

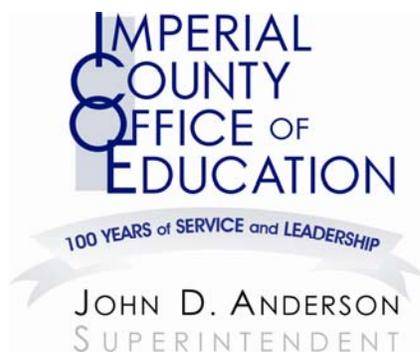


Building Bridges: Success for Youth

Interagency Youth Conference

November 6, 2008

Evaluation Report



Prepared by:

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Grants and Evaluation Office

Imperial County Office of Education

Interagency Youth Conference

Building Bridges: Success for Youth

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Evaluation Summary

Description/Background

The 12th Annual Interagency Youth Conference was held at the Imperial County Department of Social Services Cal-Works on November 6, 2008. The youth conference, hosted by the Local Coordinating Committee (LCC) and the Interagency Steering Committee (ISC), was sponsored by Imperial County Office of Education/Student Well-Being and Family Resource, Starbucks, IVROP, the Workforce Investment Board, and Strategies Training and Technical Assistance Center. For the past twelve years this annual conference has provided network opportunities for local professionals representing service and nonprofit agencies, county departments, and public education.



Mr. Paul Watson, III

The morning began with a keynote address by Paul Watson III and was followed by two series of workshop sessions, lunch, youth panel presentation, two final series of breakout sessions and the closing keynote. A new format was introduced at the youth conference this year, expanding the number of breakout sessions to twelve and allowing more diversified themes for the attendees. As in previous years, topics were chosen by the conference planning committee based on current topics and events and on conference evaluations from past Interagency Youth Conferences. A copy of the registration form which includes a list of presenters and topics, is provided at the end of this report

The conference evaluation was conducted by Imperial County Office of Education (ICOE) Grants and Evaluation Office (GEO). The evaluation design is similar to previous Interagency Youth Conferences as attendees were given keynote and conference evaluation forms in their registration packets, in addition to individual breakout session evaluation forms. Participants were asked to evaluate the keynote and the conference facilities and to provide feedback on ways to improve upcoming conferences. ICOE GEO Staff complemented written evaluations through the collection of observations



Conference Attendees

and informal interviews with participants and presenters. In addition, presenters were given an opportunity to provide feedback on the conference logistics through the use of a confidential electronic survey.

Summary of Findings – Keynote Speakers

Paul Watson III – Morning Keynote Speaker



Mr. Paul Watson, III

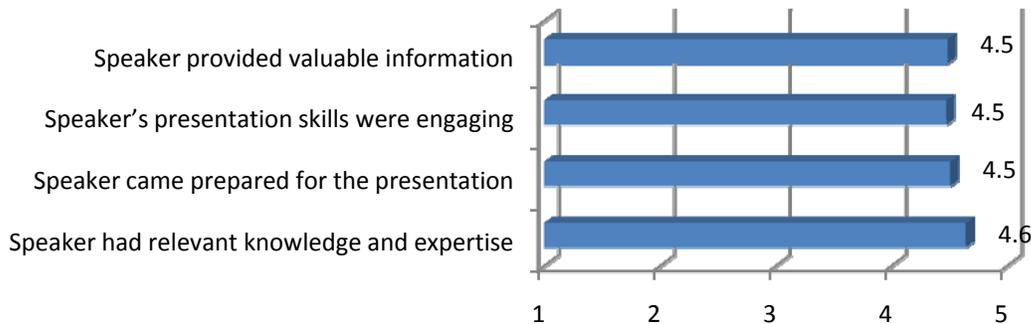
The morning keynote speaker was Paul Watson III. Mr. Watson has worked in youth development for over ten years and currently works as a consultant for Watson and Associates International. Mr. Watson provides consultation in themes ranging from abstinence and diversity to conflict resolution and community development. Mr. Watson is a believer that youth can create change through empowerment and is an advocate for youth

rights. Mr. Watson stresses that youth should be active and engaged in creating change and not be outsiders. Mr. Watson concluded his presentation with a series of videos.

Evaluation form responses (n=45) for Mr. Watson showed that attendees were overall pleased with the presentation. In a scale ranging from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 5 (Strongly Agree), evaluation respondents rated the value of the presentation, the presenter's presentation skills, his preparedness, and his knowledge and expertise on the subject. The chart below illustrates the average ratings for Mr. Watson's presentation.

