

**CSGP REGIONAL MEETING  
YOLO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION  
MARCH 10, 2005  
10:00 am – 1:00 pm**

**PRESENT:** John Roina, Panna Putnam, Cami Farnham, Leslie Smith, Frank Kennedy, Jessica Larsen, Bina Lefkovitz, Andre Sims, Ronda Adams, Tania Garcia-Cadena, Rick Larkey, Pete Smith

**WELCOME:**

Reminder that the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarterly report is due to the state March 18<sup>th</sup> and that individual site reports should be turned in today. Final quarterly report due to state June 30<sup>th</sup>. John recommended that partners may want to start thinking about when you want to stop collecting data, in order to get information compiled and turned in for final report. Yolo County is thinking about stopping data collection on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

YCOE has not fully received the funding due to inaccurate data on quarterly reports. YCOE has been in touch with the state and money is being processed.

CSGP statewide meeting is next week in Long Beach. John and Panna will be attending, so if you have things you want us to share at the state meeting, please let us know. Artifacts to share are great.

Jacie Ragland is visiting PCOE and SCOE on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

YCOE is working on a Community Service Guide (sample passed around). This is a draft, but can give you a rough idea if you'd like to set one up for your county. We want to get a final copy out in time for summer.

Panna reminded everybody that the CSGP grant is coming to an end in June. The final meeting is in June. We'd like to do a celebration with students. Let's think about something different for the last and final CSGP meeting. SCOE offered to host the final meeting.

Portfolio workshop handout passed around...

**PRESENTATION:** Andre Sims (PCOE) introduced a student, Megan who gave a brief introduction to the video tape made by students. Video was designed as instructions on how to do a job interview.

*Description of video:*

*Students speaking had posters made listing key points (1) 5 public speaking skills, (2) Goals, (3) Pros and Cons. Two speakers acted out "bad interview" and "good interview".*

Megan spoke about the process of making the video. She gained public speaking skills and enjoyed the program. She learned the program in Monterey and gave the presentation a few months later at her school. Panna asked what else she was trained on at Monterey. Megan's response was speaking skills, confidence, interaction skills, etc. Megan thanked us for the opportunity to attend.

Frank Kennedy asked if they'd be able to get a copy of the video. Andre said yes they will. He's in the process of working with students to edit the videos and make copies for everybody.

One of the students spoke about a project he's working on. He'll be videotaped break-dancing (something he loves). He'll edit video with voice-overs, and he'll be videotaped reading to students.

They are using a radio station in Auburn to raise awareness about the community service projects they're working on.

Frank Kennedy asked about the grant that provided equipment for making videos. He would be interested in using videos, because he saw so much more interaction and positive response and participation because it was being taught by a peer rather than an adult.

*Questions for students:*

Panna asked what did you like best in this program? Student answered, "Giving back to the community. I worked with the elderly in a convalescent home, and really enjoyed it."

John asked did you have a preconception of the program? Student answered, "Yes, I was a little scared of them (elderly in convalescent hospital) in the beginning, but found that I really liked them. They made me feel good. They told me about their past. We adopted grandparents and read to them and talked to them."

John asked what other community service did you do? Megan answered, "Worked in a children's hospital and read and played games with terminally ill children. I got a lot out of it. It was heartbreaking sometimes and a real reality check for me, but I really enjoyed it. I actually thought about becoming a nurse and working with children later."

Another student had to do community service downtown cleaning up around the county jail. "Working around the jail straightened me up. I don't want to go there." And he added that he felt better cleaning up the area. It made him proud. His community service was court ordered. He's in a group home right now.

Another student added that she worked with orphan kids at Christmas time. Her community service was more a volunteer program.

## **PARTNER REPORTS:**

**YOLO** – Tania reported that Yolo has mainly been serving suspended students. We've been placing kids mainly from Davis. We are starting in the last few weeks to get some students from West Sacramento. They've been helping with coat drive, food drive, angel tree, etc. Mostly one-time events. Students have been working with Chamber of Commerce, helping to set up for different events. Anibal is doing a mural project with community day school. When this is complete, he'll be working with midtown students as well.

Frank Kennedy asked if community service is mandatory in working with suspended students. Tania answered that if a student gets suspended they are assigned so much time in community service. If they do not serve that time, it is reported to the principal who then assigns more time of community service. Tania and Jessica added that a high percentage of success rate in getting these students to complete community service is due to parents involvement. Frank said they've (SCOE) had problems with success in this in the South Sacramento area. Tania estimated that they've served 25-30 students/month.

Frank noted that their problem is if you give them the option of staying home for 5 days or working community service for 2 days, they opt to stay home. The hearing officers were in full support, but the vice principals are overwhelmed with suspensions and having a difficult time finding a way to force it. Lack of parent involvement is a huge factor as well.

