

**ACTION MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE SANTA ANA WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
YOUTH COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING
SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA**

September 18, 2008

CALL TO ORDER

SANTA ANA WORK CENTER
1000 E. SANTA ANA BLVD., SUITE 220
SANTA ANA, CA 92701
5:40 P.M.

ROLL CALL

COMMITTEE MEMBERS Present: ANA JIMENEZ-HAMI
(Acting Chair), SANDY BARBA, BARBARA COOPER,
SERGIO DIAZ, DAVID DOBOS, YVONNE ELIZONDO
AND JORGE MARTINEZ.(7)

Absent:

CHERYL ALEXANDER; SANDY ANNINO; RUSS BAUER ,
ROB CLAUDIO, SHAWNA SMITH , AND PRISCILLA
ZUNIGA (6)

STAFF Present:

FRANCES CADENAS, WIB Administration
MARIA LEGER, Recording Secretary

GUESTS Present:

RICARDO QUEZADA, SAUSD
ANTHONY SERRANO, OCYC
ALEX SERNA, SANTA ANA COLLEGE YOUTH
SALVADOR AVILA, YOUTH
IRENE BRIGGS, SSA
DAVID SALDAÑA, TALLER SAN JOSE
OMAR COVA, KIDWORKS
CHERYL EBERLY, SA LIBRARY
ELIZABETH FLORES, KIDWORKS YOUTH
MAYOLA MIRANDA, SSA/CFS
PATRICIA ELIZARRARAZ, SSA/CFS
PATICIA CARTER, SAUSD
HECTOR ZARAGOSA, OCCTAC
DEANNA JOHNSTON, O.W.C.F.
OLGA MARTINEZ, OCCC
ADRI-ANNE RALPH, RYTMO
JUDY CHEN-LEE, SAWC
MARIA HERRERA, PROVIDENCE COMMUNITY
MICHELLE BUSSING, ACCESS
LAURA MORFIN, EPIC
AVA STEAFFENS, EPIC

ALBERT GARCIA, EPIC
ANDY WADHERA, SANTA ANA WIB MEMBER
MICHELLE LEON, YOUTH COMMISSION
DAISY PEREZ, YOUTH COMMISSION
WENDY ESPINOZA, YOUTH

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion: Approve staff recommendations on the following Consent Calendar items (Item 1 and 2):

MOTION:	Barba	SECOND:	Diaz
VOTE:	AYES:	Barba, Cooper, Diaz, Dobos, Elizondo, Jimenez-Hami, and Martinez (7)	
	NOES:	None (0)	
	ABSTAIN:	None (0)	
	ABSENT:	Alexander, Annino, Bauer, Claudio, Smith, and Zuniga (6)	

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. MINUTES

Motion: Approve Minutes

Regular Meeting of August 21, 2008

MISCELLANEOUS ADMINISTRATION

2. ABSENCES

Motion: Excuse the absence of following members from the regular meeting of August 21, 2008: Cheryl Alexander, Sandy Annino, Russ Bauer, Rob Claudio, Shawna Smith and Priscilla Zuniga (6)

***** END OF CONSENT CALENDAR *****

PRESENTATIONS (TAKEN OUT OF ORDER)

The idea behind today's meeting was to bring youth leaders together to give the Youth Council an update on being a youth in Santa Ana today. The panel consisted of six youth and one moderator.

Jorge Martinez, Youth Council Member - Moderator
Elisabeth Flores , Community Leaders of Santa Ana – panel

Alex Serna, Santa Ana College, Associated Student Government – panel
Salvador Avila, National Honor Society – panel
Wendy Espinosa, Santa Ana Library Youth Advisor Board - panel
Sergio Diaz, Santa Ana Youth Council - panel
Michelle Leon – Youth Commission - panel

Question 1

How would you describe Santa Ana to a stranger?

Elisabeth Flores – Santa Ana is not just a Hispanic City. There are all types of people in Santa Ana and not everyone is in a gang or bad.

Alex Serna – Agrees that in general people have a poor perception of Santa Ana. There is so much potential at Santa Ana College and the surrounding community. There needs to be more dialogue and more assertiveness about Santa Ana.