2008 ISC Youth Conference - Building Bridges: Success for Youth Paul Watson III - Morning Keynote Speaker n = 45

On a Scale of 1-5, Rate the Statements (5 = Strongly Agree).



An open-ended question asked conference attendees to provide any comments and suggestions for the keynote speaker. In summary, most respondents had positive

comments for the presenter, stating that Mr. Watson had a great presentation, that he was very knowledgeable and that he had great creative ideas about how to approach youth.

Youth Panel – Afternoon Keynote Speakers



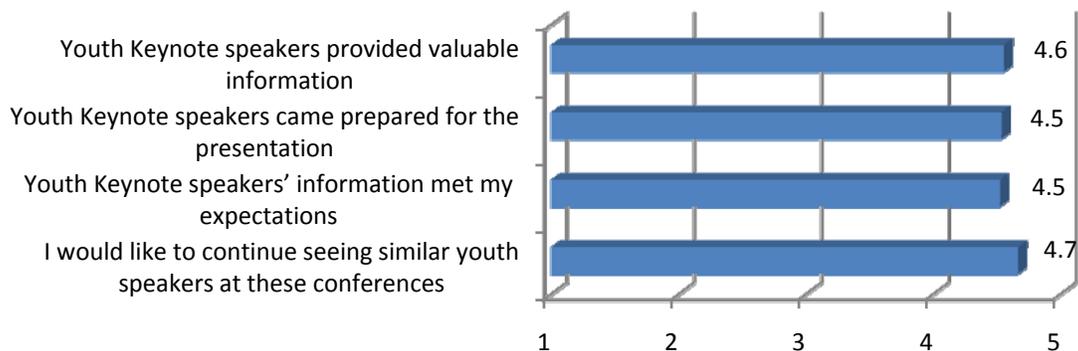
Youth Panel

In the afternoon, a youth panel composed of former and current Imperial Valley Regional Occupational Program participants shared their testimonials. The youth shared their experience in IVROP’s Project ACE (Accessing Careers through Education), talked about their experience in foster homes and their educational goals, and provided recommendations on how to improve services for at risk youth.

Forty eight (n=48) conference attendees completed the portion of the evaluation pertaining to the youth panel. As in the morning keynote evaluation, attendees were asked to rate the value of the information, the preparedness of the presenters, if the presenters had met the audience’s expectation, and whether or not they would like to continue seeing similar youth speakers at these conferences. Responses to the evaluation questions ranged from 4.5 to 4.7 indicating that the audience was pleased with the youth panel.

2008 ISC Youth Conference - Building Bridges: Success for Youth Youth Panel - Afternoon Keynote Speakers

On a Scale of 1-5, Please Rate the Following Statements:



As in previous years, the audience was pleased with the youth panel, applauding their presentations and their courage to stand and share their testimonies with the group. Participants thanked the youth panel for serving as an inspiration and as role models for today’s youth. Participants enjoyed receiving feedback from the youth as their point of view was indicative of the clients they serve. It was advised that the youth panel

presentation be extended in future conferences since the youth did not have enough time to share their personal obstacles and how they overcame them

Gabriela G. Baeza – Closing Keynote Speaker



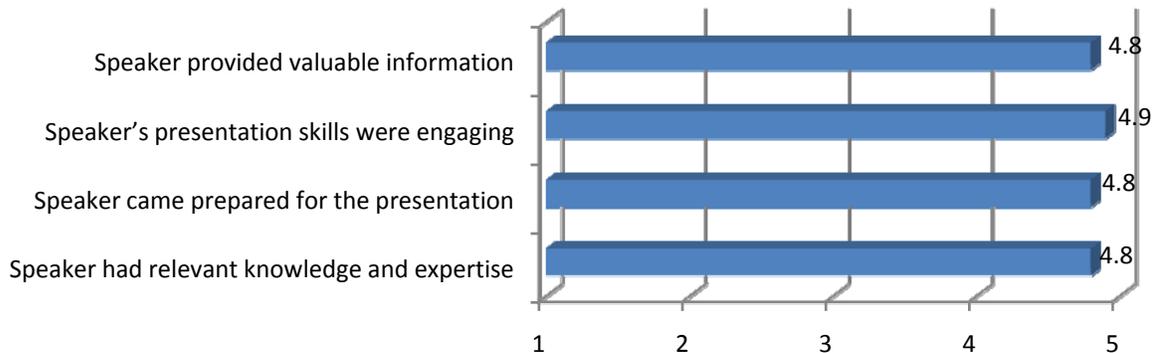
Ms. Gabriela Baeza

Ms. Gabriela Baeza was the closing keynote speaker at the 12th annual ISC Youth Conference. Ms. Gabriela Baeza has over ten years of experience in the violence prevention field and works in assisting schools with youth prevention programs, school safety, crisis response, and violence prevention strategies. Ms. Baeza talked about the risk factors facing young girls today, including teen pregnancy, gangs, alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. She concluded her presentation by providing strategies that have been successful in prevention and assistance for those who are at risk or have fallen due to one of these factors.