Leslie Smith responded that they've had a pretty high success rate, also due to parent support. Also, many of their students are due to substance abuse.

Bina suggested that some of the high schools may have a healthy start coordinator who may be a good support person to encourage program. Frank just reinforced that without being able to force it, they really have no control in the situation.

Bina suggested that maybe if they had a successful student who's been in the program before giving testimony might encourage some of these students.

**PLACER** – Andre Sims representing Ken Lake, who is not present, handed out their community service guide. Students have been working on community history video tapes. Andre brought 4 students with him to give presentation. People are starting to request some of the tapes that students have made.

Frank Kennedy asked if students working on project (videotape) are all under the grant. Andre answered that they are all under the CSGP grant. They are starting a new project with the Placer County Nature Preserve. Students are being trained at the site to work with other students.

Placer Area Reading Council – they’ve been asked to donate books. Kids in juvenile hall will be videotaped reading the books. They are hoping to have it grow into a creative writing class and pen-pal program.

They have several students learning to ride unicycles. This has been quite challenging. During Easter break there will be a camp and these students will be mentoring younger students and teaching them the skills to ride unicycles.

Students attended a summit at Sierra College during December. Stress management was a big workshop attended.

**NEVADA** – Leslie Smith reported that their program is working quite well. We just got a new group at community day school in Grass Valley. They started working with Empire Mine State Park, doing a restoration program. The students seemed to really enjoy it. It involved a lot of “hands on” type work, working with shovels, working in mines. Senior volunteers working in state parks are trying to coordinate with these students to work together. Another community day school is working on city parks with tree planting and more restoration. These parks are in their own backyard. They are hoping the students will take ownership and pride in the area and work.

A bike shop has been established at jr. high school campus and community day school. Students are working on bikes, restoring them, then they are donated to needy. The man that heads up this program is a school counselor, so it gives him the opportunity to work with these student and learn more about their current situations.

**SACRAMENTO** – Frank Kennedy reported that they are trying to start working with group of kids being transitioned from juvenile hall to Warren E. Youth Center. They are working with teachers, counselors, and SCOE to get these kids into community service. Del Paso Heights area has suspended kids with multiple issues. Right now there is approximately 190 students. They are hoping to set up a program to engage at least 150 of them. To date there has not been any community service requirement. They are trying to establish that.

Anna reported that April 16<sup>th</sup> is National Youth Service Day. They are trying to get students out that day to clean up north area bike trail. They are going to make it a big event with speakers and a barbecue. It should be one of their larger events.

Smaller projects have been Martin Luther King Day luncheon. They tried to mix suspended and expelled students with regular students and volunteers. They also added some college students as mentors during this event. Adding the mentoring component really seemed to help.

Anna reported on the Caring Neighborhoods Project. They had an elderly woman that lives across from Community Center, and there have been complaints about her yard because she’s a packrat. Students (15) went there and cleaned up her yard, and seemed to

enjoy it so much that they went above and beyond volunteering to do stuff that wasn't even asked of them (i.e. fixing her fence).

They are continuing their relationship with Parks and Recreation Department. They will have involvement in CREEC week.

Panna commented that the common thread amongst reports seems to be that we are all getting into the mentoring aspect of community service.

Anna reported that the Boys and Girls Club has been great. She loves sending kids to that program because the CSGP kids get to become the mentor. One of their students has actually been hired in a paid position at the Boys and Girls Club.

### **TRANSITION PROGRAM UPDATES:**

YOLO – Jessica noted that they too are having difficulties tracking transition process. A lot of the students don't want to go back to regular schools even if they are eligible. Regular school was a negative experience for them and they don't want to go back.

John will get clarification on this next week, but it is his understanding that CSGP wants 25 students that have been expelled and how they transitioned back.

Ronda asked do those 25 students have to be transitioned back to regular school, or can it just be another school system? Do they have to be readmitted? Can they receive transition services? John responded that the transition can be them going into another school system.

The philosophy behind the “transition” was just not to drop the kids off, but to keep following these kids and keep supporting them.

Frank Kennedy asked what type of transition services are expected?

John noted yellow form “CSGP Student Transition Monitoring Form”.

Ken Larkey asked as far as the GPA on yellow form, when are we supposed to be able to get that data? Schools are closing different times.

John noted again that partners' final reports are due to YCOE June 10<sup>th</sup>. The final report to state is due June 30<sup>th</sup>. Therefore, all data will have to be collected prior to these dates.

John asked partners if their program response changed because of the types of kids that were available? Are you seeing different needs in kids than you did a year ago?

Tania noted that they are not getting referrals from referral officers.

Ken Larkey noted they are doing more with court schools while students are incarcerated.

Tania noted that they seem to be more successful with suspended students.

Frank Kennedy added that they've peeled back their expectations. The students they have for 20-30 hours are the ones that are the most successful in program.

