



Youth Council
Wardrobe Large Conference Room
October 13, 2000
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Nellie, McGarry, Ismael Montoya, Mayra Ramirez, Evelyn Eagleton, Charlie Lambert, Rennise Ferrario, Obie O'brien, Lorena Briano, Bob Bittner, Mary Jane Hawkes, Jean Weaver, Jerry Johnson, Jim Newberry, Jack Page, Bob Harmon, Suzanne Nunez, Troy Fox, Richard Mahacek, Henry Ildefonso, Mike Smith, Nick Benjamin

Members Absent: Barbara Ayers, Rosie Boudreau, Laverne Brown, Mary Cavazos, Bill Davidson, Robert Gilbert Jr., Kathy Hassett, Natalie Mendoza, Pedro Mendoza, Pamela Palmer, Michael Parker, Carolyn Smith, Daniel Urteaga, Ralph Vigil, Veronica Zamarripa

PITD Staff Present: Becky Lincoln, Andrea Baker, Joanne Presnell, Marta Echevarria

Others Present: Dennis Tatum, Bill Cahill, Eddie Cotton

Review Agenda – Changes to the agenda included: item two (II) on the agenda. Mayra Ramirez was added onto the item list as making a presentation to the Youth Council. A discussion on the Youth Crime Prevention Grant was also added to item five (V) as item C and it also became an action item. It was (*M/C/S Lambert/Newberry*) to approve the 10/13/00 agenda changes.

Review Minutes – It was (*M/S/C Lambert/Bittner*) to approve the 09/15/00 minutes.

I. Presentations:

- a. **Merced County Youth Center** – Bill Cahill updated the Youth Council on the up and coming Merced County Youth Center. It will be shared and operated by the Merced Boys & Girls Club and will be located on the corner of 15th and “M” Streets in Merced. The building will be designed so that Youth activities can be separated from club activities. It is anticipated to have an indoor facility as well as an outdoor area for basketball. There will be a full-size gymnasium with bleachers that will accommodate 200 people. There will also be a game room/multi-purpose room, computer room, and two multi-

purpose classrooms specially designed for specific activities such as ceramics, pottery, video productions, reading center, electronics and an area for fixing bicycles as well. The facility will also have internet access and computers are expected to be upgraded every two (2) years. The Youth Center will be able to accommodate about 300 – 400 people. Each classroom will be able to accommodate around 30 – 40 youth. The total costs are estimated around \$3.3 million.

Eddie Cotton is the new Executive Director that will be in charge of operating the new Youth Center. His focus for this project will be educating Merced youth who come to the new facility. There are special programs that will serve children as young as six (6) years old all the way up to age 18. This program will also benefit the older youth by providing scholarships to high school students volunteering their time at the center. Students who volunteer 1,200 hours will receive a \$4,000 scholarship. Students who volunteer 2,400 hours will receive an \$8,000 scholarship.

- b. 14 – 18 Year-Round Youth Program** – Evelyn Eagleton updated the Youth Council on the 14 – 18 Year-round Program. They are currently developing an individual service strategy. Flyers are in the process of being developed and intake is scheduled to begin November 1, 2000. They are currently welcoming referrals of students to the program. Even if a youth does not qualify for the program, there may be help available by providing them with other resources and programs. The only barrier so far is getting students enrolled into the program. There is a lot of paperwork involved in order to qualify for the program. There is a bill currently being lobbied in congress and if passed, will enable the use of school lunch programs to help students qualify for this program. If the students receive free or reduced school lunches they would automatically qualify for the program without the need for any further paperwork. During the enrollment, this would eliminate all the need for document verification for the program and would also help qualify students who are not receiving Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF) but still fall within the poverty level. There was a great deal of discussion on the importance of this issue. Subsequently, it was (*M/S/C Page/Bittner*) to approve the motion to lobby our senator and coordinate with the WIB Chair to develop a letter in support of this bill.
- c. Youth Council Steering Committee Report on the Youth Resource Directory** – Mayra Ramirez updated the Youth Council on the Steering Committee for the youth resource directory. The Steering Committee met on 10/04/00 at PITD in the large conference room. It was reported that there was a discussion on the strategic plan to get information for the directory. One of the ideas was to reinvent a directory by going out to the community to gather information on resources available to youth. Another idea was to gather the information from existing resource directories in our community. It was noted that the Family Resource Council has an existing community resource