The chart below displays the average ratings given to Ms. Baeza’s presentation. Conference participants (n=45) gave high ratings to Ms. Baeza’s presentation as her scores ranged from 4.8 to 4.9 on a scale where 5 is the maximum. The audience responded positively to Ms. Baeza’s presentation, using the words “awesome,” “excellent,” “wonderful,” and “inspirational” when describing her presentation.

2008 ISC Youth Conference - Building Bridges: Success for Youth - Gabriela Baeza - Closing Keynote Speaker n=45

On a Scale of 1-5, Rate the Statements (5 = Strongly Agree).

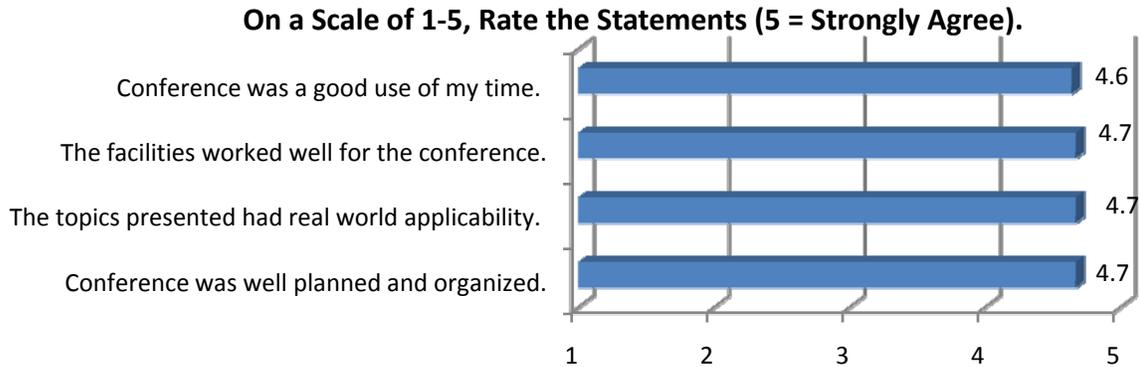


Overall Conference Evaluation Findings

The overall conference evaluation form was completed by 48 of the 100 conference participants. Similar to the keynote speaker evaluation, the overall conference evaluation was composed of six questions rating the conference planning, organization, and facilities. The following graph indicates how attendees rated the conference, with the

lowest score 4.6 for the question addressing whether or not the conference was a good use of their time. The three other statements all had an average of 4.7: the conference was well planned and organized; facilities worked well for the conference; and the conference had real world applicability.

**2008 ISC Youth Conference - Building Bridges: Success for Youth
Overall Conference Evaluation n=45**



Open comments and suggestions regarding the conference suggested that participants continue to see the Interagency Youth Conference as a great opportunity to network with local professionals and enjoy the sharing of information among colleagues. In addition,



Conference Attendees

comments were made to continue including youth as part of the panels and discussions because they value their perspective and involvement. Participants also suggested a two-day conference to allow presenters to expand on their themes and touch on solutions and techniques to address some of these issues.

