOWER Workshops:** are provided on an every other month basis. The following is an accounting of workshops offered and number attended:
  - a) **EMPOWER Orientation:** held on Friday on May 9th with an attendance of twenty-four youth;
  - b) **EMPOWER Workshop I:** ‘*Gettin’ Ready for the Job*’ held on Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup> had fifteen in attendance;
  - c) **EMPOWER Workshop II:** ‘*The Real Game California*’ was conducted three sessions on May 21, 23 & 25; there was an average of 16 in attendance per session;
  - d) **EMPOWER Workshop III:** ‘*Gettin’ a Job*’ was conducted in three sessions on May 29, 30 and June 1<sup>st</sup> with an average attendance of 15 per sessions.
  
- 2) **Bldg K-Computer Lab:** EMPOWER participants use the computer lab daily to work on résumés, portfolios, and conduct job search. *PLATO* is educational software designed to

increase math and reading skills, it is also available to the participants in the computer lab. Sign-in sheets are used to track the number of participants using the computer lab daily.

- 3) **Quarterly EMPOWER Partners meeting** was not held this past quarter. Partners agreed that a meeting was not needed.
  
- 4) **Opportunity Club:** The Opportunity Club is an ongoing activity that provides monthly sessions on current job, educational, 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.

The Opportunity Club met on April 19, eighteen YOP & EMPOWER participants had the privilege to view a DVD presentation by Father G. Boyle who visited Merced County Office of Education on March, 23<sup>rd</sup>. Father Gregory Boyle, S.J. a Jesuit priest and Founder/Executive Director of *Jobs-For-A-Future/Homeboy Industries* gave a rousing presentation on “Kinship”. Father Boyle is a nationally renowned speaker at conferences for teachers, social workers and criminal justice workers about the importance of adult attention, guidance and unconditional love in preventing youth from joining gangs.

- 5) **EMPOWER Focus Group** meeting was conducted on May 25<sup>th</sup>; fifteen EMPOWER participants discussed with program staff the sensitive topic of *Internet Safety*”. The meeting focused on the advantages and disadvantages of using the internet; why it is important to know about *Internet Safety*, and discussed ways youth can protect themselves when using the internet.
  
- 6) **ROP Marketing Working Professional Curriculum** revisions and updates were approved by a local advisory committee meeting on April 24, 2007. Staff presented the updates to the curriculum and revised training plans that will be used in the community classroom; as well as updated marketing brochures and a 4-step lesson plan on Dr. Howard Gardner’s Multiple Intelligences.
  
- 7) **McNamara Park Resource Fair** on May 4th Merced City held a 'Cinco de Mayo' celebration at McNamara Park from 4-8pm. Rebecca Garcia and Toula Moua joined

other agencies in celebrating the holiday with the citizens of Merced. Ms. Garcia & Ms. Moua represented Empower/YOP by providing brochures and ROP related information.

- 8) Youth Transitions Conference:** On April 27<sup>th</sup>, YOP and EMPOWER staff attended a Youth Transitions Conference held in Visalia that focused on foster youth. Staff learned that within the first 18 months of aging out from foster care, 24 to 50 percent of the youth become homeless. The (ITFH) Interagency Task Force on Homelessness has determined that there was an urgent need to provide current and former foster youth with mental health, housing, educational and employment training services that are easily accessible and obtainable. Thus the following pilot programs were implemented; Project HOPE, Alameda County WIB; Project TRENDS, Ventura County WIB; The Foster Youth Pilot Project of the Northern Central Counties Consortium. All three programs have successfully collaborated with the (DSS) Department of Social Services, (EDD) Development Department, and (WIA) Workforce Investment Board in their area.

In conclusion, the message from the Youth Transition conference revealed a need for all agencies to collaborate with each other for the good of aging-out foster youth; emphasizing the vital role that each partner plays in a foster youth's future.

- 9) EMPOWER presentation to Merced County Probation Dept.** was held on April 5<sup>th</sup> at the Merced County Office of Education's Opportunity Zone. Staff invited probation to attend a morning or afternoon session where probation could view a PowerPoint presentation on the EMPOWER program and be provide with resource materials. Time was made available for questions on how the EMPOWER program may better serve their clients.

## **10) EMPOWER Success Story**



When Marissa Enciso enrolled into EMPOWER in October 2004, she had dropped out of CSU San Bernardino to help her family financially. She is the first in her family to attend college and it broke her heart to leave college. During the assessment interview, Marissa was very depressed, but after learning about the all opportunities available with the EMPOWER program she began to feel hope and encouragement. More importantly, she had caring people around her, willing to listen to her problems.

Marissa was provided with clothing that enabled her to feel confident at interviews and a Thanksgiving food basket with a 17lb turkey from the EMPOWER community service project was made available to her family. Shortly, the EMPOWER program found Marissa employment for the Christmas season at JC Penny and due to her excellent work; J.C. Penny hired Marissa part-time after the holiday season.

In January 2005, Marissa accompanied EMPOWER staff to the CWA conference in Anaheim; she was given the opportunity to shared her compelling story and heartfelt testimony with CWA conference attendees.

Then in April 2005, Marissa was interviewed and selected as the only college student not attending an Ivy League school to be one of twelve representatives during a summer internship to visit Honduras and investigate sweat shops.

In the fall of 2005, Marissa returned to San Bernardino University to continue and complete her goal to graduate. Marissa graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice in June of 2007 and was recently hired as a Bilingual Instructional Assistant at Chowchilla High School. Her goal is to work for Immigration and Citizenship Services in Fresno.

**C. Past Quarter Deficiencies:** none

**D. Past Quarter Recruiting and Marketing efforts:**

Recruiting efforts for EMPOWER are limited. The contract specified that as participants exit, new participants will be enrolled in the following quarter after exits, upon availability of funds.

**E. Next Quarter Challenges:** none

**F. Technical assistance needed:** none

**G. Number of clients receiving social services and examples of services received.**

Numerous referrals were made to agencies to assist with food, clothing, housing and transportation