

Ad Hoc Youth Committee Meeting 1/16/2014, 9-10am
SLO County Office of Education, Education Support Services Conference Room

1. Welcome and Introductions:

Jessica Thomas, Nicole Holst, Laurel Weir, Elise Roberts, Melissa Musgraves, Bill Watt, Jennifer Kirn, Rebecca Turner, Youth: Brandi, Morgan, Courtney

2. Review Minutes 12/19/13 (not discussed)

3. Youth input on Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

Question 2 - change to "other" for gender, agreed upon

Question 3 – youth agreed options were good

Question 4 – mental health, counseling, mentor support, Jessica asked if "counselor" should be added, Youth answered yes, Morgan added dentists were needed and transportation to dentist, hygiene as well, Brandi added that you need a parent to take you to appointments, which made it difficult. Jenn Kirn added that youth thought Question 4 only related to 4 year schools and should include Cuesta, Allan Hancock etc. Laurel Weir suggested also adding trade and vocational schools. Jenn Kirn stated that the "Q" was taken out of "LGBTQ" to make it shorter and less confusing. Laurel Weir explained that the "Q" is for queer and may include those who are unsure of their sexuality. Courtney added that there are several things lumped together in that checkbox and people who check it don't really need to specify which group they are in. Brandi stated that her gay friend who is 20 did not know what LGBT meant. Jessica Thomas said we could spell it out. Bill Watt said that assistance with acquiring an ID and birth certificate may be a good checkbox to add. Melissa Musgraves said that most youth need help with getting these forms of ID to get driver's license and permits, etc. Courtney suggested adding a box for getting help with driver's licenses and permits. Morgan suggested a separate checkbox for doctors and dentists. Courtney said it is hard to see specialists because they are often far away. Morgan brought up adding help with independent housing or help with Section 8 application or a counselor who can help with applications for appropriate housing. Jessica Thomas suggested adding it to Question 12. Courtney brought up friends who have kids themselves, she suggested adding childcare. Jessica Thomas suggested adding this to the adult form. Melissa Musgraves said there is a lot of help out there for teens with children. Brandi asked about homeless teens who are pregnant. Melissa Musgraves and Elise Roberts suggested adding a line about help for "services for pregnant or parenting teens (mom or dad), including childcare and parenting classes". Elise Roberts said WIC covers these things such as diapers that food stamps doesn't. TAP for under 18 and CalWorks for over 18.

Question 6 - Courtney said she agrees with it. Brandi said you can't go to the Food Bank in Morro Bay if you are not 18 and you need paperwork. Courtney said there was never enough food and that she would steal food to survive and would bum money to buy food. Brandi also said she couldn't get food stamps because her dad was getting it and she was included but she wasn't receiving food because she had runaway. Jenn Kirn announced that there are food bags available through the One Stops and 5CHC. Melissa Musgraves said you can get food through

schools and do not need documentation, and you do have to be 18 though. She said there is a lot of stigma that you will get in trouble for taking food but it is not true and they have food available all day.

Question 7 – Courtney said she liked the line “no place to store or cook food” because they did not have a place to cook or store food before it went bad. Melissa Musgraves said they try to have food available at the schools that was not frozen or hard to store. Courtney said getting the word out will help and spreading awareness. Brandi suggested adding a resource card the the survey so that we can spread awareness of services available. Courtney suggested adding help getting a library card because it was embarrassing to go to school and not be able to use a computer for homework. Melissa Musgraves said they provide flashdrives where you can keep all your homework and they have resources on them. Jessica Thomas passed out resource cards and the youth agreed they were useful.

Question 8 – Jennifer Kirn said it was recommended to add an “other” box.

Question 10 – Courtney said that she heard a lot about services from judges, probation officers and law enforcement. Melissa Musgraves suggested adding “homeless liason” to the line “teachers, school counselor, or someone else at school”.

Question 11 – Jenn Kirn took about “because I’m afraid they will call my parents” and “afraid they’ll call DSS” and because I’m afraid they’ll send me home” for the adult survey.

Jessica Thomas suggested changing the time on the front of the survey since 20 minutes seems long. Brandi and Morgan suggested 10-15 mins. Jenn Kirn said most people skipped the front and didn’t read it and suggested taking the time off all together. Jessica Thomas agreed.

Question 13 – Jenn Kirn suggested adding Social Security card help, they also took out the language “because you don’t have a parent or guardian”.

Question 15 – Jenn Kirn said they added “if so where”. Jessica Thomas suggested adding for the youth as well to give a better idea of where they congregate. Melissa Musgraves said through Survey Monkey they can add email addresses at end optionally in order to seek help for accessing these services. Brandi and Courtney suggested adding a statement to the survey that says they will not be reported to jail for reporting anything on the form. Jenn Kirn said that we could add “confidential assistance can be provided”.

Jenn Kirn suggested adding a Question 17 to the adult survey about “if you would like assistance please share contact information here”.

Question 18 – add “CA exit placement exam”

Bill Watt asked about adding an income question. Melissa Musgraves said that would be helpful only to identify their current situation.

4. Review contacts for conducting surveys

Jenn Kirn suggested the Family Resource Center. Bill Watt said he would give out at ECHO. Melissa Musgraves said she could have the students at PB fill them out in the library one day. Jessica Thomas asked where the incentives for gift cards should be for. Youth answered Subway, Starbucks, and Jenn Kirn answered “Jack in the Box” which is open 24 hrs. Rebecca Turner found someone to sponsor 50 giftcards. Brandi suggested VISA gift cards. Jenn Kirn suggested raising public awareness of the survey through marketing and advertizing.