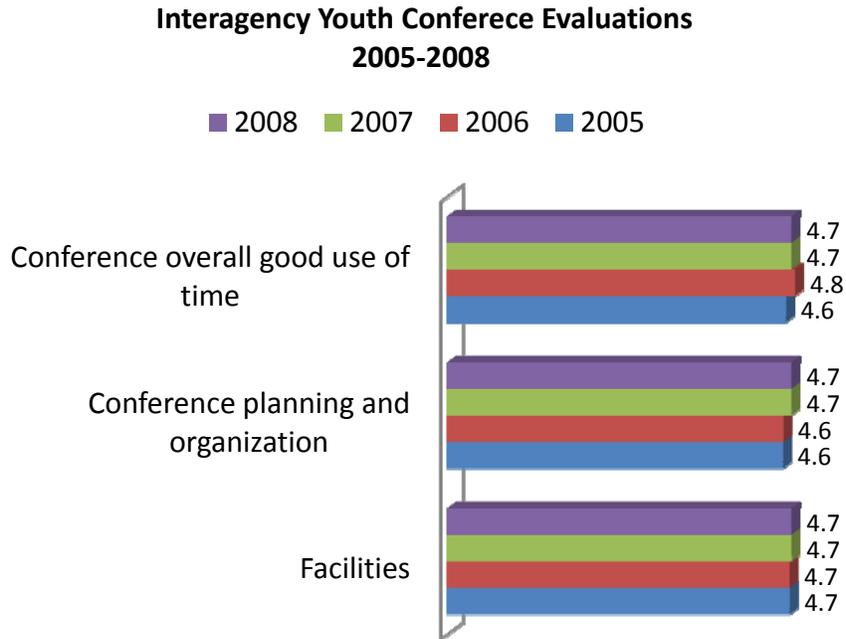
Informal interviews with conference participants were consistent with

results of the evaluation surveys in determining that overall attendees were generally pleased with the conference. Attendees stated that the sessions were very informative and inspiring and that they continue to deal with local issues and allow organizations to share best practices in the workplace.

In recommending improvement, attendees commented that, although they enjoy the research and statistics provided by the presenters, placing a higher emphasis on strategies might be beneficial to more experienced people. Feedback given also suggests that presenters should make their sessions more interactive, given the experience of many of

the participants. Additional comments were made to have a longer lunch as more time was needed in between sessions to network and take a break.

As has been the norm with past conferences, the 12th Annual Interagency Steering Committee Youth Conference received overall high satisfaction ratings. As in prior years, participants were asked if they were satisfied with the conference facilities, planning and organization and if they saw the conference as a good use of their time. The following chart shows that over the past four years the attendees continue to rate the conference highly in the five-point scale.



Conference Breakout Sessions: Evaluation Findings



Ms. Yolanda Bernal

The 12th ISC Interagency Youth Conference introduced a new format of twelve breakout sessions in blocks of three concurrent sessions. This new format replaced the nine breakout sessions, providing a broader array of topics for conference participants. Participants were handed breakout session evaluations, which were collected at the end of each session. All sessions were well attended and between 15 and 33 evaluations

were received for each. The breakdown of all topics, as well as a list of the presenters, is listed at the end of this report.

Using a 1-5 scale rating, where 1 is a strongly disagree and 5 is a strongly agree, participants were asked to respond to questions regarding each breakout session.

Additional open-ended questions asked what they believed was the most important piece of information learned and requested any additional feedback for the presenters. Overall, attendees provided supportive and constructive criticism to all presenters. An average for each of the six statements on the evaluation was calculated and the chart below shows the combined average for all workshops.

	Evaluation Forms Submitted	Session met my expectations	Interesting/informative presenters	The information will be useful	This session was interactive	I am glad I attended this session	Good Atmosphere and Setting	Overall Average
Sexual Health: Trends and Tips	25	3.7	4.1	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.8
Media/Pop Culture	33	4.6	4.8	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7
Pathways to a Bachelor's Degree	18	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.3	4.2	4.2
Youth as Parents	23	4.4	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.5	4.5	4.5
Dual Diagnosis	28	4.0	4.3	3.9	3.2	4.0	4.0	3.9
Catching Careers	21	3.9	4.0	4.2	3.7	4.0	4.0	4.0
Girls: Risk Factors, Trends....	24	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.3	4.6	4.6	4.5
Gangs or Us!	26	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.3	4.6	4.5	4.6
Parents as Partners	17	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.6	4.2	4.2	4.3
Self-Destructive Behaviors	19	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.0	4.3	4.4	4.3
Alcohol and Drug Trends	15	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.6
"My Strength"	19	4.5	4.8	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.6

Presenter's Feedback

This was the first year presenters were asked to provide feedback on ways to improve the conference. An electronic survey was sent to all presenters, asking them to rate their experience, the conference organization, and the logistics and to provide additional feedback to the planning committee. Ten out of the twelve presenters completed the survey. Once again, using the 1-5 scale where 1 is a strongly disagree and 5 is a strongly agree, here are the results of the presenters survey:

Please rate the following statements:	1-5 scale
I was given a good explanation of who my target audience would be	3.8
I was informed of the details needed to plan my material for this session	4.3
My set up needs were met (audio, visual, projector, laptop, etc)	4.5
Overall, the organization of conference and my role in it met my expectations	4.1
I felt well informed of what I needed to bring and where I needed to be for my workshop	4.2
I felt I had ample time to present my information on this topic	4.2
Having a monitor was helpful	4.4

On the open ended questions, presenters complimented Amanda Occhiuto for her availability to answer questions and her great organizational skills. Presenters were pleased with the facilities, the audio visual equipment, and the ability to interact with the

attendees. Presenters recommended extending presentation times, including forums and open discussions for certain topics, hotel accommodations for presenters, and a later starting time for the conference.