Salvador Avila – Many people see Hispanics as not hard working, but we are the workforce. He feels Santa Ana is the center of Orange County. Everyone needs to gather together and make Santa Ana a better place.

Wendy Espinosa – I think that Santa Ana has a lot of negativity attached to it, cause of all the minorities and all the statistics as well. It's a good place to live, not the safest place and not the wealthiest but a lot of people care about you and it's a not a bad place. The schools aren't amazing and there is always room for improvement.

Sergio Diaz – It's a good place to be around. There are bad and good everywhere. You need to get involved in good stuff and accomplish it. I have lived here my whole life and that keeps me going.

Michelle Leon – I think that as a City, Santa Ana is well rounded. The problem isn't the students as the teachers believe or the city that we are in. The youth aren't willing to make something of them because everyone has a negative perception of them. I think we need to push youth further on and show them there are a lot of opportunities out there for them. Youth just need to be conscious and realize their talents within and that is the key to improving Santa Ana.

Question 2

What are the three most important issues or challenges facing youth today?

Elisabeth Flores - 1. Gangs, 2. Education, 3. Economy

Alex Serna – 1. Perception of Santa Ana, 2. Education. 3. High propensity of undocumented students.

Salvador Avila – 1. Economy, 2. Education 3. Gangs

Wendy Espinosa – 1. Economy, 2. School System, 3. The negativity among schools, peer pressure and bullying. The schools have little expectation of youth.

Sergio Diaz – 1. Gangs, 2. Drugs and peer pressure and fighting. 3. Economy

Michelle Leon – 1. Students aren't aware of the opportunities out there for them. 2. Education System has to improve. 3. Economy

Question 3

Why did you decide to get involved with your council, commission or advisory board?

Elisabeth Flores – Because I wanted to do more than go to school. I wanted to be a part of something after school. I kept going and I liked it. The Community Leaders of Santa Ana turned out to be a good leadership program. Being involved is much better than just sitting at home and doing nothing. It feels good to be recognized for doing things for the community.

Alex Serna – I actually got involved with two organizations at Santa Ana College, the UC Breakfast Club and the Associated Student Government. The UC Breakfast Club helps motivate students to attend UC's. I became president of this club to give back to other students and show them that going to an university is accessible. I also became involved with Associated Student Government as a corporate commissioner. We hold events between local businesses and youth on campus to have students and community share ideas.

Sal Avila – I want to be involved in this Youth Council. Not a lot of people are involved in leadership or do they take part in their community. I live by a quote, which is you have feet I suggest you get up and use them. If you want a good community you need to get involved and make it a good one.

Wendy Espinoza – First I started as a volunteer about two years ago. I was chosen to be the representative here today and it is a great program.

Sergio Diaz – Because I had problems in my family, with my parents. I got involved to stay out of gangs. Tony helped me become part of this council, to become someone.

Michelle Leon – I started out in Youth in Local Government. Mr. Lara invited me to take part in the Youth Commission. I am interested in pursuing a career in political science. I joined to learn the basics of government which starts with City Government. I like the idea of the youth being heard.

Audience participation.

Patricia Carter asked the panel if they have any suggestions for improving the schools.

Michelle Leon suggested that more schools go "green" and bring in money to schools. Salvador Avila suggested that they find teachers that are passionate about teaching. Alex Serna agreed with Salvador.

Daisy Perez a youth in the audience who is part of the Youth Commission shared that teenagers feel like there is no one that cares about them. Daisy became a freshman mentor at school, to try and help out at risk youth. She feels that these kids need help to see that there are people out there that care and will help.

Sandy Barba asked the panel, how youth providers should market their programs.

Alex Serna suggested that other youth spread the word.

Tony Serrano thinks that Youth Job Fairs don't really work for kids. He thinks that fun events like a boxing tournament will bring more youth out.

Wendy said that her high school is on the campus of Santa Ana College and she always sees booths with information for college kids. She thinks this would work well for youth also maybe in a different environment.

Jorge Martinez agreed that the kids have to feel wanted and that they belonged. Jorge believes that schools need more sociology classes to teach equality.

Laura Morfin the Chair of the EPIC committee asked the panel if they felt an on campus counselor would benefit anyone.

Michelle Leon didn't think that would be a good idea.

