



**Merced County  
Workforce Development Board (Interim)  
Youth Council  
Meeting Notes**

**Wednesday, March 10, 2000  
9:00 - 11:00**

**1880 West Wardrobe Ave, Merced CA**

**I. Call to Order**

**Roll Call** - Roll call was taken by Donna Ornelas

**Members Present:**

**Vice Chair Mayra Vega chaired the meeting in the absence of the Chair,  
Nellie McGarry**

Barbara Ayers, Bob Bittner, Obie O'Brien, Henry Ildefonso, Jean Weaver, Kathy Hassett, Mary Cavasos, Mary Jane Hawkes, Mayra Vega, Ralph Vigil, Rennise Ferrario, Troy Fox, Suzanne Nunez, Charlie Lambert, Jim Newberry

The following were new in attendance:

Michael Parker for Bill Davidson

Sean O'Herin for Frank Pietro

Kiley Carillo, invited to attend as a resource on the Independent Living Program

Shelia Choyce, invited to attend as a resource from Valley High

**Approval of the Agenda and Minutes: It was M/S/C (O'Brien, Bittner)**

**II. Old business**

Vice Chair Mayra Vega noted that the deadline for the membership applications to the Youth Council March 31, 2000. All applications received after that date will be put on a waiting list to fill vacancies as they occur. There was a request for a copy of the list of members of the sub-committees.

Mayra and Terry gave a brief description of the purpose of the youth council under WIA legislation, for the benefit of the new members.

**III. New business**

A. Committee Reports

**1. Summer Youth Committee**

Jean Weaver provided the Council with an update on the Summer Youth Sub-Committee. She noted that the summer youth committee has changed focus and will not be involved in the designing of the program, but leveraging dollars from other sources to fund the program. It was noted that we do not anticipate any money for 2000 program summer program. A sub-committee has formed from the Summer Youth Sub-Committee.

This committee will be responsible for marketing, speakers bureau, getting help from community, and coordination of media coverage. The committee is requesting support from council and a recommendation to the WIB. The Committee is requesting that the Council approve and support the campaign. **It was M/S/C (Ayers/O'Brien)** approve and support the campaign.

Bob Bittner asked if there is anticipated that there will be money available through federal government. Terry noted that there is a possibility of additional funding that would be subject to WIA regulation. It is anticipated that the money would not allow us to run typical summer program. The new legislation combined the summer programs into the year round program with no additional funding. It will be the charge of committee to find additional means. Current legislation ends June 30 and new WIA will begin 7/1. It is planned that a program will be up by late summer. It is anticipated that this will have a big impact on entire community as well as the youth who depend on the income.

Mary Jane Hawks inquired if there is any money available. Terry explained that if we enroll kids before end of program year and kids would have to be attached to a program. It was noted that if we are able leverage non-WIA money, we have more flexibility to place kids. Terry explained that if we are able to get emergency funding we will still be under WIA regulations. Andrea noted that we are working hard to keep current on information.

Terry stressed the importance of involvement of city chambers, other community resources. We should not only focus on employment for youth, but all encompassing youth development.

## **2. Program Design**

Kathy Hassett explained what the purpose of the Design Committee is and purpose is request approval for the Program Design Sub-Committee to ask the WIB to grant authority to the Youth Council to approve the scope of work on program design. **It was M/S/C (O'Brien/Cavozos)**

Troy Fox gave a presentation on the youth development model/movement. He shared concepts of model and explained how that relates to the plan. It is thought that we need to build the model into the process in order to best utilize the money available. The model focuses on the entire assets and challenges and utilizing all resources of available to youth. It was noted that basic needs (nutrition, health, and shelter) have to be met first before anything else can be addressed. It is felt that the concept of youth develop model be part of program design. It is being recommended that any agency that provide services utilize the model and that there be much collaboration. Troy noted that will keep the Council updated as

information is available. Additionally, Terry provide handout on required program elements.

**B. Mentor Program**

Barbara Ayers provided handouts on programs available through Dos Palos. She noted that the funding was in jeopardy of cuts until program brought back to life. The goals of each of the programs are to increase academics, although she noted that it is not only academics. Trends show that once the families become involved there are many other areas affected. There was discussion of tools used to assess kids. The programs began with having the teachers and parents refer the kids. Additionally, they look at identifying kids with attendance or academic issues, as well as poverty. Volunteers are sent for fingerprinting and TB test. The oldest mentor 85 and youngest is a freshmen in high school. The pretty much work one-on-one with the student for one hour and the next hour they include the parents. It is anticipated they will be providing some summer activities for kids in Dos Palos. They have weekly meetings with parents. Currently there are 36 mentors and about 50+ kids on program. There are some on lists. The program is designed to work with the teacher, parent, mentor, child to develop plan. The average is 1 mentor to 1 student, however, some mentors have 2 students.

**IV. Public Comments: Ideas For Program Design**

Shelia Choyce from Valley Community School, K-12. She gave an overview of programs offered. It is requested that the committee work on targeted population of youth. Officer Parker provided a description of programs for kids who are on confinement, alternative education, on electronic monitoring. This includes RAFT, and planned parenthood. Kathy noted that H.S.A. working with other agencies. Terry ask if the healthy start assessment routine and how can this tie into family assessment. It was noted that they are working on third set of survey numbers. So far the main areas of concern identified has been transportation, child care, and employment. It was mentioned that coordination of family assessments is necessary as not to duplicate efforts and create a more seamless system. There was discussion on one of the trainings available at Valley High. The training is called "Character Counts." In this program they work on self-esteem and principles of character, basic coping skills, etc.

Jim Newberry from MCOE spoke about the special education program county-wide. He described the wide range of disabilities that the program works with. He noted the "workability" of the program. These programs are available to high school to junior high school students. The questioned was asked, did "mentally ill" included, ADD and ADHD. He clarified that ADD and ADHD are a classification under mentally ill and these kids are eligible for services under this program.

Charlie Lambert from the Carpenters Union spoke about training centers and pre-apprenticeship and the construction programs that they are involved with. They have a four-year training course available to assist troubled kids. They are working with PG&E and the telephone company who are providing vehicles for transportation to clients. Additionally, he noted that they are currently working with PITD to set up a pre-apprenticeship program in Merced. It is the plan to do recruitment in Merced. He noted that there are strict guidelines for the program. The apprenticeship program requires a GED or diploma for the four-year program. The minimum age requirement is 17 yrs old. It is anticipated the program in Merced is to begin before July. There was a question asked about the responsibility of cost? Mr. Lambert noted that the general population will be responsible for tool kit, jeans, and work boots.

**V. Training For Youth Committee**

**A. Retreat Format: Mission statement and goals for Youth Development System**

Vice Chair Mayra Vega asked the Council what type of training they felt would be beneficial. Kathy Hassett noted that it has been educational to learn of other resources in the available in the community. There was discussion on bringing in an outside facilitator to assist in establishing a mission. It was also recommended that each member of the Council get a copy of "Youth Can Work." This is a guide that can be used under WIA in developing Youth programs. Additionally, once the group had an opportunity to review this document, it is recommended that the group develop a "speakers bureau" so that members can become ambassadors of the Council. Some of the members expressed the desire to obtain training to define the role of the Youth Council versus the role of the WIB. In summary, the preferred training for the group was to have a short term retreat after reviewing the guide, as well as outreach training.

**VI. Agenda setting**

Henry Idlefonzo ask for input for a Youth Summit to be held May 19.

Next meeting 4/14 9:00-11:00

Congratulations to Mayra Vega on her job as Vice-Chair for the Youth Council as well as her new job at Valley High, with MCOE