Commendations and Recommendations

Evaluation results and informal interviews align with the evaluator's observations that the 12th Annual ISC Youth Conference was a well planned and successful event. Overall, the conference continues to be successful in its coordination, planning and in aligning presentation topics to current topics.



Mr. Frank Martinez

Commendations: The following are commendations to the Interagency Youth Conference Planning Committee:

- easy and effective conference registration
- Great use of facilities
- Staff readily available to assist
- Great use of audio and visual equipment
- Refreshments, snack and meals well chosen
- Useful and practical information provided by speakers
- Continues to be a great value with modest cost in registration fees

Recommendations:

The following recommendations are offered for future Interagency Youth Conferences:

- An electronic registration system
- An abstract of the presentations to be available before conference registration
- Incentives for attendees to return their evaluation forms
- Ensure that presenters' electronic materials be submitted prior to conference
- More time allowed for lunch and breaks



**12th Annual
Interagency Youth Conference
Building Bridges: Success for Youth**



**November 6th, 2008
CalWORKS, 2895 S. 4th Street, El Centro**

Conference Schedule:

- 8:00-8:30** Registration/ Resources
- 8:30-8:45** Welcome
- 8:45-9:30** Opening Keynote: Paul Watson III
- 9:40-10:40** Workshop Series A (1, 2, or 3)
- 10:50-11:50** Workshop Series B (4, 5, or 6)
- 11:50-12:20** **LUNCH** (VEGETARIAN AVAILABLE)**
- 12:20-12:50** Youth Panel/ Presenter
- 1:00-2:00** Workshop Series C (7, 8, or 9)
- 2:15-3:15** Workshop Series D (10, 11, or 12)
- 3:15-4:00** Closing Keynote: Gabriela Baeza
- 4:15-4:30** Thank You and Closing Remarks

COST:
\$30: includes: registration, continental breakfast, and lunch
\$40: Late Registration (after Oct. 27)

SPACE IS LIMITED!

Workshop Series A: choose one

1) Sexual Health: Trends and Tips Presenter: Terrie Cejas <p align="center">FULL</p>	2) Media/Pop Culture: Positive and Negative Effects on Youth Presenter: Paul Watson III <p align="center">FULL</p>	3) Pathway to a Bachelor's Degree: IVC & SDSU/IV Presenter: Frances Beope, Aracely Bojorquez
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Workshop Series B: choose one

4) Youth as Parents: Options, Programs And Resources Presenter: Yolanda Bernal <p align="center">FULL</p>	5) Dual Diagnosis: Co-occurring Disorders Presenter: Ana Contreras <p align="center">FULL</p>	6) Catching Careers: Youth Employment & Career Technology Education Presenter: Janet Macken & Camilio Garcia
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Workshop Series C: choose one

7) Girls: Risk Factors, Trends, and Strategies Presenter: Gabriela Baeza <p align="center">FULL</p>	8) Gangs or Us! Presenter: DeAngelo Singh, Robert Robbins, Frank Martinez	9) Parents as Partners Presenter: Magdalena Benitez
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Workshop Series D: choose one

10) Recognizing Self-Destructive Behaviors (and how to proceed) Presenter: Audelia Cañez <p align="center">FULL</p>	11) Alcohol & Drug: Trends with Today's Youth Presenter: Ivonne Lopez	12) "My Strength": Program Information And Skills Presenter: Kevin McFadden, Francisco Roman
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Registration Form: Please submit with payment of \$30 to:

ICOE: Student Well-Being & Family Resources, 1398 Sperber Rd., El Centro, CA 92243
 Phone: (760)312-6498 or Fax: (760) 312-6576

Name: _____ Agency: _____

Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email: _____ Lunch: ****Check for Vegetarian Option****

Payment Form: (Cash, Check, PO, Account Line) _____

I will be attending (circle): Workshop Series A: # ___ B: # ___ C: # ___ D: # ___

****Please note: registration is for four workshops/ one per series****