directory on the web and the Steering Committee was presented with a hard copy of it at the meeting. The idea was to use this directory as a base to begin creating the Youth Directory. Another plan was to put a bid out to have someone come in and put together the directory. It was also noted that Evelyn Eagleton will provide the Steering Committee with a small pamphlet that was created for the Youth Development Center. This pamphlet gives a brief description of services that specific youth-oriented agencies provide and their telephone numbers. This pamphlet is based on the idea that youths would prefer a small pamphlet or even a card with this information rather than a lengthy directory. A fourth alternative was mentioned during this meeting; that the Youth Council approach Merced College to develop this directory or pamphlet as a college based class project. Jack Page volunteered to present this idea to the proper Merced College faculty.

- d. Youth Council Youth Meeting Report** – Mayra Ramirez reported on the discussion held by the youth group of the council. The youth members (Natalie Mendoza, Pedro Mendoza, Lorena Briano and Mayra Ramirez) met at Natalie Mendoza’s home on 10/07/00. Mayra gave them an overview of the function and duties of the Youth Council. She discussed the importance of their opinions and ideas to the Youth Council. They also discussed ideas for marketing and promoting the Youth Resource Directory, and the youth programs. They discussed the idea of utilizing popular radio stations to run ads; informational booths at Farmer’s Market, Merced Mall, Roller-Land, etc., (with food as an incentive to attract youth); “Super Saver Cards” that would have telephone numbers to youth based organizations on one side and discounts to the sponsors on the other side. They discussed going out to where youths generally gather to promote the directory and the youth programs. They also came up with the idea to have a youth logo that would become associated with the Youth Council. They talked about creating a commercial to be aired on cable Channel 11 showing a variety of scenes that will capture youth’s attention. Ralph Vigil talked about the variety of options for the commercial with this team, and discussed the idea as a future option. It was suggested that they take meeting notes and present a written report to the Youth Council. There was a suggestion to make this youth team into a committee by adding a few more Youth Council members to become a Marketing Committee for the Youth Council. Mayra stated that they would be meeting the first Saturday of every month at Natalie Mendoza’s home and invited Youth Council members to join them in their meetings.

II. Nomination of New Youth Council Member – It was (*M/S/C Montoya/Obrien*) to approve the nomination of Aaron Medel as a new Youth Council member.

III. Strategic Goals Action Plans – After much discussion, it was recommended that the language to Goal 3 be modified, instead of developing an action plan for the goal. The

participation measurements were unclear as stated in the initial goal. Goal 3 read as: "Increase outreach to at-risk youth that are not engaged in programs by increasing participation by 20% over the next 24 months." Jack Page suggested that Goal 3 read, "Develop an outreach program that will maximize the number of at-risk youth that are knowledgeable of program availability". There was also a suggestion that Goal 3 read, "Develop and implement an outreach program to at risk youth to increase their knowledge of programs available to youth." At this point, the language for Goal 3 is still being modified.

Agenda setting for next meeting –

- a. **Next Youth Council meeting** - will be held on Thursday, November 9, 2000, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the PITD Administration Building, large conference room.
- b. **Training with Lori Strumpf** – Suggestions were solicited from Youth Council members, to address the need for further training from Lori Strumpf. There were no comments or suggestions at this time for her services. There were also no objections from the Youth Council members to e-mail Lori current Youth Council information activities.
- c. **Youth Crime Prevention Grant** – Troy Fox presented a brief synopsis of a discussion regarding a youth crime prevention grant that he recently hosted. This initiative is coming out of the Human Services Agency at State level that would require a cooperative effort between Mental Health, Alcohol and Drug Services and the Workforce Investment Board (WIB). This program initiative is targeted to high-risk youth from 12 –18 years of age who are at risk of getting involved in crime. The funding comes from a combination of federal funds through the Mental Health system for seriously emotionally disturbed youth and about 60% of it from WIA funds. This program initiative would not have an income eligibility requirement making this an opportunity to serve the youth that do not fall within the income brackets of specific programs. Although the Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug funds have to be used for youth treatment services and must meet the state guidelines, WIA funds have some flexibility on its usage. A lead agency is needed as an official overseer of this grant. There is another meeting on the 20th where there will be a discussion with further details. It was (*M/S/C Page/Eagleton*) that the Youth Council be the lead agency for the grant.

Minutes prepared by Marta Echevarria