Tania – hearing officer in West Sacramento has students on probation for vandalism only serving 17 hours, and a kid with truancy has 18 hours. Punishment doesn't seem to fit the crime.

Leslie Smith noted they are mostly working with suspended.

Panna noted that in the beginning of CSGP, they all thought suspended would be the hardest students to work with, but now most are finding them to be the easiest to work with.

John will be sending you questions needing short answers for the final report. Some examples of questions are:

*Let's talk about student voice and leadership... how is that different today?*

Jessica Larsen noted that she's currently trying to get feedback from students for transition on 25 students.

Andre it's just starting to happen. Great examples to include in the final report are the videos, the students that have been to trainings.

*What about family and community input?*

Tania Garcia-Cadena noted that they are looking for Saturday opportunities. Afterschool programs just weren't working.

Leslie Smith noted some of the community programs were skeptical of program. However, once they saw what the students can do, they are very receptive to the program.

Leslie brought up the issue of having kids go to an elderly person's home (like SCOE mentioned earlier) was this a safety issue? Frank said that him and his staff are there supervising, and they feel they have placed kids that wouldn't be a safety issue.

*What kind of growth have you seen in terms of collaboration with other agencies?*

Frank Kennedy noted working with students in projects. Once the community saw what they are capable of doing, they are more receptive to using their services.

Andre added that they had a park that wouldn't allow the kids to have any kind of group project there. Finally, once they did, they are now welcome to do all kinds of stuff there.

Leslie... #2 given real responsibilities.... John gave the example of the video we saw... go learn something and bring it back and teach. Additional responsibilities beyond what they're given.

NEVADA – Leslie Smith reaffirmed that it is hard to pull the kids back to track their transition progress. They are working on call backs.

SACRAMENTO – Frank Kennedy said that once kids transition into regular school it's very difficult to track results. They lose track with kids. The transition program is very difficult.

### **EVALUATION UPDATE:**

John referenced the pink sheet “Year Two Final Evaluation Items for Analysis”.

Panna and John will be getting back to everyone to get more information if some of this information cannot be pulled from database.

Review the self-assessment rubric. Please review and fill out, and return to us. Please look through and check where you think your program is today.

Quarterly report is due today. Quarterly Report due to state on Tuesday! Everything that is into the state to date is to their satisfaction.

John reminded everyone of the importance of using current forms posted on the web site and keeping student data current. Pre-post surveys and student reflections are supposed to be turned in quarterly. So far they have not. Also, make sure that at least 25 students are tracked for data using the CSGP Transition Monitoring Form (distributed previously and available on the web site). Data on those 25 students should be kept together in a folder.

### **TRAINING/PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES (BINA/PANNA):**

Bina is one of our CBO partners with Youth Services Providers network (YSPN).

Bina gave a brief description of their organization. It is part of LEED in Sacramento. Their focus is on “Youth development and high school development”. “Youth Development Definition”, “Youth Services Provider Network (YSPN) Proposed Calendar 2005”, and “Survey on YSPN Training Topics” handed out.

Bina noted that YSPN offers a 50 hour training around this framework.

April 13<sup>th</sup> there will be a training on this research at YCOE.

There will be a 4 day institute March 28-31<sup>st</sup> on this framework. They are offering training for free. Please let Bina know right after meeting if you are interested.

June 23<sup>rd</sup> ... There will be a workshop on doing murals. Topic: youth expression. This is a good workshop to bring students to. The workshop will be held in downtown Sacramento – Bina doesn't have exact location information with her.

Panna asked if Bina could provide some of these trainings for free since she is under contract with CSGP. June 23<sup>rd</sup> sounds like a good thing to attend. Bina noted that they should talk about what trainings they would be interested in, and see if they could set something up between now and June. Pete asked if they have any training in Sacramento? Jessica is concerned that there isn't time to train youth, then pass that on. Bina and Panna will try to come up with dates.

Bina asked that they fill out the survey on training topics.

#### **CREEC SUPPORT UPDATE (PANNA):**

Panna reported on CREEC. Deb Bruns has been working with Nevada County to start up working with the Empire State mine. Leslie added that they are working with Nevada County on CREEC week also. See CREEC handout.

#### **FINAL MEETING REPORT (JOHN/PANNA):**

Final meeting for CSGP is Thursday June 9<sup>th</sup>. YCOE is moving and will be at a new site and may not be set up to have a meeting. We thought about meeting at a restaurant, or another site, bringing students to share... make it more of a celebration. SCOE offered to have it there. That is the last week of school so student participation will be difficult.

John asked for artifacts. Pete smith said he has some. Placer gave us their Youth Resource Guide. John added that they will have to bring pre-post surveys, artifacts, etc.

Jessica brought up that one of the requirements is that we collect students' GPA and credits. Collecting data from schools is sometimes difficult so she's included a form that she's used in the past to collect data.

Lunch was served and the meeting was adjourned.