



EOPS+

EOPS+ Advisory Committee- Notes

Date: May 15, 2025

Start Time: 10:08 AM

Adjournment: 12:29 PM

Staff:

Siboney, Johnnie, Marie, Coryn, Ignacio, Joanna, Edwin, Stephanie, Kiri, Nidya, Rena, Sandra, Genevieve, Marie, Juanita

Guests:

Philamer – County of Santa Barbara

Esther – County of Santa Barbara (Welfare to Work)

Monica – Fighting Back

Shana – Fighting Back (shared brochures/flyers for foster youth outreach)

Jojo – Awakening Giants

Tamara – Awakening Giants

Welcome and Introductions – *Siboney Guardado*

EOPS Rebranding & Mission:

- EOPS will now operate under one umbrella comprising **seven programs**.
- **Mission Statement:**
“The mission of the EOPS, NextUp, Guardian Scholars, CARE, CalWORKs and Pheonix Rising Scholars Programs is to minimize barriers and to assist educationally and economically disadvantaged eligible students in achieving their educational career goals by providing access to “over and above” support services and college resources.”

Key Discussion Points:

Fighting Back – Santa Maria Valley

- **Barriers identified:**
 - Transportation costs and lack of access.
 - Juvenile hall students face limited Wi-Fi, scheduling conflicts with school, and are often academically behind.
 - Language access: Mixteco-speaking students face translation barriers. Rena noted that the Department of Rehabilitation may cover translation costs. Siboney has a potential Mixteco translator contact.
 - Identification challenges: Difficulty in identifying foster youth and homeless students. Emphasis on using sensitive, non-judgmental language.
 - Noted ongoing issues with contraband in juvenile hall.
- **Suggestions & Ideas:**
 - Explore trade programming options.
 - Fighting Back has a list of high school seniors they can send to EOPS for registration support.
 - Authenticity and consistency are key in student interactions.
 - Approach students when **they** are ready.



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- Use empathetic language (e.g., instead of "non-compliant," ask "What can I do to help engage them?").
- Focus on student-centered strategies.
- Use CRM systems to help students regulate stress ("fight or flight" mode).
- Recommended staff complete **Implicit Bias Training**.
- Explore **HopSkipJump** or similar services for student transportation support.
[HopSkipDrive: Safe, Supplemental Student Transportation](#)

Other Updates:

- Juanita will teach a new course for incoming students, designed to help them acclimate to college culture.
- Coordinators and Juanita were recommended to join **Fighting Back** staff on August 14 (start of high school year) to introduce themselves to the students, counselors, and administrators and continue engagement throughout the year.
- **Cal-Learn**: Program for pregnant teens aged 18 and under. <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/cal-learn>
- Fighting Back will notify Siboney of future meetings that EOPS+ can attend.
- **Johnnie** emphasized collaboration: instead of a "warm hand-off," the goal is shared responsibility. Educational and other entities must support each other.
- **Rena** will establish a connection between the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) and Fighting Back.
- **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)**: Provides job training for low-income adults and youth.
- **Shana** will email Siboney a list of contacts to invite to the next meeting.

Notes:

- Department rebranding is in progress.
- Exploring partnerships with **Fighting Back** to support re-entry services and connect students with Allan Hancock College (AHC).
- Fighting Back maintains a strong relationship with **Holly**, which can help build bridges with EOPS.

EOPS+ Program Presentations

- a. EOPS-
- b. CARE / CalWORKs- *Edwin Hodges*
- c. NextUp / Guardian Scholars – *Joanna Davis*
- d. Justice-Involved Student Support Programs (JISSP) / Phoenix Rising Scholars – *Rena Alspaw*

New Director and EOPS+ Branding Update

- New structure for Advisory Committee under EOPS+.
- All 7 programs under one director.
- Integrated Programming
- New Vision Aligned Reporting