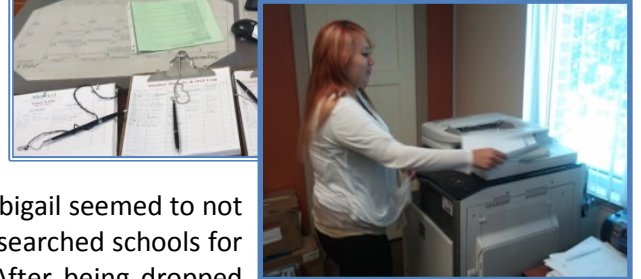
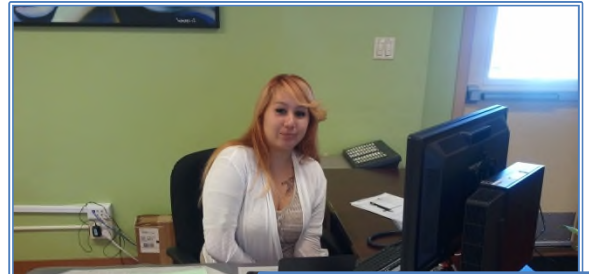
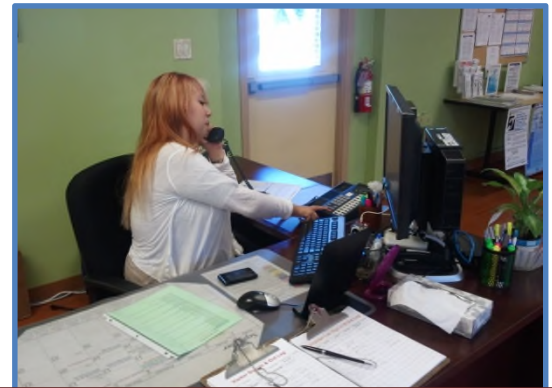


SYEP Highlight

August brought many opportunities to youth around the Los Angeles area through the Summer Youth Employment program. Summer Youth Employment has been a great help to many youth across the years. Some of our very own Escalera case managers obtained their first work experiences through this program. It has motivated many to look forward to a better future and not settle for a minimum wage job. Summer youth employment has particularly motivated one of our parenting mothers. Abigail Navarro became a mother at 16 years old and again at 18 years old. As a single mother of two, living in a gang environment, she has had to depend on government aid to help her support her children. After going through the Cal-Learn program and being enrolled in the Escalera program, Abigail seemed to not be able to finish school. The programs worked together and searched schools for Abigail, but sooner or later she would cease from going. After being dropped from Cal-Learn for not attending school at the age of 19, Abigail seemed to become another statistic. As AltaMed Youth Services started their Summer Youth Employment, it was mentioned to Abigail that it might be a great opportunity for her. Abigail, needing the money for her children, jumped on the idea as soon as it was mentioned.



Before every client could go to their assigned work site, they went through 6 workshops of professional development. Abigail showed up in a tank top, tattoos showing and jeans. This was her typical attire on a daily basis. The workshops taught her how to dress, professionalism, to be dependable and reliable to employers. For the month of August 2013, she began working at AltaMed Youth Services. Abigail did such an amazing job assisting the case managers, dressing professional, that she is now currently covering the reception area for the department. She has found mentorship in the staff, who motivated her to finish school. Abigail with the help of her Escalera case manager is now enrolled in a GED program that she attends regularly. Abigail says, "The staff is making me realize that I need to finish school. I like this job and I want it to be mine one day. The only way it will happen is if I finish school." The summer youth employment inspired her to strive for an office job and her first step toward that goal is her GED. Abigail has a long way to go but she is now on her way. The summer youth employment gave her more than extra income and something to do during summer, it gave her a new perspective in life and that push she needed to strive for a better life.



Abigail substituting the reception and attending to her clerical responsibilities.