Barbara Cooper shared from experience of being a counselor that counseling will be better coming from a peer mentor.

Ana Jimenez-Hami believes that the conversation tonight should be shared with the Superintendent of SAUSD, Perhaps forming an afterschool or a before school program to help empower youth.

Daisy Perez said that youth would not go to a counselor at school. Most kids will be ostracized if they tell on a "gang member" to an adult.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Taller San Jose – David Saldaña reported. The annual fundraiser "Light up a Life" event will be held Saturday night in San Juan Capistrano. This is the major fundraiser for Taller San Jose. Tickets can be purchase by contacting David. On Saturday, September 27th at 1:30 p.m. there will be a groundbreaking ceremony in the Logan neighborhood. Taller San Jose students and graduates will be building three houses for low to moderate income families. The homes will be sold by a lottery system when complete. If interested in this project, please email David.
- b. S.A. Occupational Skills Training – No report

- c. Success Bound – Ricardo Quezada reported. Staff is currently working on recruitment. There are 14 packets that are complete. Students will be TABE tested soon. Staff is also assisting youth by collecting transcripts for college applications. SAUSD has referred quite a few students to the Youth Help Desk.
- d. Orangewood Children’s Foundation – Deanna Johnston reported. There will be a Career and Hiring Fair on Saturday from 9 to 1 p.m. at Santa Ana College. The fair targets foster and emancipated youth, however, all youth are welcome to attend. Currently staff is working with nine new youth and they are all in different stages of the eligibility paperwork process.
- e. Project RYTMO – Adri-Anne Ralph reported. Currently staff is concentrating on recruitment. Please send us any youth that are interested in music. We have two major events this Saturday, one is at Centennial Park and the other at Jack’s Market. Our students will be performing at both events.
- f. O.C. Children’s Therapeutic Arts Center – Dr. Jimenez-Hami reported. The center continues to provide WIA youth with services such as tutoring, work experience activities, career counseling and job search. One of our youth who came in as a dropout, recently registered for Orange Coast College. Currently staff is coordinating with partnering agencies in order to meet our enrollment goals. Staff had a great meeting with Santa Ana USD Transition program. The students referred to the center are doing wonderfully.
- g. Orange County Youth Commission – Anthony Serrano reported. On October 11th the boxing club will be hosting a Boxing Show. The event will have 20 amateur boxing matches with youth from all over Southern California participating. The streets will be closed between Garfield and Fourth. Anthony is looking for agencies to set up informational booth. If you choose to set up a booth it’s free, however, you will have to provide your own table and chairs. Set up time is 9:00 a.m. Please get in touch with Anthony or Cindy for more information.
- h. Orange County Department of Education – Michelle Buessing reported. The OCDE is a new WIA provider. OCDE operates alternative schools in OC. The WIA project will Santa Ana youth in alternative schools. Currently staff is being trained and starting enrollments. We are excited to be a part of this whole process.
- i. Santa Ana W/O/R/K Center – Sandy Barba reported. Sandy passed out a copy of the WIA application and the pre-application that is used to begin registration into our WIA programs. Sandy also distributed an enrollment summary for 08/09 and 07/08. Sandy gave the youth in the room a brief description of what the W/O/R/K Center does for youth

and how we work with all the partners. The Navigator will be providing a training session on MIS paperwork for the youth providers on September 23rd from 2 to 4 p.m. There will also be a common measures training session on October 15th from 9 to 4 p.m. Dr. Jimenez-Hami asked for a summary of outcomes of last year's clients to share with the Workforce Investment Board. Dr. Jimenez-Hami also asked the agencies involved with the Youth Service Provider Network to make an attempt to attend the Workforce Investment Board meeting and share youth success stories and issues.

COMMENTS

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS –Daisy Perez shared that she had never heard about the Youth Council. She also said that she was not aware of most of the programs available through the YSPN.
7. STAFF MEMBER COMMENTS – None
8. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS - Dr. Jimenez-Hami asked that more youth success stories be given to the WIB. She would also like to see an article on the Santa Ana Youth Council in the CityLine.

ADJOURNMENT – 7:45p.m.

Maria Leger
Recording Secretary

Next Meeting: October 16th at 5:30 p.m.