

Worknet Leadership Team
Merced County Office of Education-Newbold Room
632 W. 13th Street, Merced, CA
Tuesday, January 12, 2010, 1:00-2:30 p.m.
Meeting Minutes



www.co.merced.ca.us/wi/wlt/wlt.html
www.co.merced.ca.us/wi/worknet/worknet.html

Members Present: Debbie Glass, Heidi Hall (Co-Chair), Joanne Presnell, Kurt Silva (Co-Chair), Dawn Yesitis, Chris Vitelli

Members Absent: Lori Gomes, Christine Kuline, Terry Nichols, Alfonse Peterson

Others Present: Michelle Allison, Autumn Gardia (Merced College), Jessica Garibay, Peggy Macias (HSA), Mary Mendoza (EDD), Eve Snelling, Yong Xiong (HSA)

1. **Call to Order:** Ms. Heidi Hall, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. A sign-in sheet was used in lieu of roll call.
2. **Approve Minutes:** Ms. Hall asked for approval of the last minutes. It was *M/S/C Presnell/Glass* to approve the December 8, 2009 minutes as published.
3. **Building Partnerships:**
 - a. **Partner Presentation - "C4 Yourself Services":** Ms. Yong Xiong and Ms. Peggy Macias, from the Human Services Agency (HSA), provided a presentation on the C4 Yourself website (www.c4yourself.com). "C4" is the automated system used by Merced County to establish eligibility for public assistance (Food Stamps, Cash Aid, and/or Medi-Cal). The C4 Yourself website provides a means to apply for assistance/benefits to anyone with internet access. There is an interactive map on the website that provides information as to what counties are currently using the C4 Yourself Website, which counties will be using the website in the future, and which counties are not using the website. The website also provides the ability for the client to check their EBT (food stamps) balance. Also, communication between the HSA worker and their clients is facilitated in the ability to send and receive messages to each other through the website. However, clients are still being seen in person to verify information provided through the website. Plans are being made to purchase C4 Yourself kiosks to be placed around the community for easy access.
 - b. **Strategic Plan:** Each member was provided with a copy of the Strategic Plan. Ms. Hall noted the order in which each goal would be tackled: first, goal #2; second, goal #4; third, goal #3; fourth, goal #1; and last, goal #5. There was no objection to this order from any of the members. Goal #2 is to increase the number of partners and their engagement in daily one-stop business. The objectives of goal #2 are to conduct a focus group meeting to determine reasons for nonparticipation and to use the focus group results to determine needs and requirements of partners to increase participation. There was concern that a focus group of potential stakeholders may not get the intended results. Other methods of increasing stakeholder/partner participation were discussed such as, phone calls or visits from WLT members to promote the advantages of being part of the WLT. Another idea was to poll current WLT members to determine their needs and the benefits of WLT participation and use as outreach to potential members. There was a discussion about additional possible stakeholders. Ms. Presnell noted it is necessary to have contact information for these possible

stakeholders. Members are to acquire contact information for possible partners and provide them to Ms. Presnell or Ms. Jessica Garibay by January 20, 2010. There will be further discussion about the best method to accomplish this goal at the next meeting.

c. **Worknet Partner Meeting:** January 26, 2010, 10:30 a.m., Worknet, 1200 16th Street, Merced

4. Customer Focus:

a. **Customer Service Highlights:** The Customer Service Report for November 2009 was unavailable. Ms. Michelle Allison will provide the report at next month's meeting.

b. **VITA Program:** Ms. Hall noted HSA will be providing tax filing assistance free of cost to low income families. The program is scheduled to start February 8, 2010 at the Human Services Agency.

c. **Success Stories:** Ms. Allison and Ms. Eve Snelling noted a student from Germany was having a hard time finding a job, had no transportation and no place to live. She had a part-time job, but it was very minimal. She came to Worknet, completed her orientation and assessments and met with a career counselor. Her career counselor helped her acquire a job as a financial loan processor at a bank and is earning about \$17-\$18 per hour. She is thrilled and has even bought a car.

Ms. Mary Mendoza noted there will be a resource fair at the Employment Development Department. The jobs offered will be as outreach workers for field offices limited to a 1-year term and targeted to recently released Veterans (Veterans released within the last three years). The Modesto cluster, which consists of Merced, Turlock, and Modesto, will be hiring 9 individuals. The public can check on the EDD website for availability and in the meantime take the online assessment. The jobs will be posted on CalJobs once they have been posted on the EDD website.

Ms. Dawn Yesitis noted in April/May of last year, with ARRA funds, the Merced County Community Action Partnership (MCCAP) hired about 14 individuals whose wages started at \$9.67 per hour. Now, they are currently being paid \$13.98 per hour and they also have medical benefits. They have even had the opportunity to move to better living areas. These are considered huge personal successes for these individuals. MCCAP will be hiring 6 additional individuals.

Ms. Hall noted HSA has two programs coming up. The first is an agreement with Merced County Library. HSA will have the opportunity to send clients to the Library for their "Read to Succeed" program which provides literacy services. The first referrals will be sent in February. Second, some stimulus funds have become available to have paid work experience. It will go before the Board next month to be approved. Once approved, HSA will have the ability to pay some clients that are currently on work experience.

Mr. Chris Vitelli noted a single mom that was enrolled in the Computers and Business program through Merced College had been out of the workforce for about 11 years. She finished the program quickly and started searching for a job. After about a year and a half she interviewed at McLane and was offered a job. Mr. Vitelli also invited members to join the celebration for 10 years of the Customer Service Academy. The celebration will be held on Thursday, January 14, 2010 at 5 p.m.

d. **Elevate America update:** Ms. Allison noted Microsoft will be providing 2250 vouchers to Merced County. The vouchers will be available for use as soon as the Governor gives the word. Ms. Robin

Redwine will be the contact person for this program. The vouchers have to be distributed to the community within 90 days after they are announced and they must be activated within those 90 days. Any individual who is interested is eligible. Individuals do not have to meet WIA eligibility requirements.

6. **Next Scheduled Meeting – Date/Time of Meeting:** February 9, 2009, 1:00-2:30 p.m., Merced County Office of Education, Newbold Room, 632 W. 13th Street Merced.
7. **Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.